

Chapter 2 – Project Management

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General Overview

The Master Genealogist™ (TMG) v5.x introduces a number of advanced features designed to ease the chore of managing family history data, and enhance collaboration with fellow researchers. Among its many innovations is a new approach to storing data – in data sets that are contained within a project. A TMG data set is a collection of ancestor and/or descendant data and related events, sources, repositories, research tasks and exhibits. A “project” in TMG may contain one or more independent data sets that are separated from each other by a “firewall” that protects data in one data set from data in other data sets. So your data can be “commingled” with that of other researchers’ without the fear of contaminating your own.

In addition, multiple projects, or multiple views of the same project, can be open concurrently and navigated independently from one another. In a network environment, researchers can even share simultaneous access to the same project(s). The network need not be a local area network (LAN), but can in fact extend to a wide area network (WAN) as some ingenious TMG v5.x users have already discovered.

Its developer, Wholly Genes characterizes TMG as "the complete family history project manager." It is difficult, at best, to separate the thousands of available features into groups that are, or are not, part of project management, for it is the sum of *all* of TMG’s features that contribute to its whole. But, for the sake of this chapter, project management includes discussions about:

- Data Sets and Projects
- Multiple Data Sets
- Multiple Monitors
- Multi-User
- Project Management Functions
- Preserving Your Data

Data Sets and Projects

As noted above, a TMG v5.x data set is a collection of ancestor and/or descendant data and related events, sources, repositories, research tasks and exhibits. In this respect it is analogous to what other genealogy applications refer to as a “family file” or “database.” Like many of these other applications, individuals in a TMG data set can:

- Be linked to many events whether they are standard or custom.
- Be linked to several exhibits or research tasks.
- Be linked to other individuals by a parent/child relationship, or by marriage.
- Be linked to the same set of sources.
- Be included in reports, charts, and forms with each other.
- Have access to the same set of standard or customized tags and source types.

But, the similarities end at that point. For example, individuals in a TMG data set can also appear as Witnesses in each other's event tags. Also the limitations above are removed in TMG. So users are not restricted to the number of events, exhibits, relationships, sources or repositories associated with any subject in a TMG project.

In addition, if one takes a system administrator view of other genealogy applications, a data set or “family file” or “database” is actually a collection of several files, perhaps several dozen files if you include both data files and index files. This collection of files pertains to a single collection of individuals, families, etc. and is the familiar file structure for previous versions of TMG (v4.x and earlier). Any data that is commingled with this collection of files is by design commingled with all data in the files.

TMG v5.x extends an innovative approach for storing data that was first introduced in its sister product, Family Tree SuperTools™. A TMG v5.x data set is stored in a container called a Project. In