

FP2 - TIP 'O THE WEEK 133# SORT/DISPLAY STYLES

Hi Everyone,

We're having a beautiful fall out here in BC, which I've managed to enjoy very little of - because I'm renovating my house. As I'm sure many of you know, house renovations are not for the faint of heart (or skinny of wallet, apparently). I'm done now, though, and it looks spectacular. So my wife is looking at other rooms... Guess I did too good a job.

I did take an afternoon off this week and spent some time with my Mom and Dad, and while we were visiting, I learned something really interesting. My Grandfather was apparently a volunteer fireman for many years in Madison, Wisconsin. Clayton passed away a decade ago, and he and I were very close when he was alive - despite the fact that we lived so far away.

Hearing that he had been involved in his local Fire Department immediately filled me with a strong sense of connection to him, one that I'm not sure I ever felt when he was alive. I was close to him, but we never really had a lot in common. He liked fishing and owned a mink ranch, and I like computers and mostly work in offices. Rolling hoses (and don't forget washing them) makes me think about him now - which is good, because rolling hoses gives you lots of time to think.

The shared experience of being a volunteer firefighter allowed me to see him in a different way. He was definitely the kind of man I'd be happy to have on my team, and I hope my grandkids will carry on the practice of volunteering, be it the Fire Department or some other place. I know now that it's something Clayton would have approved of.



Ingenious Software Update

Doug and Christine will be out of the office for a conference in Europe on the 10th and will be back on the 20th. I'll still be taking care of regular technical support while they are away, but any time-sensitive questions of a highly technical nature should be forwarded this week.



Welcome New Client

The Olds Fire Department has joined the FirePro community. Olds is a city of about 7500 people and is located about 100 km north of Calgary at the intersections of Hwy 2a, 27 and Queen Elizabeth 2. This makes Olds an important regional center for the area, and a very busy highway hub.

The Olds Fire Department is led by a full time Fire Chief and consists of approximately 34 volunteer members. They are dispatched by Stars Emergency Link Center in Calgary and respond to about 280 calls per year; including fire,

rescue and medical first response calls. Their primary response area includes the Town of Olds and the immediate rural area around the Town of Olds, but they provide mutual aid to a number of other towns, villages and counties in the area.

We're happy to welcome the Olds Fire Department to the growing list of FirePro users.



Using Sort/Display Styles

The Properties window is one of the most important modules in FirePro. Every call-out report, fire inspection, by-law infraction or pre-plan record you enter starts in the Property window, by locating the property. It would make sense, then, that the Find option works as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Like most sections of FirePro, the display list in the Find Window is customizable. It already shows the results differently for different types of searches (try a Roll# search or Name search and see), but it's also possible to adjust the information displayed in the search results to ensure that it gives you the most possible information.

The List/Find Window does two things. First, it gives you a set of tools that you can use to find property records. Then, it lists the property records that have been located. Often, users will have an exact address that will allow them to immediately locate the property record they want, but occasionally, the search might get more complicated. In these cases, it's useful to have a list of properties that makes sense to you and displays the information you need. That's where the Sort/Display Styles come in.

The Sort/Display Styles are accessible from the Sort/Address Styled drop-down list in the List/Find window, which looks like this:



At any time, you can select one of these Sort/Display Styles to change the property display. This list is also where any additional Sort/Display Styles that you create will appear.

To create new Sort/Display styles, go to the Edit Pop-Up Lists→Property→Sort/Display List Style Names option.

Order	Full Text	
1	Address Find	<input type="checkbox"/> Delete line
10	Name Find	<input type="checkbox"/> Delete line
15	Roll/Folio # Find	<input type="checkbox"/> Delete line

A standard list window will appear. Hit Edit and add the name of the new Sort/Display list in the new field.

Then, go to the Edit Pop-Up Lists→Property→Sort/Display List Definitions option.

Property List Display/Sort Setup		
Address Find		
Field Name	Display Order	Sort Order
St #	1	5
St Name	2	2
Dir	4	4
Apt	5	6
Town	6	1
Occupant First	7	0
Occupant Last	8	0
Occupant Business	9	0
Owner First	10	0
Owner Last	11	0
Owner Business	12	0
AKA	13	0

If Display Order = 0, this field will not display in the property list
If Sort Order = 0, this field will not be used to sort the property list
If both Display and Sort Order are 0, the line will not be saved

This window allows you to do two things. First, you can select the information about each property record that appears in the List/Find Window, and second, you can decide how the records located in a search are sorted.

To set up the display, start by selecting the Sort/Display List that you want to work with on the drop-down list at the top of the window. Then, hit Edit. A new Field Name line with a drop-down list will appear. Select the field that you want to appear from the drop-down list, then set the order (1 is furthest left, increasing to

the right) that you want the fields to appear in on the list by entering numbers in the Display Order box for each field.

You can also set the way in which the selected records will be sorted by entering numbers in the Sort Order field for each Field. For example, if you wanted a very simple list with just the Street Address of each property, it might look like this:

Field Name	Display Order	Sort Order
St #	1	3
St Name	2	2
Town	3	1

This would show display a property record as "12 Johnson St Nelson". The Sort function would sort by Town first, then by street name, then by street number, so you would have all the properties from a town together, then all the properties in a street, in order by street number.

You can set either the Display Order or the Sort Order fields to 0, meaning that the field either won't be displayed, or won't be used to sort, but if you select a 0 setting for both, the line with the field will be deleted when you try to save the list.

Once you have the List/Style Definitions set up, you can also set them as the default Style to use when executing certain types of property searches.

To do this, go to the Edit Pop-Up Lists→Property→Choose Default Display Style option.

Action Type	Default Display
Property by Address	Address Find
Property by Name	Address Find
Property by Business Name	Address Find
Inspections due to be done	Address Find
Recent Inspection Dates	Address Find
Mngmt. Rpts. Property Complete Details	Address Find
Mngmt. Rpts. Property Check for Duplicates	Address Find

The Default Display Setup gives you a set of searches that list property addresses on the List/Find Window and allows you to set the Default Display Style that you want to use when running each search.

By using the Sort/Display Styles, you can ensure that you see the information you need, sorted in a way that makes sense to you, when using the List/Find Window.



Quote of the week:

Neither fire nor wind, birth nor death can erase our good deeds.

Gautama Siddharta, the founder of Buddhism (563-483 B.C.)



Contacting us?

For all tech support, please send the emails to fp2tech@ingenioussoftware.com

For administration or accounting, e-mail anne@ingenioussoftware.com

For training, e-mail [Jeremy at fp2train@ingenioussoftware.com](mailto:Jeremy_at_fp2train@ingenioussoftware.com)

You may also call us anytime at 866-352-9495. If for some reason you are unable to reach us, an alternate contact number is: 416-238-5333.

If you'd like to see previous tips, you can view them online at

http://www.ingenioussoftware.com/Tips_index.htm

To view or download the FirePro 2 User Manual, go to:

<http://www.ingenioussoftware.com/downloadman.htm>

If you have a general question that you want to ask the other users of FirePro or if you want to share some advice, please feel free to send to the list that the tip comes through to you on –

fp2townhall@ingenioussoftware.net – remember that everyone on the list will get your e-mail, so use this with discretion. When you reply to a message received on the list, your message will go only to “fireprotech” , unless you change the “to” field. So, if you want everyone to see your reply, change the address to fp2townhall@ingenioussoftware.net

Please let other users of FirePro in your department know about the e-mail list too! They can subscribe to the list by simply sending a blank email to

fp2townhall-subscribe@ingenioussoftware.net

We welcome all users and appreciate everyone's input.

Enjoy the week ahead!
Jeremy