

DataLoad Scripting: What, why and how?

Version 5 of DataLoad introduced DataLoad Scripting. This white paper explains how Scripting may be useful and how scripts can be created and used in loads.

Scripting is one of DataLoad's most powerful features but it is unknown to many users. A script is written that responds to events in DataLoad and introduces new functionality. That may sound vague but scripting is deliberately flexible in its functionality to enable a wide range of customisations to be added to DataLoad. These can be small extensions, for example performing some data validation or importing data from an external source in to the DataLoad spreadsheet, but scripting can also be used to create entire loads. The latter option is the most exciting use of scripting because, for example, it can be used to create loads that work directly with databases instead of loading through an application's forms.

Rather than create a script language, which would be inherently limited in its functionality, [PHP](#) is used. PHP is one of the world's most popular and well supported script languages and there is a huge library of functions available for PHP. DataLoad's users can use those libraries to add an almost unlimited range of functions to DataLoad. There is also a library of functions that enables the user to access and control DataLoad from PHP.

Before DataLoad Scripting can be used it must be downloaded and installed. To create a new script click on the Script tab in DataLoad and, when prompted, accept the option to load the template script. The template script contains PHP functions that are called when something happens in DataLoad and the script code is added to these functions. For example, OnOpenFile() is called when the file is opened and the script started. To display a message when the file is opened a single line is added to this function:

```
function OnOpenFile()  
{  
    MessageBox("Hello, welcome to DataLoad!");  
}
```

Scripts start automatically when the DataLoad file is opened but when developing scripts they can be started and stopped through the Script menu. A toolbar on the script page also provides shortcuts to these functions. Another useful function is opening the script for editing in Notepad++, which is a more powerful editor than the one built-in to DataLoad.

Scripting is most useful for enabling loads direct in to databases. All popular databases are supported and a DataLoad class is provided for simplifying loads to Oracle databases or Oracle E-Business Suite. That supports all common Oracle functions, e.g. connecting to Oracle E-Business Suite databases (as "APPS") when a valid application username & password is entered but without having to expose database passwords. This enables very powerful loads to be built and shared where the complexity is hidden from users.

Scripting enables simple extensions and advanced database interfaces to be built and packaged for end users. While some technical experience is useful the use of PHP and an event-driven approach greatly simplifies script development. This gives organisations a quick, simple & cost-effective way to provide any required data loading solution to users.

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.