

XID Authoring System Version 7.0 Users Guide

Before using the Authoring System to create your own database, be sure that you have downloaded the Demo Database from: www.xidservices.com/databases/XID_Demo_Viewer_Light.exe and taken the time to go through the tutorial.

This will allow you to see the capabilities of the database you produce. This tutorial database is not locked so you can use it to practice editing an existing database, or modify it to start your own database on plants. Keep in mind that this tutorial is accessing its species images from the internet, so they will appear much more slowly than when they are accessed from your hard drive.

Creating a New Database

- To create a new database from the *XID Database Selection Dialogue* box, click the “create new” button (located on the center gray bar).
- Enter the database title.
- Select common names or scientific names or both.
- If your subject matter does not fit the standard default of XID (Family, Genus, Species), use the Custom Level Names (now you can have: Species, Sub-species, Variety or Make, Model, Year etc.) Caveat: if using three levels the will be presented in the Genus, Species, Family order (so that they are alpha by genus).
- *Database Version* and *Menu Structure Version* are optional.
- Leave *Menu of Submenus* marked (except for the rare case where you want a menu structure consisting of only one attribute menu).
- Enter any database description that you wish.
- Click OK.
- A message appears saying, “You must save XID file to work with.”
- Click OK.
- Assign a file name (keeping the .xid extension) and place the file in a folder using the browse button at the top. For the purposes of learning the program, I would suggest placing the database you have created in the same folder with XIDRelease.exe (this is for your convenience but not necessary).
- Click save.

The screen that opens shows three panes:

- The upper left quadrant shows the database title and is where you will create your menu structure.
- The lower left quadrant is where the species list will be created and has a heading followed by 0/0.
- The content of the right pane is an html file with the same name as the database which was automatically created when you created the database. It now exists in the same directory as the database file. If you want to provide your user with detailed information and images about your database in html format, edit the html file.

If you want to just create a non HTML description of your database in the right pane:

- Right-click the database title at the top of the upper left quadrant and select “Edit”.
- You can change the name or create a description. What ever you type in the “Help Text” box will now appear in the right pane.
- You can also add one or more images using the “Add” button”. These images will appear before your help text.

Note: **Be sure to keep the .css file in the same directory with the XIDRelease.exe and/or XIDRO.exe file!**

Adding Species/Items

- Right click in the box that occupies the lower left hand pane (below the heading ending in 0/0).
- Click *Insert*.
- Add the species/item name, description, external web links and image file. Adding the image file external web links and description is optional; however all levels of the name are mandatory.
- Click OK
- The information you have entered now appears in the right pane
- Repeat the steps above to add a few species
- If you are creating several similar species, you can right click an existing species and then select duplicate. This can save a lot of time in entering similar names and data sets.

Creating Your Menu Structure

- Right click the top level menu (at the top of the upper left pane).
- You can select either *Add Submenu* (if you want additional submenus), or *Add Attribute Menu*. For this exercise, select *Add Attribute Menu*
- Type the menu title.
- Add any menu help text you wish.
- *Menu Difficulty Level* is from 1 (easiest) to 4 (most difficult). Adding or changing a difficulty value is optional.
- If adding images, read section below. Otherwise, click OK.

If Adding Images

- If you have an image that illustrates the menu, click the small box that says “ Add”
 - Use the browse button to select the image that you wish to link to the menu.
 - Click Open. If you get a message asking “Copy file to database folder” click “Yes” This will return you to the *Individual Menu Editor* box.
 - You will see the name of the added image file displayed.
 - Click OK
- A new menu title now appears beneath the top level menu A red arrow pointing down signifies a menu of attributes, A red arrow pointing to the right signifies a menu of menus..
 - Right click on the newly created menu title.
 - If it is an attribute menu title, select *Insert Attribute*.
 - Add the attribute name, menu help text, and image file as above. Click OK
 - Repeat for the additional attributes in that menu
 - (If it was a submenu, you could select either *Add Submenu* or *Add Attribute Menu* and proceed as above.)
 - Now the upper left quadrant should look something like:

Top level menu

Attribute menu

Attribute #1

Attribute #2

Attribute #3

Adding References

- Click the “R” in the tool bar
- The word “References” appears below your menus in the upper left quadrant
- Right click on *References*.
- Click *Insert*.
- Add reference title.
- Click OK.
- Reference titles can be reorganized by dragging and dropping.

Continue adding menus, attributes, references, and species/items until you have a few of each.

Adding Attribute Data

- In the lower left hand corner, right click the species/item for which you wish to add data.
- Click *Edit Item Attributes*.
- Click the box next to the attribute which you wish to mark for the item or species. The space bar will also mark/unmark the attribute with the focus box.
- You may navigate up or down the species/item list by using *Next* or *Previous*. You may use the scroll bar, the arrow keys or page up/page down keys to navigate the menu structure.
- Click OK when finished editing.

