#86 Updating Linked Records in Multi-User

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When calling **LOAD LINKED RECORD** in multi-user, it is important to note that the first user to **LOAD LINKED RECORD** to a record, has that record in **READ WRITE** status. Therefore the record is Locked and all subsequent calls by **LOAD LINKED RECORD** to a Locked record will load a **READ ONLY** copy of the record.

It is also important to note that if you have a READ ONLY copy of the linked record and you call **SAVE LINKED RECORD**, the record will not be written to disk. However, your copy of the record in memory will have been changed and only your screen will reflect those changes.

If you are linking to a record to obtain more info and you allow the user to modify the linked information, before updating, you must explicitly **LOAD RECORD** and test for Locked status before you save the record. If the users selects to update the linked info you will probably want to get it with **LOAD RECORD** to lock it and get the most recent copy, before allowing the user to modify the record.

To ensure that you don't leave a record in Locked status you will need to change the current record pointer such that you don’t have the record loaded. **LOAD LINKED RECORD** locates the correct record and loads the record. At this point, you have a 1 record selection. So, call UNLOAD **RECORD**([File]) to move the record pointer beyond the selection. Because there isn't a valid record, no record is loaded.

Another way to avoid updating conflicts is to have the file set to **READ ONLY**. Whenever the user wants to update the linked file, change access to **READ WRITE**, **LOAD RECORD**, and test for Locked status. If the record is free then update the record, **SAVE RECORD**, and then change back to **READ ONLY**. Finally, call **NEXT RECORD** to unload the record from memory.