

NOTE FROM LARRY LACHANCE:

This 5-Page list was copied from a ListServ Newsgroup. It was not produced by me. It is provided here for the purpose of information only. It is possible that FTM / Ancestry has fixed some of the issues listed herein (not fast enough for me) or has otherwise resolved them. In spite of what FTM / Ancestry may have done "after the fact", for me personally, the damage was done and I will never go back!

Everything from this point forward is in the words of the original author, unknown to me.

FTM 2008 is so bad I cannot recommend anyone purchase it or if you already have purchased it you might want to consider returning it.

Items REMOVED, NEW PROBLEM and what FTM says is "NEW IN 2008" with my comments as to what FTM says is "NEW IN 2008". This is not an all inclusive list of these items as NEW issues are being found daily. The issues below were found using a database with over 104,000 people.

I attribute all of the issues with FTM 2008 to improper design, programming and beta testing.

Thanks to those that sent email to let me know of some of these issues. I checked to see if I could duplicate your issue and if I was not able to duplicate it, it is not listed here.

REMOVED ITEMS:

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REMOVED: Double click on GEDCOM file to open.

REMOVED: Option to select what items to include on a FTM and GEDCOM file merge/append.

REMOVED: Capability to save a file back to an older version of FTM.

REMOVED: All Nicknames or AKA were lost on import of file into 2008. AKA that existed in 2006 in the full name edit screen was removed in 2008. You can add them manually back in by using a fact field. So my grandson's 1st cousin 11 times removed whose name is Wahunsenacawh and had an AKA of Chief Powhatan the father of Pocahontas is lost. It will be next to impossible to fix this manually in a large database as I was not able to generate any report in 2006 to list everyone with an AKA. The custom report in 2006 had a field AKA but when generating the report nothing shows in the AKA field on the report.

REMOVED: Capability to change menu bar.

REMOVED: Index of individuals options.

REMOVED: Index of individuals search by given name.

REMOVED: Index of names no longer shows comma in front of name suffix.

REMOVED: Automatic selection of female when entering a NEW person in the database. It now defaults to unknown requiring extra work as you have to change this almost 100% of the time. In 2006 it was set to female and it only required you change the field to male about 50% of the time.

REMOVED: When you have a drawing of a tree on the screen you can't click on a person in a tree and go to that person. It is this way on all report I tried.

REMOVED: Automatic backup of file on exit. You must now manually go to the menu and select backup every time you want to back up the database.

REMOVED: Reference numbers.

REMOVED: Address labels.

REMOVED: Mecical labels.

REMOVED: Spell check for facts or anything else except notes.

REMOVED: Spell check does not move through all the notes like it did in 2006. You must go to each person then open the notes to that person and can only spell check that person. When finished a popup window and if you click continue the program crashes and closes.

REMOVED: Edit facts by double click it. Now you have to click on the fact then the fact also shows on the right of the screen. You must then move to the right side of the screen to edit it, rather than allowing you to just click on the field and edit it there.

REMOVED: All-in-one tree chart.

REMOVED: Address report.

REMOVED: Basic register and ahnentafel reports.

REMOVED: All Ancestor tree charts. Now only has a standard pedigree tree chart.

REMOVED: Alternate facts report.

REMOVED: Bibliography report.

REMOVED: Birthday report.

REMOVED: Data error report.

REMOVED: Documented events report.

REMOVED: Genealogy report. This was the major report used by most people.

REMOVED: Hourglass tree charts.

REMOVED: Medical report.

REMOVED: What robust features that did exist on all charts and reports. NEW charts and reports are primitive in design and features. The ancestor tree report looks like something a child would draw.

REMOVED: Books. They now want you to upload your data and design report on-line and then either print at Ancestry Press or download and print on your printer.

REMOVED: Scrapbook.

REMOVED: Research Journal.

REMOVED: View data CD. So none of the CDs you purchased will not work in FTM 2008.

REMOVED: Option to sort reports with data fields on the different fields.

REMOVED: More than one relation to a person in the Kinship report. Now only shows closest relation, so if a person is related more than once to a person, there is no way to see or show the duplicate relationship. No search on a kinship report and in 2006 report on the person Wahunsenacawh was 55 pages now because of the new spacing it takes 86 pages to produce the same number of kin on the 2008 report. It appears that all the reports and charts in 2008 now require more pages to produce the same report information as in 2006.

REMOVED: Fast fill fields do not work as in 2006. Original fast fill type as you go in 2006 which remembered about the last 30 items was removed and replaced with a drop down menu that is slower. When you import a file into 2008 it puts every item you had in any location in the new fast fill database. I don't know if the slowness of the new fast fill is due to the fact that the drop down menu holds every item you ever used beginning with the letter of each word of the fact that the CPU is maxed out at 100%. Also, I see no option to delete something from the fast field database. If you make any change to the data in the location field it drops down the fast fill box again for you to select from.

REMOVED: Find and replace.

REMOVED: Capability to change the capitalization of a name from CAPS to lower case by changing one letter in the name. You must type everything again, as there is also no find and replace to mass change the capitalization.

REMOVED: Capability to copy selected items on any of the reports.

REMOVED: Capability to copy selected individuals from one database to another.

REMOVED: Capability to generate a tree of a family and then select to delete them from the database.

NEW PROBLEM:

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NEW PROBLEM: Requires a PC with more memory, faster CPU and more hard drive space.

