Duplicate Address Book entries search using AppleScript

written by Manoj Khanna | March 14, 2010

For quite sometime now I've been struggling with lots of duplicate entries in my Address Book, that was a result of –

- Syncs from Treo to BB and then to iPhone.
- Syncs from .mac, my trusty companion since 2005 – PB-G4-12″, intel Mac and a MacBook from'03.
- Syncs of contacts from LinkedIn, Yahoo and GMail on a regular basis.

Believe it or not, there are so many places you end up creating contacts that after a while it becomes really cumbersome to manage contacts. Finally, as a weekend project I decided to get rid of duplicates – and here's an interested script that I came across – that allowed me to sift through duplicates while not deleting them right away. Hope this helps everyone out, though you can easily find the script on Mac OS X Hints as well. Having a built-in feature within Address Book to deal with this issue would certainly help – or better yet within iPhone itself.

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(*REVISED FOR 10.6
Details found at – http://www.macosxhints.com/article.php?story=20060322202753429
Written by Â© Mark Hunte – 2009*)

tell application "Address Book"
set biglist to {}
set theGroup to "Dupilicate Entries"
if not (exists (group "Dupilicate Entries")) then
make new group with properties {name:"Dupilicate Entries"}
save
end if
set the_names to name of people
repeat with i from 1 to number of items in the_names
set theName to item i of the_names
if theName is not in biglist then
copy theName to end of biglist
else
set counter to (people whose name is theName)
if (count of counter) > 1 then
repeat with i from 1 to number of items in counter
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set this_item to item i of counter
add this_item to group theGroup
end repeat
save
end if
end if
end repeat
end tell
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