Before You Begin

DataCAD 17 includes significant enhancements. In particular, the addition of intelligent objects such as walls, doors, and windows. If you are upgrading from a version of DataCAD prior to 11, you will also need to be aware of changes to the drawing file format, directory structure, file and folder names, and program default settings. The What's New? files located in the Help directory contain more details about new features and enhancements. Due to the fundamental nature of these changes, DataCAD 17 must be installed into a new program folder. The installation program will not allow DataCAD 17 to be installed in the same folder as prior versions.

If you are installing DataCAD 17 on a computer with a prior version, you may have existing program preferences and customized support files like wall types, door types, window types, hatch patterns, and line types. During installation, you can choose to copy some of your settings and files to your DataCAD 17 program folder automatically. You will need to copy other support files manually. Customizable files (such as drawings, XREF drawings, symbols, and templates) are not automatically copied into your DataCAD 17 program folder during installation. You need to decide which of these files, if any, you will copy into your DataCAD 17 program folder.

These instructions will help you update your DataCAD software to version 17. We recommend that you make a complete backup of your program data and support files before you install this upgrade and before you modify, copy, or convert any data or support files. If you don't make a backup, you may not be able to recover from an error or program failure.

New Directory Structure

Versions of DataCAD prior to 11 were installed in a folder named DataCAD. The folders shown in the Older Versions column have been replaced by the folders shown in Version 11 and later column.

Older Versions	Version 11 and later
\BMP	\Bitmaps
\Default	\Default Drawings
\DWG	\Drawings
\CHR	\Fonts
\Help	\Help
\LYR	\Layer Files
\DCX	\Macros
\Materials	\Materials
\o2c	\o2c Objects
\PLT	\Plot Files
\FRM	\Report Forms
\SUP	\Support Files
\SYM	\Symbols
\TPL	\Templates
\TEMP	\Temporary Files
\Textures	\Textures
\XFER	\Transfer

Drawing Files

DataCAD drawing files have a new file format. This is primarily due to the enhancement to a double-precision database. All existing DataCAD drawing files (DC5) are automatically converted to the new format when you open them with DataCAD 17. When you close the drawing files, they are saved in the new format with the AEC extension (the original DC5 is not overwritten). Once you have converted your drawings, all future edits should be performed in the AEC file. This applies to all DataCAD drawing files, even if they are used as a default drawing or an XREF.

You can convert several drawing files at once by selecting multiple DC5 files in the File\Open dialog. Once they are open, select File\Close All. The resultant AEC files will automatically be saved at the same location as the DC5 files. DataCAD 17 will convert DC5 files to AEC files, but it will not convert AEC files to DC5 files.

Default Drawings

DataCAD 17 cannot use your existing DC5 default drawings until they are converted to AEC files. Therefore, we recommend that you convert your existing default drawings, if any, before you create any new drawings in DataCAD 17. Default drawings may be converted from DC5 to AEC using the method described in the "Drawing Files" section of this document.

XREF Drawings

We recommend that you convert your XREF drawings from DC5 to AEC before you attempt to open the master drawing file in which they are inserted. If you don't convert them, the XREFs could be flagged as orphans since they are not valid AEC files yet. If they are flagged as orphaned XREFs, you will need to convert the XREF drawings and resolve their orphaned status in the Reference File Manager.

If the XREFs remain in their original folders when you open the Master file, DataCAD will attempt to automatically convert them from DC5 to AEC format provided that Auto Convert=TRUE in the [XREFs] section of DCADWIN.INI. If they are not found in their original location, DataCAD will search the current drawing folder and attempt to convert them. If they are not found there either, they will be flagged as Orphans.

Symbols

DataCAD 11 introduced a powerful new feature called the Symbol Browser. This toolbar lets you view and use all of your symbol folders without cumbersome template files. By taking advantage of the Symbol Browser toolbar, you will probably find that you no longer need your existing template files. In addition, the symbol libraries that are included with DataCAD have been reorganized into a logical directory structure, making symbols easier to find.

DataCAD 17 symbol files have a new file format and use the file extension DSF. DataCAD 17 can read existing symbol files (with the SM3 extension) as well as the new DSF file format. You

can access your existing symbol libraries with the Symbol Browser by setting the path to your existing symbol folder. DataCAD 17 automatically creates DSF files when you save symbols.

Support Files

DataCAD has a variety of support files used for different purposes; you can customize many of these files. You may have modified some of your DataCAD support files in a previous version or installed add-on products for DataCAD which updated them.

The DataCAD 17 installation program allows you copy your existing program preferences and customized files into DataCAD 17. If you chose to copy these files, they will be copied into your DataCAD 17 program folder during installation.

