

# DataPhile 3.x: New Features



Thanks for helping us make this the best release of **DataPhile** yet. Following are lists of new features and bug fixes that you can expect to see in this release. As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions.

## GENERAL:

- ✓ Selection\_Status; **QUAD Fat Architecture.**

Create now runs on Motorola, INTEL, HP-PA RISC and SPARC architectures.

- ✓ Selection\_Status; **More Colorful Interface.**  
Tasteful application of color to icons.

- ✓ Selection\_Status; **Pop up lists.**  
Entry lists can now be displayed as popup lists:  
paste.tiff ↵

974914\_paste.tiff ↵

- ✓ Selection\_Status; **Radio Buttons.**  
Restricted Entry lists can also be displayed as radio button matrices:

390099\_paste.tiff ↵

- ✓ Selection\_Status;¬**Search on non-alphanumeric characters.**

This version of DataPhile allows you to search on punctuation as well as alphanumeric characters. This allows you to find "+" and "\_" etc.

- ✓ Selection\_Status;¬**EMACS key bindings.**

DataPhile's data entry fields now support the following Emacs key bindings; you can move the text insertion point around using these following keyboard combinations:

Control-a	Go to beginning of line
Control-e	Go to end of line
Control-b	Go back a character
Control-f	Go forward a character
Control-d	Delete next character
Control-k	Clear to end of line

Additionally, for scrollable text, you can:

Escape-<	Go to beginning of text
Escape->	Go to end of text
Control-p	Move directly up a line
Control-n	Move directly down a line

- ✓ Selection\_Status;¬ **MOVE FAST through records**

If you hold down the Alternate key while clicking on the Previous arrow or Next arrow, you'll move backward or forward 10 records at a time. If you hold down the Shift AND

the Alternate key, you'll move by 100 records each click!

## NEW DATA TYPES:

### √ Selection\_Status; **Time Fields.**

Time Fields allow you to mark exact times. You can use them in calculations of elapsed times for creating bills.

#### *Creation*

It's easy to create Time Fields. In the Define... panel, click on the Time Icon:Time.tiff ↗ , name the field, and click "Add".

#### *Using the Time Field*

To enter the current time, enter a <SPACE> and hit TAB or RETURN. As the date field puts "TODAY", this puts in "NOW". To enter values directly, either edit an already formatted time or use our standard time entry format: mm/dd/yy hh:mm:ss.

#### *Formatting the Time Field*

Time fields support an almost infinite variety of formats - including whether you want military time, am or pm, whether the day and year show, whether the time zone is displayed, etc.

### √ Selection\_Status; **Duration Fields.**

Duration Fields allow you to calculate and present hours, minutes and seconds elapsed. You can use them in calculations of elapsed times for creating bills and invoices.

### *Creation*

It's easy to create Duration Fields. In the Define... panel, click on the Duration Icon: Duration.tiff ↗, name the field, and click "Add".

Then you may want to configure this field to be a Calculated Field based on two Time fields. Let's say you have a Time field named "Start Time" and one named "End Time". Then, the formula for the Duration field would be:

Field "End Time" - Field "Start Time"

### *Using the Duration Field*

To enter data directly, use colon separations between hours:minutes or hours:minutes:seconds.

### *Formatting the Duration Field*

Duration fields support 10 different formats, 5 with colon separators, and 5 with localized text. Go to Design Mode, and select a Duration field.

### √ Selection\_Status; ↗ **URL Fields.**

URL Fields URL.tiff ↗ allow you to drag and drop URL's for the World Wide Web to apps like OmniWeb and SpiderWoman and other WebStep compatible WWW browsers.

✓ Selection\_Status; ↗ **Summary Fields.**

Summary fields are Value, Money, Date, Time, or Duration fields which calculate on the found set of records in the following manner:

<i>Function Name</i>	<i>Operation on all records in view:</i>
<b>Sum</b>	Adds values of the chosen field
<b>Average</b>	Average of the values of the chosen field
<b>Minimum</b>	Value of field with smallest value
<b>Maximum</b>	Value of field with greatest value
<b>Count</b>	Number of records with non-empty values

Only certain functions make sense depending on the summary field type and the type of field being summarized.

### *Use in views*

As with other fields, you can add the summary field to any view. One technique that is useful in report views is to add the summary field to the Footer, so that the summed values are printed at the bottom of the page. To accomplish this:

**Design->Page Parts->Footer** inserts a new footer into the view.

Double-click the footer to "enter" into it.

Drag the summary field from the Fields Palette, or use the Field drawing tool to directly add the summary field to the footer.

## REPORTS:

- ✓ Selection\_Status; ▸ **Headers & footers printed first/last page only.**

You can now decide if you want the header to print on every page or just the first page. You can independently decide if you want the footer on every page or just the last page. You set these options on the Preferences' "Printing" sub panel.

