

QAD Automation Solutions: Data Collection Release Notes v3.0

March 2018

These release notes include information about fixes and enhancements related to the release of QAD Automation Solutions: Data Collection version 3.0.

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Release Notes for Current Release

QAD Data Collection Version: 3.0

QAD Enterprise Edition: Enterprise Edition 2016, 2017

Release Date: March 2018

Prerequisites: Data Collection v2.1.0.x

User Guide: *QAD Data Collection User Guide*

Installation Information: Installation information is included in the *QAD Data Collection Installation Guide*.

Help File: An updated .fnd help file is available for Data Collection v3.0. The help file is only available in English. See the following knowledgebase article to download the file:

<https://knowledgebase.qad.com/kmp/article/AB-15341/465/Field-Help-is-missing-for-some-fields.html>

Enhancements and Fixes

The following enhancements and fixes have been made to QAD Automation Solutions: Data Collection.

QAD Issue	Description
DCPD-11	Made an enhancement to the Function Keys so that you can prevent the Done Key displaying before you commit. Value. Gives the user the ability to define when the DONE key is available at the transaction buffer and field level.
DCPD-77	An enhancement was made so that the system can concurrently run EAM and QAD Core transactions (menus). Value. The system no longer requires two separate login scripts that connect to different sets of databases: one with the MLS database connected and one without. Previously, the framework only supported running EAM or QAD Core transactions (menus).
DCPD-229	An enhancement was made to add navigation (function keys) in the DC transaction menu. Value. Allows users to easily log off and exit the Data Collection application. Previously, users would have to hit the Device Keys multiple times to log off and exit the application.
DCPD-237	Added the ability to log in to Data Collection with a single script when multiple modules are installed in an environment. Previously, to log in to Data Collection, a separate/different script was run for each module.
DCPD-351	Fixed an issue with the System Error: Attempt to define too many indexes for area 6 database. Additional areas within the product where datasets are being utilized were identified and corrected.
DCPD-365	Made an enhancement to Transaction Definition Maintenance (6. 16) to give the user the ability to configure a transaction when the function keys are available. Value. Provides the ability for the user to configure within the transaction when the function keys (buttons) are available at the field level. Details. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Added the Enable/Disable Transaction Navigation Keys actions, which allow the user to determine whether the Back Key Available, Done Key Available, and Abort Key Available fields are set to Yes or No.Added the Back Key Available, Done Key Available, and Abort Key Available fields. When the user is prompted to enter data into the field, the user can specify whether the Back/Done/Abort key will be displayed and available.
DCPD-366	Based up on the transaction configuration, the engine will now display the function keys that have been configured to be available within the transaction. If no function keys are configured, then the only key strokes that will provide any action are "GO" and "RETURN" and a scan of a label.

QAD Issue	Description
DCPD-367	Function key settings at the buffer and field levels within the transaction definition are now available to the processing engine via the configuration dataset.
DCPD-368	Now, the Standard Procedure pSubtractValue in <code>dcstdfp.p</code> calls subtractValue. Previously, pSubtractValue called addValue.
DCPD-391	Provides the ability to capture non-printable characters during scanning of 2D barcodes. Previously, when scanning bar codes that contained the non-printable characters — 29 (Group Separator), 30 (Record Separator), and 4 (End of Text) — the values were not captured. This caused the data not to be parsed correctly.
DCPD-399	All Data Collection global variables used by the transactions are now reinstated after the user exits a transaction and returns to the menu. Previously, after a user processed an EAM transaction, returned to the menu, and attempted to process the same transaction or another one, the following error message would be returned intermittently: "Invalid or inappropriate server handle...on Server statement. <5453>. Please re-enter". Prior to this fix, the user would be required to log out and then log back in after exiting an EAM transaction.
DCPD-402	Fixed an issue where the Done Key did not work through Gather Data (6.1) telnet.
DCPD-406	The system now allows the transaction to retrieve additional global variables that are set during the login process. Details. The additional variables to be available are as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IsEamConnected or eamConnected. Logical variable to indicate if the mls database is connected. • IsLoggedInFromGun or loggedInfromGun (logged-In-from-Gun or LoginFromGun). logical variable to indicate if the user accessed the transaction from a script. If the user executes from the script for mobile devices, then this value will be true; otherwise it will be false to indicate that the transaction is being executed from CHUI or .NET. • FRAME-WIDTH or FrameWidth. Integer value to indicate what the frame width is set at. May be useful for debugging purposes. • MessageRow or Message-Row. Integer value to indicate what the message row is set at. Useful for debugging purposes. • TransactionLevel or Transaction-Level. Integer value to indicate at what level is the 'linked' transaction at from the main transaction. • SessionTimeOut or Session-Time-Out. Integer value to indicate what the inactive session time out value is set at. • ExecName or exec-name or program-name. Returns the name of the program that started Data Collection.
DCPD-410	If there are multiple active lookups defined and child lookups had pre- or post-process events defined on a field, fixed an issue when then those events did not get executed.
DCPD-416	Fixed an issue where a user would press the Insert key and the system would create an additional record in the dataset buffer, causing issues with transaction processing.
DCPD-417	Fixed an issue where a user who was not defined as an "Employee" within the EAM module tried to log in from a mobile device such as a scanning device and was unable to log in.
DCPD-418	Fixed an issue where a transaction failed because the API returned a warning message with return-value as non blank and not success.