NEW PROBLEM: Program uses large amounts of page memory. More than any program I have seen. High end programs such as Photoshop and Microsoft Office do not use anywhere near the amount of memory to run FTM 2008. Which most likely is responsible for the slowness of the program.

NEW PROBLEM: Some names of people are incorrect in 2008 after importing from 2006.

NEW PROBLEM: Pretty interface that is slow and unresponsive. The slower response dramatically increases the time to enter data and generate reports.

NEW PROBLEM: Authenticate with the server. An unnecessary feature.

NEW PROBLEM: Registration fails for some people.

NEW PROBLEM: Nag screen popup window to register program. I did not have to register the program to download the update or to use the program. After 4 days the nag screen stopped.

NEW PROBLEM: Nag screen popup window auto-search on starting program asking if it is ok to search the web. I have not found a way to turn this off, but it also stopped after 4 days.

NEW PROBLEM: Maxes out the CPU when checking in task manager to almost 100% making the PC and program extremely slow and unresponsive. I cannot do anything else on the PC until I FTM is shut down because of this.

NEW PROBLEM: Undo of merged/append file. I merged two files and did not find where you can undo it on the menu anywhere. Although this morning when I started 2008 there was an undo on the menu under edit. It was not there before so I checked the version # of FTM and it had not changed. So I have no idea as to where undo feature was before when using the program.

NEW PROBLEM: Imported a FTW file from ver 2006 into 2008 and all went ok. On checking the data, several names were incorrect.

NEW PROBLEM: Bloated program increased in size from 55MB in 2006 to 379MB in 2008.

NEW PROBLEM: Bloated database increase in size from 95MB in 2006 to 174MB in 2008.

NEW PROBLEM: Exported data back to an older version of FTM using a GEDCOM file from 2008 and re-imported back into an older version of FTM and then exporting it from the older version and re-importing it back to 2008 caused data errors with the data.

NEW PROBLEM: Moving from one person to another now takes between 15-60 seconds on ever person I move to.

NEW PROBLEM: Trees contain fields such as B and D when you have no data for them. In prior versions the trees were not cluttered with missing data fields. I have not found a way to remove them.

NEW PROBLEM: For people that are married more than one, you lose your preferred spouse setting when importing a file from prior versions of FTM. All my preferred spouses are gone and if I continued using 2008 I would have to go to every marriage and reselect a preferred spouse.

NEW PROBLEM: Changes to the pedigree report design do not hold when saved. I had made changes several times and saved them only to come back to the same report and it is set back to the defaults.

NEW PROBLEM: Custom report does not allow you to remove items such as dates and the word "in", even though it has a tab under item to include doing this. It even shows you a sample of how it will look without the data or the word "in" but it does not show up that way on the report. The custom report no longer lists the name to the left and then the items you select directly across from the name so you can readily run through the report and find errors in the names of locations, such as birth, death and marriage. Now it lists these under the name so it makes it much harder to find irregularities in spelling and abbreviations.

NEW PROBLEM: When moving from one report to another you must reselect the individuals you want in the report.

NEW PROBLEM: On merging/appendng a FTM file with 21 people to a database of 104,215 it took 10 hours 5 minutes. This is broken down to 7 hours 15 minutes to load the 21 people, 2 hours to do matching people and then another window opened for you to select items to do the merge and click continue and it beginngs merging, another 50 minutes to complete the total merge process. Both files had already been imported into 2008 prior to doing the merge. Windows task manager showed the CPU maxed out at almost 100% the entire time and used over 800,000k memory. I saw no undelete option after the merge. I can't live with this software taking this amount of time to do something. Although this morning when I started 2008 there was an undo on the menu under edit. It was not there before so I checked the version # of FTM and it had not changed. So I have no idea as to where undo feature was before when using the program.

NEW PROBLEM: There is an Undo feature. This morning when I started 2008 there was an undo on the menu under edit. It was not there before so I checked the version # of FTM and it had not changed. So I have no idea as to where undo feature was before when using the program. It appears to me that certain items do not show up at all times on the screen. Example is the calculator on the side of the date field and the ? on the side of the place field. Do not show up at all times.

NEW PROBLEM: Parentage report with 100,000 people took over 30 minutes to generate, where it took less than 1 minute in ver 2006.

NEW PROBLEM: Most reports will not allow you to set or save defaults. You have to make the changes every time you use the report. If you select certain individuals in one report and the want another report you must reselect them all again. Where as in 2006 you could move from report to report and not have to reselect them again.

NEW PROBLEM: 2008 has database of 3 million place names connected to FastFields that are inaccurate and leave out locations where names changed. I see no way to turn off FTM place names or change these place names or to only use your place names. I have a detailed email outlining the problem with FTM place names if you have not seen it already. There is a setting in the options to not use FastFields for place names, but then your FastField items will also not work. I don't need FTM telling me how to name a location.

NEW PROBLEM: Program unresponsive and locks up. It appears that unlike 2006 if the program locked up and did not close 2008 properly the data or changed setting are not saved. So in 2008 on a lock up and you have to force the program to shut down or the program crashes on you and closes the data or setting change is lost. I noticed this on the date files as I set the date to show month, day year with full spelling of month. On crash and starting 2008 the date settings were set back to the default.

NEW PROBLEM: Reduced design of reports that still exist.

NEW PROBLEM: Duplication of data on the screen in more than one place at the same time.

NEW PROBLEM: When you close the program, even though it is gone on the screen in task manager it still runs for about 5 minutes.