

## Packaging and Protecting DataLoad's Loads

*DataLoad files are often shared between colleagues but the load's creator may not want others making changes. This paper describes how users can prevent such changes.*

A major factor in DataLoad's popularity is that it can be downloaded and installed by non-technical users who can then quickly build Macros to load data in their application's forms. These loads are often so useful that they quickly become part of an organisation's business processes and are used by a number of people. However, that can also introduce challenges because as soon as something is used by a number of people there is the risk that they start making their own changes. Some sort of control is required to ensure all users use the same version of the load and that they don't make unauthorised changes. DataLoad includes a number of functions to support such control.

Most protection options are available from DataLoad's Protect Load window. This can be opened using the Protect Load option on the Tools menu. The protection options are listed in four groups. First are the global options that relate to DataLoad as a whole and all spreadsheets. These control whether or not the user is able to make changes to any of the DataLoad configuration items and each item can be protected individually. For example, the Window Name drop list can be disabled to prevent the user changing the target system for the load and in a similar fashion the Command Group drop list and the Options and Delays windows can also be disabled. A particularly important restriction is to disable access to the Script tab. It is likely that load creators will want to prevent users from changing the script's code and that can be achieved with this option.

After the global settings are 3 sections of settings, one for each spreadsheet, that is the header, main and footer spreadsheets. These control what the user can do in the spreadsheets and restrict things such as importing data, deleting columns & rows, inserting columns & rows and editing cell comments. Again, each option can be enabled or disabled individually according to the load owner's requirements. The Dynamic Columns option can be very useful. DataLoad spreadsheets normally dynamically grow as data is entered. However, by turning off Dynamic Columns the number of columns is fixed and unused blank columns can be deleted to ensure the user doesn't add columns to the load.

Having setup load protection users should be prevented from changing the protection settings. This can be done by entering a password on the Protect Load window. The protection settings can then only be changed if the password is known.

DataLoad's data validation options are also a useful way to restrict how loads are used. The validation window is opened from the following menu: Tools->Data->Validation. This window can be used to control what data can be entered in each column. Further changes to the data validation rules can of course be prevented using load protection.

One final change is required to make the load completely secure. The load should be saved as an encrypted file to prevent particularly determined users from attempting to edit the load file. When saving the file select the "Encrypted DataLoad File" file type, which will give the file a '.dldx' file extension. By using these options users can be prevented from making any unauthorised changes to loads and load files can be safely shared.

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.