Release Notes for 2.1.0

QAD Data Collection Version: 2.1.0

QAD Enterprise Edition: Enterprise Edition 2016, 2017

Release Date: October 2017

Prerequisites: Data Collection v2.0.1.x

User Guide: *QAD Data Collection User Guide*

Installation Information: Installation information is included in the *QAD Data Collection Installation Guide*.

Enhancements and Fixes

The following enhancements and fixes have been made to QAD Automation Solutions: Data Collection.

QAD Issue	Description
DCPD-351	Corrects an issue with the System Error: Attempt to define too many indexes for area 6 database. Additional areas within the product where datasets are being utilized were identified and corrected.
DCPD-364	<p>F4 Back Key Navigation Correction</p> <p>When you press the F4 (Back) key on a field while working within an AS transaction, the system will now consistently move the user back to the previous field that was updateable.</p> <p>Previously, this was not consistent. If the record was defined as being repeating and the prompt was on the first updateable field of that record, the system simply remained on that field.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Value. Provides the user the opportunity to return to a prior point in the transaction rather than having to abort the transaction to make a change to a prior field entry.• Value. Provides the user the ability to exit a transaction after processing a transaction without having to abort. <p>Details:</p> <p>There is no impact to existing transactions. However, QAD suggests that you retest all transactions, including linked transactions, to ensure there is no undesired impact.</p>
DCPD-370	<p>Fixed an issue with Transaction Maintenance where a Progress error would be displayed. After accessing the fields for a buffer and attempting to copy the buffer and its fields to another location, the user will no longer get a Progress error indicating that an object had been deleted.</p> <p>Previously, Transaction Maintenance displayed “dynamic function ActionDefinitionID is not available” when attempting to copy a buffer to another location after accessing the field maintenance frame.</p>
DCPD-379	<p>Fixed an issue where the post process events of a buffer were not being executed when the event was designated to execute was before the buffers' children were processed. Previously these events would not get executed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Value. Improves ability for customers to make simple field order changes directly without unknowingly breaking the transaction.• Value. Reduces the development time for making transaction simple flow changes. <p>Previously, moving a field was likely to break the transaction; for example, moving the QTY field prompt before the Item Number prompt.</p>
DCPD-385	Fixed an issue where the following Progress error would be displayed when a message exceeds 34 characters in length and does not contain any spaces: "Second parameter of REPLACE must have non-zero length. (2918)".

