

Datarc Shareware Version 1.00.30 Release Notes. January 1997.

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Windows 3.10 Users Please Note:

If you are running Windows Version 3.10 (not Windows for Workgroups 3.11) and are experiencing problems opening databases you may need to load the file SHARE.EXE. This file enables file sharing, and may be necessary on your system for Datarc to function properly.

Datarc installs this file on your system in your Windows/System directory. To activate it you need to add the following line to your AUTOEXEC.BAT file:-

C:\WINDOWS\SYSTEM\SHARE.EXE /L:500 /F:5100.

This should be placed before the statement **WIN** or **WIN.COM** if it exists in your autoexec.bat file. If the file is not in your Windows\System directory it can be manually decompressed from the installation disk. To find out how this is done please see the topic *Manually Extracting Individual Files from the Start-up Disks* within the Datarc help file.

Important Note Regarding the 'Error 53 - File Not Found' Message.

A possible cause for the 'Error 53 - File Not Found' message being displayed whenever you attempt to open a Datarc database, or start Datarc with the Load Default Database option checked may have something to do the version of the file VBDB300.DLL on your system.

Datarc shipped with version 03.00.0528 of this control, and of course this is the one that works best with the program. Sometime later a compatibility layer came out which made some use of the Access 2.0 database format. Along with this came another version of this DLL namely 03.00.0529. Not a lot of different, you may say, but enough to cause this problem to occur.

The only solution to this is to make the 0528 version accessible within your WINDOWS/System directory. In doing so though you may then prevent the program which installed the 0529 file from working correctly. So it may be a matter of switching between the two files depending on which program you are currently using.

I could of course update Datarc to make use of the 0529 file, however the problem will still remain if there are other files on your system which use the 0528 version. It's a no-win situation here. If you do come across this problem then let me know about it. I'll see what I can do. Hopefully thought it won't be too much longer before the next version of Datarc will be released, and will do away with the need to have this file present.

Datarc Features.

- Intuitive easy to use interface.
- Size of database files only limited by disk space available on your computer.
- Effortlessly create Cassette Inlay Cards (index/J-Cards) for you cassette cases, by dragging tracks from the database and dropping them onto the Inlay module.
- Full control over typeface information (including colour) for Inlays and reports. If your have a

- colour printer, use it to full effect within Datarec.
- Print Face Labels for your tapes / cassettes and Divider Cards for your compact disc's / cassettes.
- Create your own Recording Lists easily by dragging tracks from the database and dropping onto the Cassette Recording List dialogue. This helps to insure that when you are recording a tape, tracks are not cut short at the end of each side.
- Create comprehensive catalogues / reports (pre-defined and customisable).
- Preview reports on screen before printing.
- Print just the selected pages that you require from within a report.
- By using a CD-ROM drive, you can read album information directly from CD - number of tracks, running times etc. Saves a lot of input time!
- Specify you own particular Media formats – Reel to reel, DAT, 8-track, 78's! and not forgetting that old classic– LP.
- Effectively search the database for information that you require. You can also save your most frequently used searches for instant recall again and again.
- Comprehensive range of sample files to get you up and running with Datarec.
- Complete on-line documentation available at the touch of a button or the click of a mouse. Whichever is the quicker.
- Export data to ASCII text files - Allowing you to bring the information into other packages.
- Transfer album information between computers using Exchange Data Format Files, or directly from one database file to another.

Installing Datarec.

NOTE: If you use a virus protection program or have any other programs running on your computer, close them down before using the Datarec Set-up program. The Set-up procedure may not function correctly with other programs loaded into memory. Once installed your can safely run other programs along with Datarec.

From Program Manager

- Start Microsoft Windows.
- Insert the Datarec 'Disk One - Set-up' into drive A: or B:
- From the File Menu in Program Manager, choose Run.
- Enter a:\setup or b:\setup in the dialogue box which appears on screen.
- Click the OK button or press ENTER.
- Follow the Set-up Instructions below.