The *Mark All* feature marks the attribute for ALL species/items currently in the list. The *Clear All* feature unmarks ALL species/items currently in the list. Use with care.

Adding External links

- Right-click any species
- Select “Add link”
- In the “Page Location” box, type the complete address (including the http://) i.e. <http://www.ebay.com>
- In the “External link text” box type the link the way you wish it to appear to the user, i.e.: “Find Great Deals on eBay”
- Caveat: Under Options > Species Description, you must have the “External links” box checked or it will not be displayed.

Adding Reference Page Numbers

- Right click the species/item for which you wish to add reference page numbers.
- Click *Edit Item References*.
- Add the page number in the box for each reference.
- Click OK to save or *Next* or *Previous* to edit other species/items.

Allowing the user to mark attributes by clicking image “Regions”

If you have an attribute menu named “Shape” with attributes of “Round” “Square” “Triangular”

1. Create a single image linked to that menu title that includes illustrations of all three shapes. (See the section above on adding images).
2. Right click on the menu title
3. Select "Edit Region"
4. Use either the "Polygon" or "Rectangle" tool to draw a line around one of the attributes shown in the image
5. The line will show up in red
6. Put a mark in the check box corresponding with that attribute in the menu on the left. The line turns blue.

Repeat steps 4 thru 6 for the other attributes.

Click "OK"

You must exit the menu before the regions become active. Click any other menu, then click the title of the attribute menu for which you just created the regions. When you place the cursor on one of the "regions" that you have created in the image, the attribute name will appear in the fly-over window.

Click the region and select how you would like to mark it.

Editing

Menus

- Right click on the top level menu.
- Select *Expand Menu Tree* to view the menus or *Expand Attribute Menus* to view the entire structure.
- Right click the menu or attribute you wish to edit.
- Select *Edit*.
- Make your changes.
- Click OK.

Species/Items

- Right click the species or item to be edited in the lower left hand corner.
- Select either *Edit Item Description*, *Edit Items Attributes*, *Edit Item Regions*, or *Edit Item References*.

The menu structure can be reorganized by dragging and dropping. A menu can not be placed within an attribute menu.

Creating sub-set databases.

- Suppose that you have a database of many items, and you want to create a subset database of only those with a particular attribute (such as only plants with yellow flowers).
- Mark the attribute you wish all members of the database to have as “Yes”
- Click “Database” in the tool bar and select “Delete all except remaining items”
- A warning message appears, select “Yes” (trust me)
- Go to the “File” menu and select “Save As”
- Rename the new subset database
- Your previous database (from which you created the subset) is still intact.

If you place the new database in a new directory, the database will no longer be able to find the images associated with its items or the images and region files associated with its menus.

- Go to “Database” and select “Import and Resolve Location Species Images” and select the directory where the images reside. This will import only those images of the items in the new sub-set database.
- Go to “Database” and select “Import/Resolve Location for Menu/Attribute Help Images and Region files” and select the directory where the images and region files reside. This will import all of the images and region files for the new sub-set database.
- To see if any image files are missing, Go to “Database” and select “No Matching Image File Present”. This will produce a report of any missing images.

Marking Data:

Right-click on any attribute in your database. In the runtime version of XID that you worked with during the Tutorial that you downloaded, the only marks available for the attributes were :Yes, No, Or, and Clear. As an author, you have access to two other extremely powerful marks.

- **Only:** This mark selects for species that are marked ONLY for that attribute (in that menu).
- **Never:** This mark eliminates any species that is marked for that attribute.

Editing Attributes:

Right-clicking on an attribute also gives you access to editing all aspects of the attribute, deleting the attribute, or adding a new attribute to the menu. New attributes will be added below the attribute you are on. If you right-click on the menu title and select “Sort” the attributes in that menu will be sorted alpha numerically (with the usual silly computer logic that 11 comes before 2). Attributes can also be rearranged by dragging and dropping (both within and between menus).

Other Special Functions:

Under “Database” you will find a section of special menus.

- **Export:** This function allows you to export data from XID in ASCII format. This function is disabled in your version. If you wish to export your data, please contact XID.
- **Lock:** This function allows you to lock your database so that it can not be edited. This can be a handy tool for databases that are to be distributed that you wish to remain unaltered, but BE CAREFUL!!! Always keep an unlocked backup copy. If your database becomes locked by accident, you will need to send it to XID to be unlocked.
- **Merge:** This allows you to merge two **identical** databases. This is a seldom used and extremely specialized function that can be very tricky. Use with caution!!