QAD Issue	Description
DCPD-386	<p>Reduced the number of event calls to buffer and field setting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Value. Reduces the development time by not having to create several toggles for field/buffer events. • Value. Increases performance; for example, when an item is lot controlled, the number of events for display/update/validation/ of lot/ref field has been reduced from 6 to 2. <p>Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One new procedure that can be called with various settings that enables you to activate and deactivate events within the transactions. Enables settings based on one or all event types, using wild cards on event codes, and so on. • Three additional methods are now available to allow the implementer to write out the data that has been collected to an XML file. This can done for the configuration dataset, the API-Dataset, or the UI-Dataset. • A method is now available that enables the transaction to set processing flags for multiple buffers with a single call. • A method is now available that enables the transaction to set processing flags for multiple fields on a buffer with a single call. <p>Previously, multiple events would need to be called to set these values.</p>
DCPD-389	<p>A multi-language fix was made. The User Prompt now displays logical values in the correct format when user is in a non-English language.</p> <p>Previously, the values were displayed in a character format, which then required a translation back to a logical value for the language. Sometimes, this would result in error messages indicating that the value entered was not valid and would not allow the user to proceed.</p>
DCPD-393	<p>The lookup title field was increased in length to match the term label. The Data Collection lookup definitions are now able to accept up to 50 characters for the columns label, which aids in the translation capability of the labels. The increases in length now allow a term label that has already been defined to be applied.</p>
DCPD-394	<p>Reduced the chance of record locks. Fixed an issue where the Data Collection work file would retain a lock on the table when records were being created for a user's transaction but not removed immediately after being used as intended by the transaction.</p> <p>The transactions were being configured to keep the records as transactional records, for others to use, which is not the intent of the table.</p> <p>The procedures affected by this, within the responsibility owning program, have been modified to release the records.</p>
DCPD-395	<p>The installed version of QAD Automation Solutions: Data Collection is now displayed on the Data Collection Control maintenance screen (6.22.24).</p> <p>Previously, the only mechanism available to the user to determine the installed version was to access Data Collection using a mobile device—where the installed version would be displayed at the time of logging in—or to access the system directories to locate the version file.</p>

QAD Issue	Description
DCPD-397	<p data-bbox="347 191 938 212">Reduced the number of event calls to buffer and field settings.</p> <p data-bbox="347 228 1377 310">Additional system global variables are now available for retrieval from within a transaction. Access to these variables will aid in debugging of transactions and assisting in configuring of the transaction. Although the values can be retrieved, they cannot be updated.</p> <p data-bbox="347 327 581 348">The variables added are:</p> <ul data-bbox="347 365 561 512" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="347 365 561 386">• c-application-mode <li data-bbox="347 394 477 415">• global_ref <li data-bbox="347 424 490 445">• global_type <li data-bbox="347 453 490 474">• global_lang <li data-bbox="347 483 509 504">• current_entity <p data-bbox="347 525 1302 546">Value. Reduces the development time by not having to create several toggles for field/buffer events.</p> <p data-bbox="347 562 1302 617">Value. Increases performance; for example, when an item is lot controlled, the number of events for display/update/validation/ of lot/ref field has been reduced from 6 to 2.</p>
DCPD-399	<p data-bbox="347 636 1351 690">All Data Collection global variables used by the transactions are now re-instantiated after the user exits a transaction and returns to the menu.</p> <p data-bbox="347 707 1406 814">Previously, after a user processed an EAM transaction, returned to the menu, and attempted to process the same transaction or another one, the following error message would be returned intermittently: "Invalid or inappropriate server handle...on Server statement. <5453>. Please re-enter". Prior to this fix, the user would be required to log out and then log back in after exiting an EAM transaction.</p>

Release Notes for Version 2.0.1

QAD Data Collection Version: 2.0.1

QAD Enterprise Edition: Enterprise Edition 2015, 2016

Release Date: September 2016

Prerequisites: Refer to *QAD Data Collection Installation Guide* for information on compatibility and prerequisites.

User Guide: *QAD Data Collection User Guide*

Installation Information: Installation information is included in the *QAD Data Collection Installation Guide*.

Fixes

The following fixes have been made to Data Collection.

QAD Issue	Description
DC-305	The transaction menu labels are now being translated to the user's language at all levels. Previously, only the menu labels at the transaction level were translated.
DC-306	User menus are now displayed correctly when a new user logs in from the same device. Previously, the transaction menus for the previous user would be displayed.
DCPD-316	When the Data Collection Transactions are accessed via the .NET UI, an issue was corrected with user authentication. Previously, a mismatched parameter error would be written to the appserver log during the authentication. This was caused by an incorrect data type being passed to the authentication procedure.
DCPD-317	When the user is prompted to terminate the user's running sessions, the logical value is now formatted based upon the setting specified in Data Collection Control. This value then can be/will be translated to the user's language. When the user elects not to disconnect a running session, the login record is not deleted for that session. Previously, login session records for that user would be deleted even when the user elected not to terminate the other sessions.