- ✓ Selection\_Status; ▸ **Two Page Views.**

You can exactly duplicate printed forms with 2-page views. Choose Design->Create View->2 Pages Side by Side or Over Wide. You can also run the Page Layout panel to get landscape side by side or portrait over and under.

- ✓ Selection\_Status; ▸ **Sequence Number Function.**

Ever want to "auto-number" records according to their position in a given sort and find? Now you can! You can now create a field that will always contain the record's position in the current sorted, found set. Use this for creating numbered lists of records.

To create such a field, create a calculated Value field using the "SequenceNumber" function.

In the Define..., Options... panel, select "Calculated" to enable the "Edit Formula..." button.

Click on the "Edit Formula..." button, and select the "SequenceNumber" function.

Then, no matter how you sort or search your data, this field's value will be equal to the position of this record in the current sorted set.

- ✓ Selection\_Status;¬ **Choose Envelope alignment for various printers.**

You can now set how you want envelopes to feed: aligned left, center or right.

With the Envelope window up, select *Print...* This brings up the Print Panel with this additional matrix:

81762\_paste.tiff ¬

Select the alignment that works best with your printer. NeXT color printers use the "Center" option.

## MAIL:

- ✓ Selection\_Status;¬ **Allow alternate email support addresses.**

In a terminal window, type:

```
dwrite DataPhile SupportEmail <address>
```

where <address> is where you want the email sent; which is by default *bugs@stone.com*.

- ✓ Selection\_Status;¬ **Allow alternate Mailer to be used.**

In a terminal window, type:

```
dwrite GLOBAL Mailer <MAIL_APPLICATION>
```

where <MAIL\_APPLICATION> is your Mail application; by default, this is Mail.app. When you send your suggestions and bug reports, they will be sent using this Mail application.

## DESIGN:

- ✓ Selection\_Status; ➤ **Layout Guides for easy placement of objects.**

Now you can drag in guides from the rulers for easy alignment of objects. Guides create "Gravity" - when an object is moved across a guide, the object "clings" to the guide in the following manner, in this example, we'll describe a vertical guide:

If the left of the object is near the guide, the left side of the object aligns with the guide. Otherwise, if the right side of the object is near the guide, then the right side of the object is aligned with the guide. Finally, if neither of the above cases produced gravity and the center of the object is near the guide, the center is aligned with the guide.

### *To Insert Guides into your view:*

1. In Design mode, bring up the rulers with "Show Rulers" (command-r)

When the cursor enters the ruler area, it becomes a:863851\_paste.tiff ➤ in the side ruler and a 16657\_paste.tiff ➤ in the top ruler.

2. Click in the top ruler and drag down a horizontal guide



Click in the side ruler to drag across a vertical guide:

358996\_paste.tiff ↵

3. To move a guide, click on it and drag with the mouse-down.
4. To remove a guide, click on it and drag it off the view.
5. Guides do not print, they are hidden and turned off when the rulers are hidden. Grid should be turned off for the guides "gravity" to work.
6. Guides are saved with your view.

- ✓ Selection\_Status; ↵ **Grids in Design Mode now a user preference.**

Some users complained that the grid 'got in the way' in Design mode - of course, you can always shut it off, but now, there's a default in Preferences->Design "Show and enable grid". Click it off to not have the grid come up automatically.

## FIXES 3.0:

- ✓ Selection\_Status; ↵ Many performance enhancements and bug fixes.
- ✓ Databases no longer grow to huge sizes after re-indexing. As a bonus, indexing has been optimized and is much faster.
- ✓ Databases no longer incorrectly "indexes" upon opening.

- ✓ If you had a TIFF in a report view's header, it would be rotated while printing. This is fixed.
- ✓ Command H didn't bring you to your home directory in OpenPanel and SavePanel because of menu item **Database -> Miniaturize**. Therefore, the fix was to remove the command key equivalent: "H" from **Database -> Miniaturize**. If this behavior is not desired, you can set the equivalent for "Miniaturize" in Preferences.app's Menu section.
- ✓ If you run as root, you no longer get panel which said: 'Cannot create //Library/Stone check permissions'
- ✓ If you delete a field or group, and chose Undo Delete, it no longer causes DataPhile to autoquit.
- ✓ Date Marker now appears in the correct place.
- ✓ In the Label's Background Graphic window, when you edited a Text graphic, it would "clip" the bottom portion of the graphic while editing.
- ✓ When you stretch the splitview in a view browser, the cells resize correctly.
- ✓ When you set a textfields' color, the gray is correctly set on a color machine; as well as vice-versa. This results in colored textfields being printed correctly. NEXTSTEP requires that you always select a color printer in the Print panel to get the correct printed color output; if a black and white printer is

selected, text will be output in gray scales instead of color.