Basic Car Card and Waybill Application   Jan 26, 2019

This application is a MS Access Database application and requires MS Access to operate.

Overview

This is a stripped down version of my larger application. It only creates two move waybills, has fewer drop down menus, has fewer data fields to record information and doesn't include documents things other than rolling stock.

Look Up Tables

There are two look up tables the application uses. The first is car type and the second is commodity. Default car types are standard AAR car types. In the "Edit Look up Tables" box you can open either of the tables and edit them as you see fit. Both display in alphabetical order.

In car types, the "CarCode" column is what is displayed on car cards and waybills. The "CarDesc" couln is shown on drop down menus.

In the commodities, the first column is an auto filled index number, all you should edit is the Commodity column. Make sure you have a commodity of "Empty" or "Empty Car" as an option.

Roster Input/Edit

This section allows you to document your rolling stock. Use the Record navigation at the bottom of the window to scroll through the cars. New Record brings up a blank form to add a new car. Duplicate Record copies the record on the screen. That is handy if you are entering several of the same type of car, hit duplicate and change the car initial, number or other info without having to retype the entire entry.

Car Card Printing

The first two buttons open screens that allow cars to be selected for generating car cards. The cars are listed in alpha-numeric order. Any car that has had a car card previously marked as printed will have the box checked. Only cars with UNCHECKED boxes will be selected to print. Click on the check box to check or uncheck it. When you are finished, click on the exit button.

To print, select the "Generate Car Cards" button. It will open the selected cars in print preview. There are 8 car cards per 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper.

If the car cards printed as desired, select the "Update…Printed" button to mark those cars as having their car cards printed.

Engine Card Printing

The first button open a screen that allows engines to be selected for generating engine cards. The engines are listed in alpha-numeric order. Any engine that has had an engine card previously marked as printed will have the box checked. Only engines with UNCHECKED boxes will be selected to print. Click on the check box to check or uncheck it. When you are finished, click on the exit button.

To print, select the "Generate Eng Cards" button. It will open the selected engines in print preview. There are 8 engine cards per 8 ½ x 11 sheet of paper.

If the engine cards printed as desired, select the "Update…Printed" button to mark those engines as having their engine cards printed.

Waybill Creation

There are three ways to enter waybills. All waybills are two move waybills and have one move on each side of the waybill.

The single waybill form allows one individual waybill to be created. Car type and commodity are selected using drop down lists from the look up tables.

The tabular waybill form allows many waybills to be viewed at once. An individual waybill can be duplicated by selecting the line (clicking in the first column), copying the line (ctrl-C), going to the bottom of the table, selecting the last, blank line and pasting the line (ctrl-V).

The export method is more complicated, but often better for large additions and changes. It requires having a spreadsheet application to enter and manipulate the data. In the navigation pane on the left side of the screen, open the list of Tables. Open the "WaybillData" table. Click in the upper left hand corner of the table to select the table. Copy the table (ctrl-C). Open a spreadsheet and paste the table in a spreadsheet. Using the spreadsheet functionality add or modify the data. Leave the WBID (waybill ID) column blank. Copy the revised rows or spreadsheet and paste (replacing the whole table) or paste append (adding new rows) back to the WaybillData table.

Selecting Waybills to Print

Opens a form to allow individual waybills to print and unchecks all the "Print?" boxes. Use the "Print" checkbox to mark selected waybills. Waybills are printed 12 to a sheet. Any number can be selected or printed, but selecting waybills by the dozen is the most efficient use of paper. When finished with the selection, push the "Finish Print" button. It will open a Print waybills screen.

Printing Waybills

This application generates 2 move waybills, with both moves on the same face of the waybill. That requires putting the waybills through the printer twice, once for each move. Each move is printed separately. Exactly how the sheets are arranged depends on how each printer feeds the paper. I will describe how it works with the printers I have used, the process may have to be adjusted to work with other printers.

Put a small mark in the upper right hand corner of the top sheet of paper and insert it with the mark face up into the printer tray. Print "side 1". Remove the sheets from the printer and without reordering them, turn them over so the mark is visible. Orient the sheets so the mark is in the lower left corner of the page and insert it back into the printer. Print "side 2".

Each waybill move has a 1 or 2 with the waybill number next to it. If it printed properly the same waybill number should be on each move.

Overhead Waybills

One useful type of waybill is the "overhead" waybill. That is a "dummy" shipment from one staging yard or interchange to another staging yard or interchange. It doesn't require a commodity (other than possibly a generic "Car Load Freight") or consignee (other than "Agent"). Those can be used for routing trains or cards on through trains that don't spot at any industries.

Roster Reports

The ORER report groups cars by initial and then by number, much like the "Official Railway Equipment Register" (ORER) does. It provides some higher level information about the car and only has one line per car.

The Full Roster Reports show all fields and are in alpha numeric order.

Train Show reports are very abbreviated and are intended to be used at train shows so you can check if you have a particular car or engine already