



Compared with



Having spent the last eight months going through *Family Tree Maker 2008*, I thought I would attempt to provide some navigational guidance to assist users to migrate between the programs. I have in fact done this a couple of times at workshops where I have had both programs running on screen with the same base file, (running in their respective formats of course). This is one case where the movie (workshop) is better than the book (article)!

Can you have both programs running together on the same Computer?

The short answer is **YES**. I have **both** *Family Tree Maker 2008* and *Family Tree Maker 16* (which is a slight enhancement of version 2006) on my computer and often run both at the same time. I do this because version 16 has some features that are not in version 2008, eg Books and Home Pages plus some charts and reports that I prefer in version 16. The file structures of the programs are entirely different and if you install version 2008 and open a file from an earlier version, version 2008 makes a copy of the earlier file, converts it and saves it in its own format (.FTM). (Versions up 16 use a .FTW extension). Therefore, they can quite safely reside together.

Is *Family Tree Maker 2008* Too Complex?

I have read many comments about 2008. Some love it, some hate it. Many have expressed a view that version 2008 is too complex and has lost the simplicity of data entry compared with versions up to version 16. I think that this comment has some validity. It really is a swings and roundabouts issue. Version 2008 is more complex but offers richer options and capability. Let me give you an example. In version 16 and before, you had only one set of Notes, which could not be formatted. In version 2008, you have Person notes, (which can be formatted and also marked private) as well as Research Notes again that can be formatted plus Notes for all Facts, Source-Citations and Media. It follows that if you add the extra capabilities you make the program more complex. Couple this with a very new layout, which can also be configured, against the single layout in version 16, then again you have traded capability and flexibility for simplicity.

Also, you have the new layout after 13 or so years. It is very different. I have had a brief look at *MS Office 2007* and its ribbon and have the same problem. I have lost my familiarity of *MS Office 2003*. I have much the same view of *Windows Vista* over my preference *Windows XP Pro*. Therefore, it gets down to getting familiar with the new layout. The psychologists call it “Schemas”¹, but to most of us, it is coming to grips with something new.

As noted above, I have done this “**where is it?**” comparison at workshops and have queried my audience before and after. I have found that after the explanations, they are more comfortable (if not truly convinced), but there is of course a **practice element** to become familiar with something new. This is, called the “learning curve”.

Which Do I Prefer?

I also should declare up front that I much prefer version 2008 over version 16 and have made it my main database, I like all the additional capability in the new version with the exception of the Sources and Publish (both of which I have been critical about). The other Workspaces offer me much more capability that what has come before. I should also note that the SP3 patch has addressed many of my concerns in Sources and Publish and, no doubt, version 2009 (whenever that is released), will be better again. It takes a long time to write a program from scratch. However, as I have said often, you do not upgrade on features. You upgrade on benefits (to you). This applies to a new car, TV, spouse, whatever. You only upgrade if the new item offers you benefits over the previous item.

Navigation

I am going to do this in the following pages as a table to minimize screen shots and make the Newsletter PDF file too large (and I am the worst offender).



1

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schema_\(psychology\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schema_(psychology))