Release Notes for Version 2.0

QAD Data Collection Version: 2.0

QAD Enterprise Edition: Enterprise Edition 2015, 2016

Release Date: March 2016

Prerequisites: Refer to *QAD Data Collection Installation Guide* for information on compatibility and prerequisites.

User Guide: *QAD Data Collection User Guide*

Installation Information: Installation information is included in the *QAD Data Collection Installation Guide*.

Data Collection v2.0 - General Availability

With the release of Data Collection v2.0, Data Collection is now generally available to all customers. For a brief overview of Data Collection and its features and components, see “Data Collection Overview for New Users” on page 10.

For comprehensive information about Data Collection, see the *QAD Data Collection User Guide*.

Enhancements and Fixes

If you received an early adopter version of Data Collection, this section describes enhancements and fixes that were made to the product since the early adopter versions.

QAD Issue	Description
DCPD-14	Added the Session Time Out field, which provides the ability to define a the number of minutes to log the user off after inactivity. The auto log off functionality only applies when the user is at the menu selection, and it does not operate while working within a transaction. This value can be set in the Data Collection control file.
DCPD-46	Now, when accessing the Data Collection transactions from within .NET, the system prompts for a valid password when the last password the user supplied is no longer valid.
DCPD-47	In Transaction Definition Maintenance, an "Update Field Display Format" action has been added to the Actions menu. This action allows the user to reset the display format of fields for a transaction based upon the datatype. When this action is selected, the user specifies the data type and the new display format of the data, which is then applied to all fields for that data type within the given transaction.
DCPD-53	When accessing the Data Collection transactions from within the .NET, the system no longer generates crash recovery files. Previously, when the user closed the .NET screen using the red X on the menu tab, the system would leave stranded crash recovery files.
DCPD-126	Added the Maximum Label Characters and Use Data Justification fields to Device Maintenance(6.22.14). Maximum Label Characters allows the user to specify what the maximum number of characters are to be displayed for a field's short label. By default, the short label can be up to 10 characters long. Use Data Justification allows the user to specify if the data contents is right or left justified based on the data type.
DCPD-226	Now, when a user elects to disconnect from or quit a transaction that is processing and a record lock is encountered, a second confirmation message is displayed.
DCPD-228	European numeric format and date formats are now handled when the values are hard-coded as parameter values within a transaction.
DCPD-245	Now, when a users presses CTRL-C, the user is brought to the system prompt or the MFG menu. Previously, the user was brought back within the same transaction that was being processed.
DCPD-255	When running transactions from a browse collection the user no longer repeatedly receive the message 'Invalid User ID/Password' when the user's account has been disabled. The user now receives the message that the account is disabled.

QAD Issue	Description
DCPD-257	When in .NET, fixed an issue where the user would enter the correct password but the system displayed invalid password or the system disabled the user id.
DCPD-262	Now, when menus are imported and the transaction definition key identifier can not be found in the system, the system searches for the referenced transaction name and version that are referenced within the XML file.
DCPD-263	Now, the message override report displays all messages requested when the "To" transaction name is blank
DCPD-265	Fixed an issue with how the system displayed data for logical data types. Previously, the logical data type values where not being translated to the users language.
DCPD-269	Fixed an issue with Transaction Definition Maintenance when the users session numeric format is European. Previously, when the session format was set to European and the user copied a definition or incremented the version number, the system was creating the version number incorrectly and Progress was unable to display the value correctly. Now, when the this scenario occurs, the version number is displayed correctly.
DCPD-274	Fixed an issue when exporting Transaction Definitions and the session numeric format is set as European and the version is to be appended to the file name. Previously, in this scenario, a comma (,) was inserted in the file name as the decimal indicator. To ensure file naming consistency, this issue has been fixed so that the system always creates the file name using a period (.). Fixed an issue when exporting Event and Lookup templates. Now, the file names that are generated do not include spaces in the file name.

Release Notes for Version 1.2.1

QAD Data Collection Version: 1.2.1

QAD Enterprise Edition: 2012.1 Enterprise Edition

Release Date: April 2015

Prerequisites: Refer to *QAD Data Collection Installation Guide*, dated April 2015, for information on compatibility and prerequisites.