From File Manager

- Start Microsoft Windows.
- Insert the Datarec 'Disk One - Set-up' into drive A: or B:
- Open File Manager by double-clicking on its icon.
- Select the toolbar icon representing the required drive A: or B:
- On the right hand side of the screen is the file list, locate and double-click on the filename 'SETUP.EXE'.
- Follow the Set-up Instructions below.

Set-up Instructions

Following on from whichever procedure used above, you will then be asked to:-

- Supply the destination directory in which you want Datarec installed. The default directory is C:\DATAREC, but this can be changed to another directory if the default is not suitable.
- Click Continue to move on.
- You will be prompted to insert the remaining disk(s) as and when needed. Just insert the required disks clicking the OK button each time to continue.
- Set-up will then create a Program Manager Group containing the Datarec Program Icon. To start Datarec, simply double-click on the icon and the application will load.

Starting-up Datarec.

If you are in DOS, start Microsoft Windows by typing Win at the DOS C:> prompt, then press [ENTER]. This will load the Windows Operating Environment.

Once Windows is loaded, locate and double-click on the Datarec icon. A start-up screen should then appear, and after a short delay two buttons will then be displayed, Click the Continue button to proceed.

At this stage the majority of commands will not be available until a database has been opened. Before proceeding to open a database you should view Navigating the Datarec Menu Structure for a short note about manipulating your way through the menu options.

CompuServe Users.

Datarec can also be registered via CompuServe. To register GO SWREG Select the 'Register Shareware' option. Search by Author ID: **100046,2157** or Registration ID: **6914**. This will take you to the appropriate program. CompuServe will guide you through the rest! You will be automatically billed \$36 + \$8 handling (service fees, etc.) on your next CompuServe bill.

Once you have registered, I will be notified immediately with your details. Usually within 2-3 days you will be sent an Email. This is to acknowledge receipt and provide notification that the goods have been dispatched to you.

Documentation.

Complete documentation is provided on-line in Windows Help format. This can be called at any time from within the Datarec program or by double-clicking on the Datarec Help file in File Manager. An icon is also created and placed in the Program Manager window when Datarec was installed.

Version History.

1.00.04 In the Reporting Options dialogue two extra fields have been added to the Fields available for report list. They are:- Tracks Media Format (Long) and Tracks Album Position. Also fixed a small bug which caused a null value to be written to the database file whenever accelerator keys are used in certain circumstances.

1.00.06 Certain controls which contained numeric values caused problems when that control lost focus. This was caused by moving from a control when it did not contain a value which lead to unpredictable results as far as margins etc. were concerned. A default value is now displayed whenever a control without a value loses the focus.

1.00.08 Changed the default text colour for the Main Title and Side Descriptor areas from blue and red respectively to black. When these areas display text in colour as opposed to just black text then in some cases when printing to a black and white printer the coloured text fails to print due to the printer not being able to handle coloured text. Some printers will dither the coloured text to a shade of gray.

If you experience this problem where a specific area of the inlay is not printing then try changing the text for that area to black.

1.00.10 Fixed a bug which caused a program crash. This occurred whenever the save option of the cassette inlay module (or the save toolbutton) was chosen without first loading or using the Save as... option to specify a name for your inlay. Also added the facility for instant access to the registered version after receipt of registration.

Fixed a problem which caused the program to crash when using Windows Versions 3.0 or 3.1 (not Windows for Workgroups). The problem occurred whenever the SHARE.EXE file (which enables file sharing) was not loaded via the autoexec.bat file.

This problem is more apparent on systems running Windows 3.0 or 3.1. Version of Windows from Windows for Workgroups 3.11 on, uses VShare or other methods for handling file sharing. The problem is now fixed within the code so as database files can now only be opened for exclusive access as opposed to multi-user access.

In the *Search Database dialogue* when a category was specified (for example - Live) as one of the search criteria fields and then saved as a pre-set. The next time this option was chosen from the pre-set list it displayed the Popular Music category as opposed to what should have been the Live category. This however did not effect the search the program still returned all tracks of the 'Live' category. This is now fixed and the program now displays the correct category.

