

Providing Data for a Custom or Matching Project

Data Direct can accept data in many different forms. Still, some media and formats are preferable because of greater data integrity and/or less pre-processing on our part to prepare the data. Listed below are descriptions of our preferred formats.

If you cannot create a file in one of the formats below or have **any** questions regarding providing your data to us, do not hesitate to call us. We want this to be an easy process for you and for us. And, it'll be easier for all if we get it right the first time. Our telephone number is **408.350.9900**. We are available from 7:30am to 4:30pm Pacific Time and often later. Ask for Brian Wells, Wesley Nacionales, Ross Hays, or Bob Moore.

Sending Data to Us:

Please send the data file(s) (well packed) to:

Data Direct, Inc.
66 North First Street
San Jose, CA 95113-1201

Let us know who you are, what list(s) you are providing, and how to contact you if we have questions. Also enclose any documentation requested below.

Electronic Transfer:

Files can also be attached to an e-mail. Note that compressed files (such as zipped files) are much more successful, plus save time and bandwidth. Send e-mails to files@edatadirect.com.

Data Direct can also set up an ftp site for you. Just call us and we will take care of the rest so sending us files is as easy as clicking and dragging.

Media:

Preferred media are 9 track magnetic tape, PC diskette, ZIP disk, or Macintosh diskette. We can work with some data cartridges; but, as there is no standardization in the data cartridge world, please call us to discuss workability of your data cartridge format. Wherever practical, use the PC shareware utility, PKZIP, or the Macintosh shareware utility, Stuff-it, to compress the data. We support many backup formats, but please call us to verify compatibility.

Magnetic Tape File(s):

Data supplied on 9 track magnetic tape must be fixed-length fields in fixed-length records - in other words, a standard data tape. Block size must be a multiple of record size. Please avoid using packed fields. Character code can be EBCDIC or ASCII. Either 1600 BPI or 6250 BPI is OK. The tape can be unlabeled, IBM labeled, or ANSI labeled. Blocks can be any size up to 32,768 bytes.

Please provide a layout detailing all fields with starting positions and lengths. A dump, while helpful, is not necessary.

Diskette or Data Cartridge File(s):

Diskette or data cartridge file formats, in order of preference are:

1. dBase (aka FoxPro)
2. other database files such as MS Access, Paradox, or FileMaker
3. Excel or OpenOffice Calc
4. ASCII delimited (comma/quote or tab)
5. ASCII fixed-length
6. anything else, but call us first

In our experience, 90% of popular database, mailing list, or contact information programs can create one of the first four formats listed above. We are familiar with most of these programs and can help you through the process of exporting to one of these formats. Just give us a call.

Please provide a list of the fields and, wherever possible, the field lengths.

Questions:

We're serious. Call if you have them.