

Probability anagrams program documentation

Original Version written in Turbo Pascal for the IBM by Bob Keefer, Copyright 1985.
Converted to Lightspeed Pascal by Michael Kohne, August 24, 1988.

This program takes words of up to 10 letters, and re-arranges them into every possible anagram. It then uses a probability table to look up every tri-gram(three letter sequence) in the words, and evaluate the probability that the word is an english word. The probabilities table is stored in an external file, 'Prob.dat', and can be added to, or, by deleting the old one, created with this program.

When you run the program, you will immediately be confronted by a dialog box that tells you to wait while it reads the probability data. If the probability data file is not found, another dialog box will appear, telling you that you must select a text file for input. Hitting the cancel button at this stage will cause the program to exit. Pressing the Select File button, or pressing return, will get you a standard select file dialog box. Use this to select the input text file. If the Prob.dat file was in the same directory as the anagram program, you will not get this dialog. The input file should be a fairly long text file, filled with english text. This is used to create the probability data file. After reading in the data, you will be presented with a standard Save file dialog Box, with the filename 'Prob.dat' already in it. Save the Prob.dat file in the same directory as the anagram program. You should not have to create a new Probability data file, as the program is distributed with a good one(input text file for the included Prob.dat was 677K long). If you wish to add to the current data file, simply select the 'Add to Datafile' option under the file menu.

Now that that is all finished, you can anagram words. Type any word of up to 10 characters into the text box provided in the main window. When you have done this, press the button labeled 'Anagram', or press return to begin anagramming the word. You may press command-period at anytime to halt the anagramming process and see the current results.

Bob Keefer is responsible for the idea, design, and implementation of the anagramming routines in this program. I converted them from IBM Turbo Pascal and put a mac interface on them. The original IBM version of this program(Bob Keefer's original code) was published in Byte Magazine.

This program and it's documentation are more or less in the public domain. More in that anyone may use it with no charge, less in that no one may charge anything more than a copying fee for distributing it. Also, this document must be distributed along with the Anagram program, along with the original Prob.dat file.