Function	Versions up to 16	Version 2008	Comments 2008
Help	F1 or Alt+H	F1 or Alt+H	Same
Index	F2	F2	Available in People, Publish and Web Search workspaces
Research Journal (To Do)	Ctrl+T (Global only)	Ctrl+T only in the Task panel	Available for any person and also globally
Adding Names, Dates	Family View	People Workspace	Added In The Person View, Individual & Shared Facts. Individual Notes available for each Fact Any work area, which displays the Mini-Nav chart, allows the user to add an individual. You need to click on the down arrow and select the add child/spouse/mother/father as appropriate.
Convert Names	N/A	Tools> Convert Names	Changes Smith to SMITH and vice versa (global)
Number of Children in View	Family View (8) (scroll for more)	People, Family Workspace	Adjustable to have all children in View >8 List of children and multiple spouses may also be seen on and work area which displays the Mini-Nav chart. Just click on the down arrow for the appropriate box.
Sort Children	Family View	People, Family Workspace	Same in both programs
Adding Places	Family View Comment and location must be separated by a / if Maps are to work	People, (Family or Person) Workspace	Added in the Family View for any fact displayed in the right Information Pane. User can customize the Facts displayed so any or all facts can be displayed. Added in the Person View, Individual & Shared Facts Provision for separating Place and Description Individual Notes available for each Place (Notes not available for Place but for the Individual Fact.
Adding Name, Sex, Birth, Death and Marriage Facts (Date and Location)	Family View	People, Family Workspace	Information Pane on the right has Name, Sex, Birth, Death and Marriage Facts (Date, Place, (Description is pre-displayed). The user has the ability to customize the Facts to include any or all Facts in this area.
Add/Delete Facts	Family View, Edit>Facts	People, Person Workspace	Added In The Person View, Individual & Shared Facts. Separate fields for Place and Description
Add Person Notes	Family View, Edit>Notes	People (Family or Person) Workspace	Added in the Family view, Information Pane. Click on the Note Icon. Added In The Person View, Individual & Shared Facts in the bottom pane. Notes can be formatted and spell checked, Marked Private and also separate Research Notes.
Add Fact Note	N/A	People Person Workspace	Added in the Person View, Individual & Shared Facts in the Information Pane (right pane). Notes can be formatted and spell checked.
Add/Delete Medical Information	Family View, Edit>Medical	People, Person Workspace	Added In The Person View, Individual & Shared Facts as Medical Fact.
Add/Delete Address	Family View, Edit>Address	People, Person Workspace	Added In The Person View, Individual & Shared Facts as Address Fact.
Add/Delete Source	Edit, Edit Master Source or Add Source-Citation dialog box	Edit, Manage Sources or Add Source-Citation dialog box	Special dialog box accessed by clicking Edit, Manage Sources. Anytime adding a Source-Citation click the New Source icon. (same as in FTM 16)

Function	Versions up to 16	Version 2008	Comments 2008
Add/Unlink Sources-Citation	Ctrl+S	Ctrl+S	People, Family or Person Work area: Available with focus in the Fact field, or when a Fact is selected in the Person Tab. Sources, Manage Sources work area: Add icon and then link in bottom pane.
Link to an existing Source	N/A	Ctrl+Shift+S	Available with focus in Fact field, or when a Fact is selected in the Person Tab Available in the Sources, Manage Sources work area – Links (bottom centre pane)
Adding Images	Scrapbook	Media Workspace People (Family & Person) work area Sources, Manage Sources work area	Images may be linked to Persons, Facts, Sources, Source-Citations <hr/> Click Media tab and New icon <hr/> Click Media tab and New icon
Link to an existing image	N/A	Media Workspace People (Family & Person) work area. Sources, Manage Sources work area	Images may be linked to Persons, Facts, Sources, Source-Citations <hr/> Click Media tab and Link icon <hr/> Click Media tab and Link icon
Pedigree View	Pedigree View	People Workspace	Available in People Workspace, Family View
Filter, Bookmarks & History	Pedigree View	People Workspace	Family View. (Almost identical features and appearance)
Parents & Siblings	From Children's Area, People Menu>Other Parents	People Workspace	Relationship View Person Menu (Add, Attach, Detach, Delete)
Merge specific Individuals	People, Merge two specific individuals	People (Family or Person) workspace	Click Person menu item and select Merge two specific individuals
Web Search for Identified persons	Family and Pedigree Views (Star in Globe)	People Workspace (Leaf)	2008 maintains People view whilst search allows searches and merges from other web sites and supports web clipping and web page archiving.
Date, Relationship and Soundex Calculators	Tools Menu	Tools Menu	Date calculator available in all date fields (both programs)
Charts	Chart Button Print, Export to PDF	Publish Workspace Share, Export/Send to PDF.	Share, Export and send to PDF, Image and to Ancestry.com
Reports	Report Button Export to PDF	Publish Workspace	Share, Export and send to PDF, HTML, RTF, Text, Image and to Ancestry.com (varies with report)
Timeline	View>Timeline	People Workspace	Timeline Tab-can't be printed

