

8. ScreenMan

ScreenMan is VA FileMan's *screen-oriented* data entry tool. It is an alternative to the Scrolling Mode approach. With ScreenMan, data is entered in *forms*. Each form field occupies a fixed position on the screen (instead of scrolling off!). You can see many data fields at once, and use simple key combinations to edit data and move from field to field on a screen. You can also move from one screen to another like turning through the pages of a book.

Similarities with Scrolling Mode Editing

- You can change a field's value by entering a different value or delete a field's value by entering the at-sign ("@").
- You can enter one or two question marks to call up a list of acceptable responses and other help. If you enter a value deemed unacceptable, ScreenMan displays a message explaining what type of information should be entered.
- If you wish, you can jump from the current field to any other field in your current screen. With your cursor resting at any field's prompt, simply enter an up-arrow ("^") and then the name of the field.

Differences from Scrolling Mode Editing

- In Scrolling Mode, you must enter and store your response to one field prompt before you can continue to the next field. In Screen Mode, you can move the cursor from field prompt to field prompt without entering or storing any responses.
- In Scrolling Mode, your data values or responses to field prompts are stored one at a time, as you move from prompt to prompt. In Screen Mode, your responses to most prompts are stored only when you exit the form.



For a detailed explanation on *creating* ScreenMan forms, please refer to the *ScreenMan Tutorial for Developers Manual*—available in both Adobe Acrobat PDF and HTML formats on the VA FileMan Home Page at:

<http://www.vista.med.va.gov/softserv/infrastr.uct/fileman/index.html>

The ScreenMan Screen

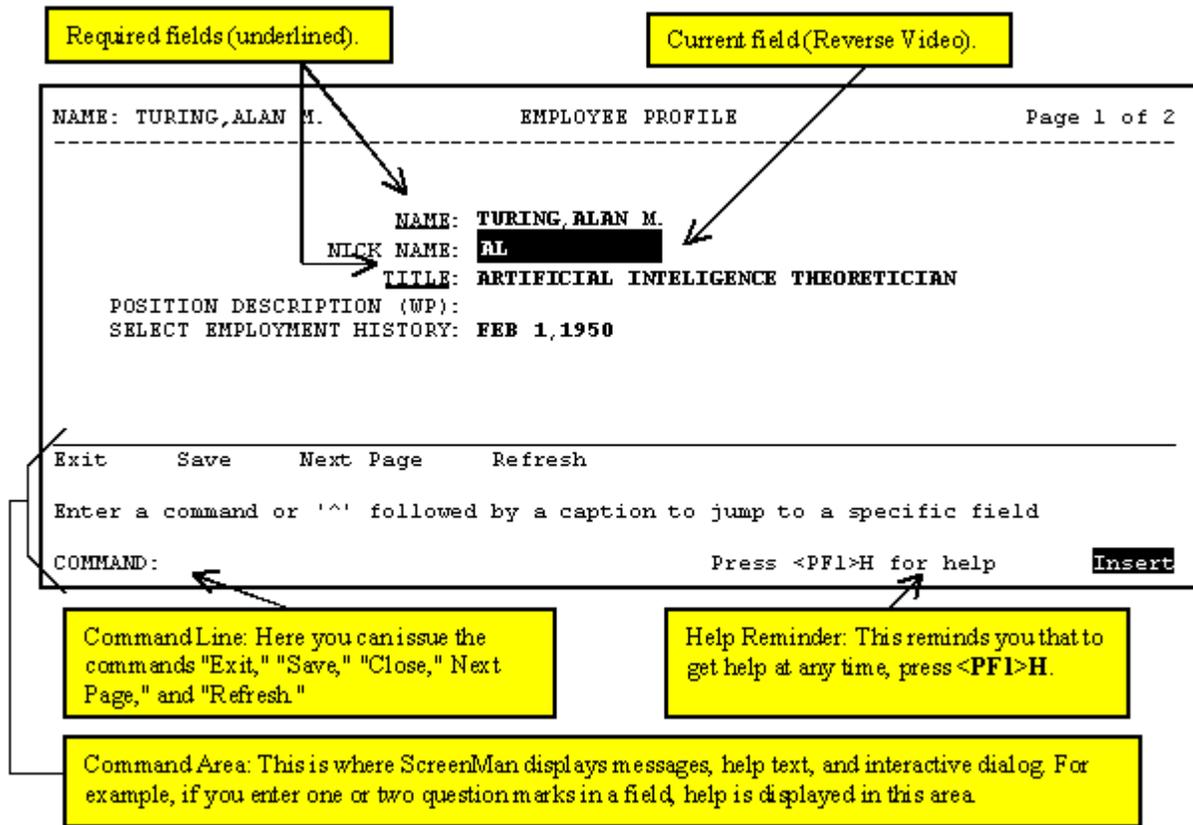


Figure 99: An Example of the ScreenMan Screen

Fields are usually composed of a *data element* and a *caption*. ScreenMan displays data elements in high intensity (boldface) and other text in regular intensity. Text that identifies a data element is called a *caption* and is usually followed by a colon (":"). A caption and its associated data element are together called a *field*. Captions of *required* fields are underlined; to save any changes you make on the form, required fields *must* contain data.