#44   Deleting groups of subrecords

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How to delete a selection of subrecords
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4D does not have a Delete Subselection command and this can make it hard to delete a large number of selected subrecords. After the command Delete Subrecord is executed there is no current subselection so you can not use Delete Subrecord in a while loop to process through the subrecords to be deleted. For example,

While(**Not**(**End Subselection**([Filename]Subfilename)))
        DELETE SUBRECORD([Filename]Subfilename)
        NEXT SUBRECORD([Filename]Subfilename)
End While

will not work and neither will the following

While(**Records in Subselection**([Filename]Subfilename)#0)
        FIRST SUBRECORD([Filename]Subfilename)
        DELETE SUBRECORD([Filename]Subfilename)
End While

because after the first subrecord is deleted the current subselection is lost not just the current subrecord. One way that does delete subrecords in a while loop is

ALL SUBRECORDS([Filename]Subfilename)
While(**Records in Subselection**([Filename]Subfilename)#0)
        DELETE SUBRECORD([Filename]Subfilename)
        ALL SUBRECORDS([Filename]Subfilename)
End While

but this example will delete all subrecords and not just a selection of them. In order to delete only the subrecords in the current subselection use Apply to Subselection as in the following example

APPLY TO SUBSELECTION([Filename]Subfilename;**DELETE
        SUBRECORD**([Filename]Subfilename))

Apply to Subselection does not lose track of the current subrecord nor the current subselection and makes it easy and fast to delete a group of subrecords. Of course, the parent would need to be saved afterward.

4th Dimension Technical Note