Again in the *Search Database dialogue* if you selected the pre-set item '**Elvis and Cliff tracks from 1962**' the wrong items were returned from the database. What you were getting was all Elvis tracks regardless of year, and all Cliff tracks from the year 1962. The idea here was to select all tracks from a particular year by these two artists. This has now been fixed and the right results are now being returned.

In the *Reporting Options dialogue* an extra field has been added to the **Fields available for report list**. This applies for tracks only and gives you the opportunity to include the album title on which the track appears. The new field is called '**Album on which track appears**'.

In the **Add Album dialogue** if the *Apply year to all tracks* option is unchecked can cause null values to be stored in the database. This could lead to potential crashes when certain parts of the program and CD-ROM player try to access this information. Datarec now default "0000" in the year fields by default.

A small change to the Sorting Options dialogue was made. A second button has now been introduced - **Close**. This now gives the user the opportunity to exit the dialogue abandoning any changes made. If changes are to be effective use the **Apply** button.

1.00.12 Added the option to use the return key to move from one field to another. For example when adding a new CD to the database, after entering the information for the Album Title pressing return will move you onto the next field.

1.00.14 Fixed a problem which caused an 'Object variable not set' error in the Edit Media Formats dialogue. This only happened whenever incremental format was specified.

1.00.16 Added a confirmation prompt before any databases are removed from disk

Added a button to the Edit Album dialogue **'Update Associated Track Years'**. This gives you the opportunity to specify a new year and update all tracks from an album to that year. This is useful if you add an album to the database and mistakenly save the album with the incorrect year specified.

Also with the Edit Album dialogue, another new button **'Album Time'**. What this button is used for is adding the track times from any album together to provide a total running time for that particular album. This is useful if you have manually entered or edited track times. It re-calculates the total running length of an album automatically. Without the need to have to perform that old mental arithmetic stuff!

Added the ability to drag an entire albums contents onto the Cassette Inlay Module or Cassette Recording list by including a small icon of a cassette inlay card to the right of the album Details display screen. Just simply click on this icon and drag the mouse-pointer over the desired area of the CIC module or recording list and drop it there.

1.00.18 Expanded the Drag Entire Album option to the **Albums List** and **Selected Display Screens**. This feature was introduced in the previous release 1.00.16. Albums can also be lifted from the album data grids and dropped onto the Cassette Inlay Module and Cassette Recording list dialogue.

A new **Performers List** dialogue has been added under the **Display Menu**. It displays a list of all the performing artists in the current database. It has been included to give users the opportunity to replace existing entries within the various database tables. For example, this can be used to globally update the performer 'Two Unlimited' and replace it with the corrected version '2 Unlimited'. This updates all occurrences of Two Unlimited which appears in albums, tracks and performer tables. This option can also be used for globally changing artist details for e.g. changing 'Neil Diamond' to 'Diamond, Neil'.

An extra button has been added to the **Edit Album** dialogue - **'Update Artist'**. This permits you to change the artists details on any album and at the same time update the artists details on all tracks associated to that album.

You can now delete any of the 5 default formats within the **Media Formats** dialogue. This gives you the opportunity to use any of the current descriptions with a different type of Media Format. For example, the item Compact Disc Single can now be changed to a Unique format as opposed to it previous default build format.

I have reworked the **Repair Database** function under the **Utilities Menu**. Previously this option only worked on the currently loaded database. Problem was if the database file was corrupted then it probably would not load in the first place! This problem has now been fixed in that a dialogue is now provided for you to select which database file you wish to have repaired. If you previously tried to load a corrupted database file the program crashed out. An error handler has also been added to allow the program to exit gracefully.

