

The KABC-Client Handbook

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Abstract

KABC-Client is a command line interface to KDE address books.

Chapter 1

Introduction

KABC-Client is a command line interface to KDE address book. It lets you list, search, insert, remove, or merge contacts by way of the command line or from a scripting language. KABC-Client can handle a variety of formats on both input and output, enabling it to be used for import and export of whole KDE address books.

When invoked without arguments KABC-Client will be put into search mode and try to match any input it can read from standard input to contact entries in the KDE address book

Main features of KABC-Client:

- List all contacts of the KDE address book
- Search for contacts matching the input
- Insert (add) contacts
- Remove (delete) contacts
- Merge (change) matching contacts with new data

KABC-Client is *not* another graphical user interface to the KDE address book (i.e. KAddressBook). KABC-Client is intended solely for uses where a graphical user interface is not practical or possible.

KABC-Client does *not* provide a full-featured language for making queries of the user's address book nor is it the intention of the authors to ever write such a capability. Any such processing can be done through other command line tools or the script's own language's capabilities.

To ease discoverability of its capabilities, any option requiring an argument can be called with the value *help*. This will then list all the valid values one can pass to that option.

Chapter 2

Features

In this chapter you'll learn about the main features of KABC-Client and how to control them using the command line parameters (remember that KABC-Client is not a graphical user interface; it is a command line program only).

You'll learn about inserting, deleting, and searching for contact data, and how to use different formats for input and output.

2.1 Listing the address book

This is the most basic operation mode, initiated using the `--list` or `-L` option. KABC-Client will list all contacts in the KDE address book, writing the data to the program's standard output. Amount and format of the output will depend on the chosen output format.

To list all contacts as standard vCard entries, simply run:

```
% kabcclient -L
```

To get just one line per contact, e.g. for counting, simply run:

```
% kabcclient -L -of uid
```

In this next example, we list all e-mail addresses:

```
% kabcclient --list -of email
```

2.2 Searching for contacts matching the input data

KABC-Client can take data from the command line or from the program's standard input and check it for similarities against all contacts in the KDE address

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book. Searching is the default mode but it can be explicitly be chosen using the `--search` or `-S` command line argument.

In the following example, all contacts with *jane* as part of any name field or e-mail address will be written to the program's standard output, formatted as vCards (since this is the default for the `--output-format` option):

```
% kabcclient --search jane
```

Same query again, this time reading the search string from the program's standard input:

```
% echo jane | kabcclient --search
```

Case sensitivity of queries can be toggled using the `--match-case` option.

2.3 Adding contacts

KABC-Client supports adding new contacts to the KDE address book using the `--add` or `-A` command line argument. The data can either be passed as additional command line arguments or read from standard input. On success the resulting contacts will be written to the program's standard output. Since this is an operation which applies changes to the address book it can be run in a "Dry run" mode using the `--nosave` option.

Add a contact with name and e-mail address by interpreting an additional command line argument as the input data:

```
% kabcclient --add --input-format email "John Doe <j. ←  
doe@example.com>"
```

Add all contacts from a vCard file streamed into the program's standard input:

```
% cat example-file.vcf | kabcclient --add --input-format ←  
vcard
```

2.4 Deleting contacts

KABC-Client supports deleting contacts from the KDE address book using the `--remove` or `-R` command line argument. The input data is basically a query like when searching the address book. On success the removed contacts will be written to the program's standard output. Since this is an operation which applies changes to the address book it can be run in a "Dry run" mode using the `--nosave` option.

WARNING

When you delete something from the address book you *cannot* undo it! In other words, when you delete a contact you cannot reverse the deletion. It's gone for good.

Test removing all contacts with *jane* in any contact name field or any e-mail address:

```
% kabcclient --remove --nosave jane
```

2.5 Input and Output Formats

KABC-Client can interpret input data and format output data according to various formatting rules. Depending on the actual usage scenario certain combinations will render the most useful result. Some of the formats understand additional parameters for further customizing their behavior.

Since textual data can be encoded both input and output can be subjected to additional decoding or encoding respectively.

All those command line options will react to the special value *help* by listing the allowed values.

2.5.1 vCard Format

vCard (RFC 2426) is the standard format for contact data and as such can present all information other address book applications such as KAddressBook can access. It is therefore the default format for output formatting.

2.5.2 Comma-Separated Values (CSV) Format

Comma-Separated Value Format can be used as input format to fill data into specific field of a contact entry and as an output format to reduce or re-order data for further processing. To allow for enough flexibility mapping of contact fields to CSV columns can be specified using CSV-template description files also used by KAddressBook for the same purpose.

Chapter 3

Command Line Arguments

KABC-Client supports the following options:

Option	Description
--help, --help-all	Shows help about the program options.
--author	Shows the program author information.
-v, --version	Shows the program version information.
--license	Shows the program license information.
--verbose	Print helpful runtime messages.
--nosave	Print what would have been done, but do not execute. Do not change anything in the KDE address book; do not insert, remove, modify any existing contacts.
--match-case	Use case sensitive matching when comparing input data with contact data from the address book.
<i>Major Operation Modes:</i>	
-L, --list	Print all contacts in specified export format.
-A, --add	Insert contacts into the address book.
-R, --remove	Delete contacts from the address book.
-M, --merge	Merge data from the input with matching contacts from the address book.

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<i>Formatting and Encoding:</i>	
<code>-if, --input-format <i>format</i></code>	How to interpret the input data. Use <i>help</i> for a list of available values.
<code>-of, --output-format <i>format</i></code>	How to format the output data. Use <i>help</i> for a list of available values.
<code>-if-opts, --input-format-options <i>options</i></code>	Input format specific customization options. Use <i>help</i> for a list of available values.
<code>-of-opts, --output-format-options <i>options</i></code>	Output format specific customization options. Use <i>help</i> for a list of available values.
<code>-ic, --input-codec <i>encoding</i></code>	Text encoding used to present the input data. Use <i>help</i> for a list of available values.
<code>-oc, --output-codec <i>encoding</i></code>	Text encoding which should be used to present the output data. Use <i>help</i> for a list of available values.

Chapter 4

Questions and Answers

This document may have been updated since your installation. You can find the latest version at <http://docs.kde.org/>.

1. *What configuration files does KABC-Client use?*
None.
2. *What are the application names of KABC-Client?*
KABC-Client's application name is kabcclient.
3. *How do I have my question added to this FAQ?*
Send your questions to kevin.krammer@gmx.at.

Chapter 5

Credits and License

KABC-Client Program copyright 2005-2008:

- Kevin Krammer kevin.krammer@gmx.at

Documentation copyright 2008:

- Kevin Krammer kevin.krammer@gmx.at

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Appendix A

Installation

A.1 How to obtain KABC-Client

KABCClient is part of the KDE project <http://www.kde.org/> .

KABCClient can be found in the `kdepim` package on <ftp://ftp.kde.org/pub/kde/> , the main FTP site of the KDE project.

KABC-Client comes included with KDE4 and is not available separately.

A.2 Requirements

KABC-Client requires the standard KDE libraries to be installed (the `kdelibs` package and `kdepimlibs`). To compile from source, you also need the Qt™, `kdelibs` and `kdepimlibs` development packages.

You can find a list of changes in the `ChangeLog` file.

A.3 Configuration

No special configuration is required to set up KABC-Client to run on the KDE desktop.