Function	Versions up to 16	Version 2008	Comments 2008
Places/Map	View>Map	Places Workspace	Version 16 maps very basic and the need to enter locations exactly as FTM recognises them. Comments and locations need to be separated with a slash. Version 2008 requires internet connection for map to work User can use default Place names or Place names as entered.
Books	View>Books	N/A	Only an online Ancestry Press available. A Book module patch promised for mid year
Home page	Internet Menu	N/A	Version 2008 reports can export to HTML which may allow the use of home pages outside <i>Family Tree Maker</i>
Compare Merge two files	After opening both files, People Menu	File menu, Merge	Excellent facility in Version 16 but merge much improved in FTM 2008. FTM 2008 does not support two files open
File Backup/Restore	File, Backup or Restore	File, Backup or Restore	FTM 16 backs-up to a proprietary compressed file format (file extension .FBC) which can only be restored by FTM 16. FTM 2008 backs-up (date with option to backup media) to a ZIP compressed file format (file extension .FMTB). Automatically incorporates date into name. Can be restored using FTM 2008 or extracted using any PKZIP compatibility utility.
Data Error Report	Report Button>Data Errors	N/A	Serious Omission!
Export File	File Export	File Export	FTM 16 exports to all earlier FTM file formats and GEDCOM file formats. FTM 2008 exports only to FTM 2008 file format and GEDCOM 5.5 file format.
Privatize file	File Privatize	File Privatize	FTM 16 hides personal facts for living individuals but not Notes FTM 2008 hides Personal Facts and Notes for living individuals.
Right Mouse Support	Excellent	Limited	Needs to be improved so all functions supported
Ability to double click from most reports and charts to the Family View	Excellent	N/A	A highlight of FTM 16 not available in 2008.

The Basic Differences

The screenshot shows the 'Family View' for a person named George [2] Donaldson. The interface includes a breadcrumb trail: 'Parents of George [2] > George [1] & Mary [1] > Husband'. The main form contains the following fields:

- Name: George [2] Donaldson
- Birth date: 12 June 1828
- Birth place: Ellon / Aberdeen, Scotland
- Death date: 08 December 1903
- Death place: Carlton / Melbourne, Australia
- Marriage Date: 12 March 1853

At the bottom of the form, there are buttons for 'Edit', 'Spouse', 'Scrapbook(1)', and 'Web Search Resources'.

Figure 1: *Family Tree Maker 16 Family View*

Probably the key thing to understand is the basic data entry. In *Family Tree Maker 16 Names, Dates, Places fields are pre-programmed* and are entered on the Family View. Notes, Sources and Scrapbooks are also added from Buttons on the Family View.

In *Family Tree Maker 2008*, the pre-programmed facts, Names, Dates, Place are in the People Family work area Information Panel (on right) of the Family work area.

Both have your pre-programmed fields for Name, Sex, Birth, Death and Marriage sets of information. Both also show the parents and children of the individuals.

In the case of 2008, again most of the basic edits can be done on one screen the **People Workspace, Family or Person View**. The information is on the large LH panel and the data entry/editing is all edited in the RH panel. Sources Media and Notes are available on Tabs under the edit area.

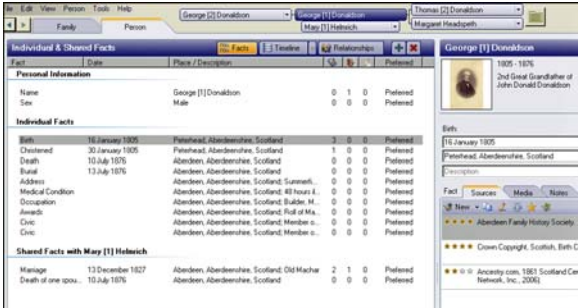


Figure 2: Family Tree Maker 2008 People

Workspace>Person View

In Family Tree Maker 2008, **everything is regarded as a Fact** and they are all controlled from one screen via the **+** Button. Facts are removed by the red **X** Button.



Figure 3: Family Tree Maker 2008 Fact Control

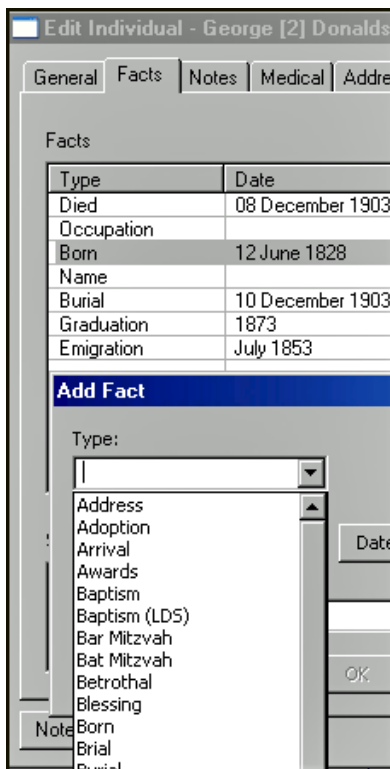


Figure 4: Family Tree Maker 16 Add Facts View

Essentially, it is a slightly different way of working. In Family Tree Maker 16 you have to go through a number of steps being Edit>Facts>Add Fact. (Figure 4).