A few changes to the **Reporting Options** dialogue. Firstly, In the *Pre-defined tab* an option has been added which allows to specify the order that tracks are sorted within the Detailed Album report option. Tracks can now be sorted by:- the order in which they appear on the album, Year recorded, Running Time and by Track Title. The default sorting order has also been reset to the order in which tracks appear on an album as opposed to being sorted by Track Title.

Secondly in the **Custom Report tab**, again an extra sorting option has been added which allows you to specify a sub-sorting order for your reports. This means for example, that reports can now be sorted by Performing Artist and then sub-sorted by *Album Title*.

Again in the **Custom Report tab** fixed a bug which failed to clear the *Sort Printed Output* combo box whenever you switched from Album Report to Track Report or visa versa. If you had previously defined the fields for a track report and specified which field to sort by and then switched to an Album Report, the Sort Printed Output combo box was not being cleared. Thereby leaving track fields which are not available to album report. This caused the program to crash in certain circumstances.

Fixed a bug in some of the **Main Display Screens** which caused a GPF ' No Current Record' error to happen. This occurred on the *Track Listing, Years, Performers* and *Selected display screens*, whenever the last item was deleted. This error also occurred whenever you attempted to drag from an empty album grid and drop onto the CIC Module or Cassette Recording List.

The function of the **'Read CD'** button in the **Add Album** dialogue has been altered slightly. Previously when used it reset any data already entered into this dialogue. Now only the number of tracks and running times are updated, leaving other existing data intact.

Enhanced the **Album List** dialogue a little to bring it into line with the new Performers List dialogue. You will now find a quick search option at the top of the dialogue which will enable you to start entering the title of the album that you may be looking for. The search is actually made as you type in your information. For example entering the letter 'H' will bring you immediately to the first album in the database starting with the letter H. Follow that with the letter 'A' and then the first album beginning with 'HA' is displayed. You can now also select albums from this dialogue by double-clicking the grid or by pressing the new Select button.

Fixed a small bug in the **Cassette Inlay Module** related to removing the last track on either side of a cassette inlay card. The problem was that when a track occupied more the one line, you sometimes had to hold in the ALT button and click three or four times to remove the last track. You should of course only have to click once. This is now working correctly.

1.00.20 Have added an additional auto formatting option. Albums, Tracks or Performers beginning with the letter 'A' can now have auto formatting options applied the same way as items that begin with the word 'The'. Various dialogues have also been updated slightly to accommodate this feature.

There is now a more general option to 'Apply Reverse Formatting' to items which are dropped onto inlay cards or recording lists. Also, reverse formatting can now be applied to any reports generated by the program. So items stored in the database like:- '*Happening, The*' and '*View to a kill, A*' will be displayed and printed as '*The Happening*' and '*A View to a kill*'.

To bring the **CIC Module** into line with this change, an additional item has been added to the area just below the toolbar - '*Reverse*'. Clicking on this item switches reverse formatting on and off. Clicking Reverse has the same effect as clicking the '*Apply reverse formatting*' option on the General Tab in the General / Print Options dialogue.

In the **Media Formats** dialogue, after using the reset button, two of the default items were assigned the wrong Long and Short descriptions. Music Cassette was being assigned the short description for Sony Mini disc and visa versa. The values are now being assigned to their rightful places.

The **Export** dialogue's Reverse formatting option was not storing it's value correctly. If activated in a session then the next time the dialogue is loaded the option was switched off again. This setting now stores the last assigned value correctly.

The same type of problem was also occurring in the **Cassette Recording List** dialogue. Only this time it was the 'Use performers names' item which was failing to store it's value.

Added additional error trapping for the opening of database files.

Databases are now opened for multi-user access and not exclusively as they are at present. This is basically to enable Datarec and **The Datarec CDPlayer** to simultaneously access the same database files.

Previously if you were playing a CD using the CDPlayer, then you could not gain access to that same database within Datarec, or visa versa. This also reverses a change made back in version 1.00.10 when database files were changed from multi-user to Exclusive access only. If you use Windows Versions 3.0 or 3.1 (not Windows for Workgroups) then unless you have the SHARE.EXE utility loaded via your Autoexec.bat file then file sharing problems might arise. For more information on this please see your Readme.wri file accompanying this program.

