

Problem Statement

My father has lots of contacts across platforms and has difficulty keeping track of them.

Description of Scenario

My father uses Gmail, Yahoo Mail, iCloud mail, and Outlook for family, work friends, and multiple jobs. He finds it difficult to keep track of his contacts and wants a centralized program that lets him import contacts and search them along the lines of work, family, and other. He wants to be able to store a lot of contact and address information about them, in a manner that is customization and extensible.

Rationale for the Proposed Product

A dedicated program would be better tailored to keep track of my father's needs than another solution. He is a traditional computer user so a graphical user interface is preferred over a command line interface. I will build this product in Java because it is portable and I am comfortable with it. Because I am new to computer programming I can't meet my father's desire for cross-account synchronization.

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Initial Feedback from Client

I want to be able to capture address data from three different contacts databases; one is my personal contacts, a second is my contacts through JSI (my employer) and the third is contacts through Gavi (where I have been working on contract). Both JSI and Gavi have different email systems with their own internal contacts databases, and in each I have also developed lists of favorite and/or frequent contacts that include both internal staff members and people outside the organization with whom I communicate. However, I want to have a single central address book that contains both (or more) sets of work contacts, one that is independent of my ongoing access to one or the other organizations email service. For example, I've been consulting with Gavi over the last six months, and there have been periods between contract renewals when I was temporarily locked out of their email (and Intranet) services, so I could not access people's contact information. Also, I might be leaving JSI, but I don't want to lose the 16+ years of contacts (and their email and phone numbers, etc.) that I've developed.

I have been downloading these contact lists periodically as csv files, but I'd love to have an application that is able to automatically capture and update contacts from a particular source (JSI or Gavi) and update a common contacts database on my laptop. If that's too involved (and requires some degree of permissions based interoperability between systems) then I would at least like to have a basic address book (independent from my personal one) into which I can

import the various csv files, updating (with newer contacts), and tracking which contact is from which source (JSI or Gavi). In some cases, contacts will be from both sources; I'd prefer not to have this information duplicated.

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Success Criteria

- Things it does
 - Import/export vcf/csv
 - Search and query database
 - User-changeable database characteristics
 - Save to and retrieve from a file
- User friendliness
 - Documentation/Manual
 - Easy to install (no need to use CLI)
- Error Handling
- System compatibility
 - Portability

Word Count: 185