

Maximizing Macro Load Performance

Macro loads are the most popular way to load data with DataLoad. This white paper explains how to maximize the performance of these loads without sacrificing reliability.

DataLoad provides a range of options for loading data in applications, however Macros are used by most users. This is because they are simple and effective but this can be at the expense of performance. However, Macros can be successfully tuned as long as the user remembers one rule: the load must never run faster than the application where the data is being loaded.

Macros run at a fixed speed and are controlled by DataLoad delays, which are simply pauses taken by DataLoad after performing some action. Delays can be set at three levels. First, global delays operate on the entire spreadsheet and, for example, cause a delay whenever a cell is processed or a data cell is loaded. Second, command delays are pauses that occur after a command has been processed. For example, if an extra delay is required when data is saved then a delay could be attached to DataLoad's *SAVE command. Finally, delays can be inserted in to the spreadsheet's cells using the *SL command. This causes DataLoad to pause at that point in the load.

A well tuned load will use a combination of these delays although it should be remembered that delays are cumulative. First, the global delays should be set so the load is generally reliable and at this stage that should be the priority rather than performance. Most loads will include some sections where a longer delay is required. The global delays shouldn't be increased to accommodate this otherwise the whole load will be very slow. Instead, command delays or *SL should be used to add additional delays where required. When the load is reliable the global delays should be gradually reduced. If this introduces an issue in one part of the load then a command or *SL delay should be used at that point. However, if the load is becoming generally unreliable then the global delays should be increased again to regain reliability and then left.

One of the most frustrating experiences for users of Macro loads is to create a reliable load and then one day find it fails. This is usually because the target application is slightly less responsive or fast than normal. The more aggressively tuned the load is the smaller the degradation in performance required to cause such issues. The solution is to increase the load's delays and often increasing the global delays will suffice.

Timed delays are simple, flexible and effective but they do mean the load speed is fixed and reliable loads must be setup to load at the application's slowest speed. Where application performance fluctuates there can be a difficult compromise between reliable and fast loads.

DataLoad Professional's Load Control and Browser Control options address these issues. They both monitor the activities of the target application and only send data, keystrokes and mouse clicks when the application is ready. Thus the load speed is continually and dynamically controlled and fixed time delays are not required. The load runs as fast as possible but not too fast for the target system. That is the ultimate solution for Macro loads and is invaluable for high volume or complex loads or where performance is an issue.

DataLoad is unique in providing a comprehensive suite of options for loading data and config to Oracle E-Business Suite & other applications. With thousands of users in almost 100 countries it is the world's favourite data loading tool.