

SUNGARD®



Data Express

Product Overview

Version 2.0

Data Express Version 2.0

Introduction

SunGard Employee Benefit Systems and Integrated Benefit Solutions, Inc. (IBS) have partnered to provide an integrated conversion solution to meet the needs of all recordkeeping operations, large and small. SunGard Data Express[®], designed to be the most comprehensive tool available for processing complex data, now works hand-in-hand with OmniPlus to simplify your recordkeeping data manipulation tasks.

Speed and flexibility are the primary advantages of using Data Express. You can perform real-time OmniPlus database edits by selecting from a suite of predefined methods. Quickly convert payroll and other data into any layout imaginable, with the accurate results you expect. An easy to use interface provides the powerful features required by the most demanding users while allowing you to complete difficult conversion projects without a programming staff.

The results of data manipulation will only be as good as the tool that you are using, and Data Express offers a whole new level of unparalleled functionality.

Data Express supplements OmniPlus by:

- Providing fast, efficient handling of retirement plan data. Data Express has been proven to manage large amounts of data without causing processing delays. It is simply the most effective tool in the market for manipulating recordkeeping information.
- Handling “real world” situations. Data Express was built from the ground up to work with multiple input and output data files. These data files can contain multiple record types and each record can contain a wide range of field formats. This allows you to convert complex benefit plans and easily accept custom payroll feeds.
- Providing record structures that can be reused for recurring conversions.
- Offering a COBOL copybook import facility that allows you to create a transaction “template” from any record layout in OmniPlus.

Features

Integration with OmniPlus

Data Express uses innovative *object methods* to provide real-time edits of OmniPlus files. This single aspect of Data Express eliminates unnecessary transactions, significantly decreases processing time, and greatly reduces OmniPlus error reports.

The standard methods shipped with Data Express Version 2.0 focus on the conversion of payroll data and OmniPlus Data Elements. These methods provide powerful, time-saving features that can be incorporated into the OmniPlus user's daily processing.

To simplify the process of mapping fields to OmniPlus data elements and to eliminate maintenance problems between releases, a *Dynamic Data Element Dictionary* is used. This easily updated file allows Data Express to work with multiple releases and versions of OmniPlus (Production, Test, etc.).

After building a conversion project at your workstation, your Data Express program object can be ported to the server, where automated background processing can occur.

Data Manipulation

Data Express is flexible in the types of input it can receive and the types of output it can create. A single input record can be read to produce multiple output records and multiple input records can be read to create a single output record.

In addition, Data Express handles packed decimal, zoned decimal, floating point, and binary numeric data items. There's no need to worry about whether these data types will be handled correctly.

Built-in functions also allow name and date fields to be merged or divided.

Flexibility

For complex conversions, Data Express provides more built-in functionality than other tools currently available. The experienced conversion analyst can directly enter procedure statements to perform an action. In addition, a *Statement Prompt* screen allows you to quickly formulate procedures with the proper syntax. This time-saving feature prevents potential errors in the programs you create.

Other benefits of Data Express:

- Data Express uses English oriented verbs and statements that a user can understand.
- Drag-and-drop interface saves time. No more referring to printed record layouts to find the field information you need. Using the drag-and-drop capabilities of Data Express, the user visually defines the action to be taken for any required fields. Move a field directly from an input record to an output record with the click of the mouse.
- Organizes conversion project data based on your needs. Typically, a data conversion project contains Input and Output Data Files, Record Definitions, File Definitions, and Programs. To keep track of all your files, Data Express creates a directory of Project Folders for each of these different file types. You can customize how these folders are organized within your project by changing the *Project Control* options.
- Similar or same data can be reused for other projects. Instead of starting a new project from scratch, you can copy data mapping components from an existing project.
- Contains a helpful data file viewer with powerful, convenient features. View the contents of large data files in text and hexadecimal format. A *find* feature lets you search for specific text strings.

- Output your Record Definitions to print or delimited format. This feature allows you to print or merge the file into a word processing document from which you can create data mapping documents.
- Helpful documentation is available through three levels of Online Help: *General Help*, *Window Level Help*, and *Field Level (F1) Help*. In addition, a *Getting Started* guide and *Data Express Tutorial* provide a good starting point to learn more about the program.

Accuracy

Data Express lets you see exactly how your data is mapped, significantly reducing the chance of errors:

- **Input Data** - The *View/Test* option ensures that your input data is correctly mapped to the appropriate fields. This immediate feedback is an important tool in the creation of File and Record Definitions.
- **Output Data** - Using the powerful *Format Record* feature, you will see every field in the output record and the data being mapped to it.

Six and eight-digit date fields can be converted without worry. Point-and-click functions ensure that dates, with or without the century indicator, will be converted into the correct format.

Job and Message Logs provide statistics and errors to assist you in troubleshooting.

Technology & Architecture

Data Express can be used as a standalone, workstation product or in a client/server environment.

Minimum System Requirements:

- Windows 95 or Windows NT client interface
- Pentium 166 processor
- 32MB RAM
- For client/server environment, Window NT 4.0 or UNIX.

Support and Consulting Services

Integrated Benefit Solutions is a group of dedicated professionals who understand your current and future business needs. Like SunGard, IBS' reputation has been built on service and expertise in the recordkeeping industry.

IBS' support personnel are dedicated to helping clients with installation, application support and custom object methods, while providing the personal attention your company deserves. In addition, IBS can guide you in the effective use of Data Express within your company.