Before You Begin

DataCAD 12 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 Whats New? file on your DataCAD 12 CD-ROM has more details about new features and enhancements. Due to the fundamental nature of these changes, DataCAD 12 must be installed into a new program folder. The installation program will not allow DataCAD 12 to be installed in the same folder as DataCAD 11 and prior versions.

If you are installing DataCAD 12 on a computer with a DataCAD 11 or prior version, you may have existing data files and/or customized support files like hatch patterns and line types. If you choose to search for an existing version, some of your support files and settings can be copied into your DataCAD 12 program folder automatically during installation. You will need to copy other support files manually. Data files (such as drawings, XREF drawings, default drawings, symbols, and templates) are not automatically copied into your DataCAD 12 program folder during installation. You need to decide which data files, if any, you will copy into your DataCAD 12 program folder.

These instructions will help you update your DataCAD software to version 12. We recommend that you make a complete backup of your 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

Previous versions of DataCAD were installed in a folder named DataCAD on your C drive (C:\DataCAD). The folders shown in the Older Versions column have been replaced by the folders in Version 12.

Version 12	**Older Version**
\Bitmaps	\BMP
\Default Drawings	\Default
\Drawings	\DWG
\Fonts	\CHR
\Help	\Help
\Layer Files	\LYR
\Macros	\DCX
\Materials	\Materials
\o2c Objects	\o2c
\Plot Files	\PLT
\Report Forms	\FRM
\Support Files	\SUP
\Symbols	\SYM

\Templates	\TPL
\Temporary Files	\TEMP
\Textures	\Textures
\Transfer	\XFER

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 12.When you close the drawing files, they are saved in the new format with the .AEC extension. 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 12 will convert .DC5 files to .AEC files, but it will not convert .AEC files to .DC5 files.

Default Drawings

DataCAD 12 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 12 Default drawings may be converted from .DC5 to .AEC using the method described in Drawing Files.

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 and Templates

DataCAD 12 has 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 12 symbol files have a new file format and use the file extension .DSF. DataCAD 12 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, simply set the path to your existing symbol folder. DataCAD 12 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 12 installation program allows you to search for a previous version of DataCAD. Many potentially customized files will then automatically be copied into DataCAD 12. If you chose to search for an existing version, the following support files are copied into your C:\Program Files\DataCAD 12\Support Files\ folder during installation.

Support File Type	**Original Location**	**Filename**
Hatch Pattern Definition File	DATACAD\SUP\	DCADWIN.PAT
Hatch Pattern Preview Settings File	DATACAD\SUP\	DCADWIN.PAT.INI
Linetype Definition File	DATACAD\SUP\	DCADWIN.LIN
Keyboard Macro File	DATACAD\SUP\	DCADWIN.MCR
Text Style File	DATACAD\SUP\	TEXT.STL
Wall Style File	DATACAD\SUP\	WALL.STL
Command Line Alias File	DATACAD\SUP\	DCADWIN.DCA
Spell Checker User Dictionary File	DATACAD\SUP\	USERDIC.TLX
Dimension Style Files	DATACAD\SUP\	*.DIMSTYLE
o2c Rendering Settings Files	DATACAD\SUP\	*.DMF
Plotter Pen Settings Files	DATACAD\SUP\	*.PEN
Palette Files	DATACAD\SUP\	*.RGB
DWG Translator Color Mapping Files	DATACAD\SUP\	*.TBL
DWG Translator Settings Files	DATACAD\SUP\	*.INI
Shader Light Settings Files	DATACAD\SUP\	*.LIT
Toolbar Files	DATACAD\SUP\	MENUPOF*.*

Text Fonts

DataCAD 12 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 C:\Program Files\DataCAD 12\Fonts\ folder for use with DataCAD 12. 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 C:\Program Files\DataCAD 12\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 previous versions, macros resided in the \DataCAD\DCX\ folder.

The following macros are no longer included with DataCAD:

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 12\Macros folder.

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