Files copied from DataCAD 8 - 10		
Support File Type	**Original Location**	**Filename**
Fonts	`DataCAD\CHR\`	`*.CHR`
Report Forms	`DataCAD\FRM\`	`*.FRM`
Toolbox Macros	`DataCAD\DCX`	`*.DCX`
Hatch Pattern Definition File	`DataCAD\SUP\`	`DCADWIN.PAT`
Hatch Pattern Preview Settings File	`DataCAD\SUP\`	`DCADWIN.PAT.INI`
Keyboard Macro File	`DataCAD\SUP\`	`DCADWIN.MCR`
Line Type Definition File	`DataCAD\SUP\`	`DCADWIN.LIN`
Command Line Alias File	`DataCAD\SUP\`	`DCADWIN.DCA`
Dimension Style Files	`DataCAD\SUP\`	`*.DIMSTYLE`
Palette Files	`DataCAD\SUP\`	`*.RGB`
o2c Rendering Settings Files	`DataCAD\SUP\`	`*.DMF`
Text Style File	`DataCAD\SUP\`	`TEXT.STL`
Wall Style File	`DataCAD\SUP\`	`WALL.STL`
DWG Translator Color Mapping Files	`DataCAD\SUP\`	`*.TBL`
DWG Translator Settings Files	`DataCAD\SUP\`	`*.INI`
Shader Light Settings Files	`DataCAD\SUP\`	`*.LIT`
Default Angles	`DataCAD\SUP\`	`DCADWIN.ANG`
Default Decimals	`DataCAD\SUP\`	`DCADWIN.DEC`
Default Distances	`DataCAD\SUP\`	`DCADWIN.DIS`
Default Scales	`DataCAD\SUP\`	`DCADWIN.SCL`
Toolbar Files	`..\SUP\MENUPOF\`	`*.KEY, *.BMP`
Spell Checker User Dictionary File	`DataCAD\SUP\`	`USERDIC.TLX`
Plotter Pen Settings Files	`DataCAD\SUP\`	`*.PEN`
Default Drawings	`DataCAD\DEFAULT\`	`*.DC5`

Files copied from DataCAD 11 and later		
Support File Type	**Original Location**	**Filename**
Fonts	`DataCAD\Fonts\`	`*.CHR`
Report Forms	`DataCAD\Report Forms\`	`*.FRM`
Toolbox Macros	`DataCAD\Macros`	`*.DCX, *.DMX`
Hatch Pattern Definition File	`..\Support Files\`	`DCADWIN.PAT`
Hatch Pattern Preview Settings File	`..\Support Files\`	`DCADWIN.PAT.INI`
Line Type Definition File	`..\Support Files\`	`DCADWIN.LIN`
Command Line Alias File	`..\Support Files\`	`DCADWIN.DCA`
Text Style File	`..\Support Files\`	`TEXT.STL`
Command Line Alias File	`..\Support Files\`	`DCADWIN.DCA`

Dimension Style Files	..\Support Files\	*.DIMSTYLE
Palette Files	..\Support Files\	*.RGB
o2c Rendering Settings Files	..\Support Files\	*.DMF
Plotter Pen Settings Files	..\Support Files\	*.PEN
Text Style (Obsolete)	..\Support Files\	TEXT.STL
Wall Style File	..\Support Files\	WALL.STL
DWG Translator Color Mapping Files	..\Support Files\	*.TBL
DWG Translator Settings Files	..\Support Files\	*.INI
Shader Light Settings Files	..\Support Files\	*.LIT
Default Angles	..\Support Files\	DCADWIN.ANG
Default Decimals	..\Support Files\	DCADWIN.DEC
Default Distances	..\Support Files\	DCADWIN.DIS
Default Scales	..\Support Files\	DCADWIN.SCL
Toolbar Files	..\Toolbars\	*.*
Hatch Patterns	..\Hatch Patterns\	*.DHP
Line Types	..\Line Types\	*.DLT
Spell Checker User Dictionary File	..\Support Files\	USERDIC.TLX
Pen Tables	..\Support Files\	*.PEN, *.DPF
Default Drawings	..\Default Drawings\	*.AEC

Files copied from DataCAD 12 and later		
Support File Type	**Original Location**	**Filename**
Wall Types	..\Support Files\Wall Types	*.WLS
Door Types	..\Support Files\Door Types	*.DOR
Window Types	..\Support Files\Window Types	*.WIN

Text Fonts

DataCAD 17 provides direct support for SHX fonts and TrueType fonts (TTF). DataCAD CHR fonts are no longer used. However, your existing DataCAD fonts are automatically converted to SHX format. If you have additional CHR fonts, you can copy them to your \DataCAD 17\Fonts\ folder for use with DataCAD 17. If you are using TrueType fonts in DataCAD, you don't need to copy those font files since Windows manages your TrueType fonts from a central location on your computer.

DCAL Macros

If you have additional DCAL Macros installed with your previous DataCAD version, you can copy those files into your \DataCAD 17\Macros\ folder. DCAL Macros have the file extension DCX. Some macros may have additional support files or settings files that need to be copied along with them. In versions of DataCAD prior to 11, macros resided in the \DataCAD\DCX\ folder.

The following macros are no longer included with DataCAD and should not be used with DataCAD 17:

LyrUtil (Layer Utility)
SymExp (Symbol Explode)
EstLink (Estimator Link)
ViewMast (View Master)

Functionality from LyrUtil and SymExp is built into Layers, LayerSets and 3D Explode menus respectively. Do not copy LyrUtil, SymExp, EstLink, or ViewMast macros into the new \DataCAD 17\Macros\ folder.

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