

.title  
data structure

.synonym  
overview of the data structure

.description  
A description of the file structure of a Hyperties database.

.contents

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The Hyperties database system is implemented in the standard file systems available in most operating systems (though UNIX and MS-DOS are of primary concern).

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A Hyperties database is made of a collection of articles.

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In general, a document (i.e. a node in the hypertext network) is represented by a collection of files. The only necessary file is the .~ storyboard~ which serves as the primary description of the article's format and content. It is a text-only file, therefore human readable.

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Other .~ associated files~ contain picture description (or other data, such as digitized sound, that will not normally be represented as human-readable text) and information used to allow rapid presentation of the document at browsing time.

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One special file, the .~ master index~, exists to provide the association between the article files and the database as a whole.

A special directory, .~ ties/global~, contains all the defaults settings and initializations.

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The new Hyperties database format permits great freedom in the organization of a database's component files. An author can impose a hierarchical structure (or any other that is suitably mnemonic), using the features of the standard filesystem found in UNIX and MS-DOS, to simplify access to components of the database when a fully-integrated authoring environment is not available, and to "flatten" the structure of a database to optimize use of storage when authoring is fully supported.

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Also, the new format will allow spreading the component files of a database across multiple devices, allowing larger databases to be used on floppy-based systems.