User Guide: *QAD Data Collection User Guide* for April 2015

Installation Information: Installation information is included in the *QAD Data Collection Installation Guide* for April 2015.

Data Collection Overview for New Users

The QAD Data Collection module lets implementors build transactions that users of radio frequency (RF) devices or other mobile field devices can process. The personalized transactions align with the user's manufacturing and materials logistics needs.

Development tools are provided with Data Collection, so system administrators can customize the RF transactions to provide the transaction flow, UI layout and fields, and data validations that the business requires.

The transactions—used in receiving, production, shipping, inventory management, and more—are processed in connection with a QAD server that provides data collection, data validation, and error handling during transaction processing and line-by-line or unit posting of the RF transactions in real time.

The Data Collection features and functions are fully incorporated within QAD EE, removing the need for middleware interaction or processing and eliminating the possibility of transactions not being posted. Users can run data collection transactions on a hand-held device, like the RF device or iphone, or in an RF simulator in .NET UI.

Features

Using transactions that implementors build in Data Collection for hand-held or mobile field devices lets device users:

- Reduce time required to input production data
- Reduce data errors
- Improve data accuracy and production efficiency
- Deliver real-time shop floor feedback
- Route labels to a printer
- Make data available for real-time queries, reporting, and other analysis, which improves decision making

Specific Features

- Record locking

Data Collection software features record-locking functions that provide visibility to the user ID and terminal with the locked record. The RF device displays record-locking and record-locking timeout messages. Also, the number of record-locking times has been minimized as part of the Data Collection software design, so that record-locking limits are no longer an issue.

- Visible processed transactions

The system informs you when records have been successfully committed and transactions were successfully or unsuccessfully processed. Data Collection calls standard APIs directly, allowing for direct and immediate validation and rapid display of transaction results.

- Crash recovery

When RF device users experience power loss or server disconnects, Data Collection software lets them continue with the transaction they were in when the disruption occurred, based on the terminal and user ID, so there is no need to restart the transaction after the disruption. Because the server has stored the disrupted transaction data, you can use any other device, including a PC that emulates the RF software, to complete the transaction.

- Reporting

You can use programs in the Data Collection Report Menu (6.20) to report on a range of:

- Transactions by name; version; and optionally, details
- Programs by name, including the function/procedure, keyword, and application version
- Application message numbers and use message numbers, optionally sorting by either number type

Data Collection Components

Data Collection consists of two major components:

- RF Framework

This is the data collection architecture. The architecture handles record locking, sending data sets to APIs, and managing connections to servers. The architecture includes the data collection engine. The framework provides the infrastructure and configuration files to execute the RF transaction.

- Transaction Development Toolset

This includes functions and maintenance programs that let you develop transactions for your business processes. Developers can import existing programs and functions, import datasets, then modify the imported data to create customized transactions for the mobile field devices. They can import from and export to any QAD EE environment, letting them customize transactions for a particular version. Finally, they can test the data collection directly from within the Data Collection module, shortening the test time for modified or new transactions.

Data Collection Features for Early Adopter Customers

If you received an early adopter version of Data Collection, this section describes enhancements and improvements to the product since the early adopter versions.

New Device Type Setting

When the device ID is not available from the environment variable during login, the system now sets the device type as the device the user specifies in Device Maintenance (6.22.14).

New Login Features

The following features were added to the login programs:

- When a user logs in to the Data Collection system, the login site and device type now default to the last settings for the user. The user can optionally specify new values.
- You can now enter a longer user ID and password when you log in. Previously the fields were not long enough to support what is available in core applications. Although the fields display a maximum of eight characters, you can scroll to view up to 80 characters.
- Login programs were restructured so that they recognize new and soon-to-expire passwords.

Specify a Menu Label

In Transaction Definition Maintenance (6.16), you can now specify a menu label. When you add a new task detail menu item to the menu, the system defaults the menu label you specify in the transaction definition as the menu label. When you modify an existing task detail menu item, the menu label does not change.

New Event Methods

The following new event methods were added to assist in the development of the Data Collection transactions:

- Get Record Count
This event method returns the total number of records returned from a specified query.
- Update Record Count
This event method updates up to three fields in a UI dataset table. The values returned include:
 - The total number of records generated from the query
 - The actual record number
 - A concatenation of the two numbers:

<Record Number > - < Total Number of Records>

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