Windows 3.1 users should take note of the details at the top of this document for information on running shared files.

Added a Select All button to the Preset Reports Tab in the **Reporting Options** dialogue. This applies to the category based reports, and allows you to select all categories with one mouse click.

Again in the Reporting Options dialogue. Fixed a bug which caused a '*Subscript out of range error*' when the sub-sorting option was set to 'None'.

In the **CIC Module** an additional box was added for storing the value of a 2nd left margin setting. This applies to the printing of Cassette Face Labels and allows you to specify the margin for the rightmost or 'Side B' Face Label. This is for my American friends who use the 'Letter' paper size of Avery Labels as opposed to the European based 'A4' size.

Fixed a bug with the **Repair Database** option under the Utilities Menu. The bug surfaces whenever you attempt to repair the currently loaded database in Datarec. The problem was that a database file cannot be repaired while it's open. My questionable reasoning here was that if the database file was damaged and in need of repair, then you probably would not be able to load it into the Datarec environment in the first place. So I have added additional error trapping, which will now close the database down if it's currently being used.

The **Utilities Menu** is now available at all times to enable access to the Repair and Compact Database options.

Added the option to specify a default category other than that of 'Popular Music'. This is set via a new button in the **Category List** dialogue 'Set Default'. Various other areas of the program have been amended to cater for this change.

I have amended the code behind the *Read CD* button in the **Add Album** dialogue. Basically this eliminated the need for two files which are normally supplied with the program MCI.VBX and MUSICB.DLL.

Added an extra option the **Utilities Menu** which allows registered users to load the **Datarec CDPlayer** from within the Datarec environment. This new option is oddly enough called 'Datarec CDPlayer'.

1.00.22 The **Default Options** dialogue has been amended to incorporate a new option where you can now specify the default location for Datarec database files. The dialogue is now split into three tabbed sections, one of which is now dedicated to database files. From here you can specify the default database, whether or not it should be loaded upon start-up and now also, the default location for your database files. This location will then be used as the default for other options like compacting and repairing existing files and also for creating new files.

An additional button has also been added to this dialogue '*Test Database Path*'. This button is only visible whenever the database tab is selected. The function of which is to perform a check to make sure that the information specified is correct and that both the path and database file exist in the specified location.

Relevant sections within the program have been updated to allow for this change. Most notable of which is the **Transfer Data** dialogue. This has been re-modelled slightly to accommodate the change. A new button has been added which when selected will display the '*Open Database For Transfer*' dialogue and will allow you to specify database's from any directory on your computer. The Database list still exists but now, rather than defaulting to the directory where Datarec is installed, it now defaults to the location specified in the Default Options dialogue.

1.00.24 Amended a duplicate accelerator key from the **Edit Album** dialogue. The accelerator for the '*Update Associated Track Years*' button is now '**Y**' whereas before it used to be '**A**'.

In the **Performers List** dialogue fixed a problem which prevented the global updating of album and track details if the specified entry already existed within the database file.

In the **Reporting Options** dialogue added a checkbox to the Pre-defined Reports tab. The checkbox, *'Include Unknown Years '0000'* allows you to include the albums or tracks where the year is unknown. By default Datarec uses '0000' if the year is unknown.

From this 1.00.24 release onwards, a small utility to check the integrity of database files has been included. This utility may be incorporated into the main Datarec program through time, for now the file to look for is **CheckDBI.EXE**.

The reason for this utility is to help eliminate **'Invalid use of Null'** errors from occurring within Datarec. This error is usually caused by database fields which do not have any data in them. The Database Integrity Checker examines specific fields within a database file. If it finds a field without data, it writes a default value into that field. For more information. Click on the above text.