I have been deliberately repetitious here as I want to clearly explain the two differing perspectives.

Images

Again, the two programs differ. In Family Tree Maker 16 images are added via the Scrapbook and are embedded into the Family Tree Maker file. I have often written about this and the suggestion to pre-edit images to around 640 pixels wide for a good head and shoulder image about 135kB file size or so. Once in the scrapbook they are available to reports, charts and books.

Family Tree Maker 2008 links to the images. It provides the user with the option to link to the original image in its original location OR to make a copy of the image file in its Media folder and then link to that copy. It stores a thumbnail of the file in the data file and only accesses the linked file when the user click on the **Detail** work space or double clicks on the thumbnail image to open the file. The thumbnail is available in the Media Collection work area even if the linked file is no longer available, because it has been renamed, deleted, or the folder is not accessible.

Make a Test File



I have also stressed this often in my workshops. Make yourself a small test file and practice the concepts. One quick way to make a test file is to rename a spare back up file using Windows Explorer or My Computer. Select the backup file. Right click and select Rename. Give the file a new name eg, Test.FTW or Test.FTM (depending on the program) and save the file. Use the test file to practice adding and deleting information. You will not damage anything and you will get better results. The analogy I use in my workshops is that you never see a golfer hit a ball before he/she has a few practice swings.

My Conclusion

I have thought about this for quite awhile and have carefully followed comments published on chat sites, etc.

Family Tree Maker 16

In *Family Tree Maker* up to 16 the basics are “in your face” the moment the program opens, ie you are in the Family View where you see a pre-programmed form that has fields for things like Name, Birth date, Birthplace, etc. In addition, the Marriage date and spouse details are there in front of you. **It is obvious and intuitive and you can “do something”, ie enter data immediately and obviously.** See Figure 1.

This simple start is appealing to some users who are not as comfortable in computing as others and need to see “something to do” immediately.

Family Tree Maker 2008

In *Family Tree Maker* 2008, the program opens in the Plan View, where you are presented with some options. You first must click on the New Tree Tab. Then you must either enter what you know, (this is similar to the data entry wizard for a new tree in *Family Tree Maker* 16) or import an existing tree. For a new user it may not be obvious, and the only likely option on the main part of the View is “Tasks”. If you click on New, the Dialog is not much help if you want to go and do some data entry.

Figure 5: Getting Started

If you open an existing file in *Family Tree Maker* 2008, the opening screen is again the Plan View with the Home person and the Current Person identified. Clicking on the People Workspace will take you to the edit area of the Current person (equivalent to the Family View in *Family Tree Maker* 16). Here the user must make a choice where to go.

Suggestion: I think that the program should have a Note or a Menu pop up or Dialog in the Plan

Workspace when the program starts with the seven Workspaces and what they do. Yes, the information is available if you hover your mouse over the Workspace Menu items, but is that intuitive for a new user? Such a Dialog could have a check box saying check here if you do not want to see this again.

It might look like this.....

Plan Workspace	Start a new tree...
People Workspace	Add to your tree...
Places Workspace	View Maps.....
Media Workspace	Add Images....
Sources Workspace	Manage your Sources.....
Publish Workspace	Reports and Charts...
Web Search Workspace	Search the Internet...
<input type="checkbox"/>	Click here if you don't want to see ...

Open the program where the user wants it to Open

Another small convenience item is to open the program where the user wants.

I would also like to see an option that lets you check a box to tell the program where to open and bypass the Plan View. I would most likely nominate the People Workspace and the person that I was last editing. Funnily enough, that is exactly what *Family Tree Maker* 16 does and you do not have to do a thing! These sorts of little things make the user experience much better for a new user. In the case of a user transitioning, it would make sense to let them open as they expect it.

In Summary

If you are moving to *Family Tree Maker* 2008 spend a moment (maybe several moments?) understanding the Workspaces, especially the People Workspace with its Family and Person tabs.

A Short cut comparison

I have posted on the **Gum downloads page**, a table which compares the shortcut keys between *Family Tree Maker* 2008 and *Family Tree Maker* 16. I suggest that you print it out and keep it handy.

<http://www.vicgum.asn.au/FTM2008keyboardshortcuts.pdf>

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