1.00.26 Added a small enhancement to the cassette *Face Labels* option for printing labels on an ordinary piece of paper. On the Face Labels tab in the **General / Print Options** dialogue of the Inlay Module there is an option to print the outline of a label. This has been enhanced to include and print an outline for the centre piece of the label. This will assist when it comes to trimming the labels before attaching to the actual cassette.

Fixed a small inconvenience which caused the error message *'An MCI Error has occurred. Error reference:274 The MCI device you are using does not support the specified command'* to be displayed on some machines. The message is more annoying than anything and not a particularly serious one. Clicking the OK button will allow you to continue without any problems. This release now prevents the message from displaying.

If a default database contains no records upon start-up then a dialogue would be displayed asking if you wanted to continue by entering some new information into the database file. If you answered yes then the Add Album dialogue would then be displayed. Unfortunately this was then obscured by the Start-up About dialogue. This problem has now been fixed.

Fixed an installation problem when trying to install onto a machine running **Windows Version 3.1**. The problem prevented database files from being opened successfully. The cause of the problem was the file MSAES100.DLL which failed to expand itself properly during installation. The file has now been re-compressed and now works as it should.

The help file that shipped with the previous version was compiled with the new Win32 help compiler. This prevented the help file from being displayed while using versions of Windows prior to Windows '95.

1.00.28 Added an option in the **General / Print Options** Dialogue to print multiple copies of the current inlay. This option will allow you to print up to 99 copies of the same inlay card.

Fixed a problem which caused a *'No Current Record'* error to be display and ultimately lead to the program crashing. The problem occurred whenever you attempt to update the font list for the current database file when there are no existing font names present within the database file.

Fixed a problem which prevented Datarec from running successfully on a machine where the Windows OS was installed on a drive other than drive C:

Fixed another little problem which caused a program crash whenever you attempted to *'Add a New Track'* to an existing album where the album previously contained no tracks to start with.

When you remove the last track from an existing album, the default behaviour was to automatically remove the album as well. It has come to my attention that some Datarec users make use of storing only the album data and not an albums associated track data. This default behaviour has now been amended so that users now have to explicitly delete and album from the database.

Added an accelerator key to the **'Font Option...'** item within the Options Menu.

Also on the **Options Menu** a new item has been added. *'Check Database Integrity'*. When selected this will basically perform a check on the database currently loaded to see if there are any fields containing Null values. If all is well you will be notified to the effect. Otherwise a message will appear to let you know that the Datarec Database Integrity Checker should be run on the current database to correct this problem.

Added an additional button to two of the existing Display Screens, Album Listing and Track Listing. The purpose of this *'Display All'* button is, depending on the screen you are currently on,

to provide a complete list of all the Albums or Tracks within the current database.

Normally after selecting one of the alpha-numeric buttons, items are displayed according to whichever one of the option buttons 'Title' or 'Performer' is checked. Selection of the 'Display All' button however, will display a complete listing based upon the current sorting order set up within the Sorting Options dialogue. The result of an Alpha-Numeric button being pressed is still the same as before.

Also, the option buttons 'Title' or 'Performer' has also been added to the Track Listing display. Previously this was only available on the Album Listing Screen.

1.00.30 Fixed a problem which prevented a compact disc from being correctly registered in the Add Album Dialogue. This fix however will only be of benefit to those of you who are running non-English language versions of Microsoft's Windows. The program was having difficulties interpreting MCI strings being returned from the system with information about the current status of a compact disc. Support has now been included for various languages including Dutch, French, Spanish, Italian, Norwegian and also to some extent German, Swedish and Portuguese. I say to some extent as I do not have all the translated strings for the last three countries.

If you experience this problem while trying to read a CD and you are using an non-English language version of Windows then you could supply me with the translated equivalent of the following three strings: stopped, playing and true. Hopefully though, the changes made here will be sufficient to prevent any further problems!!!

Fixed a minor problem within the **Add Album** dialogue while using the *Update Artists* button. The problem occurred after clicking the button in that a certain procedure was unnecessarily being called for a second time. The result of this extra call produced a '*No current record*' error to be displayed and a program crash.

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