

## ABC HELP FILE: Templates and data placement

ABC Analyzer and ABC Viewer can share analytic setups via templates. The templates don't contain the data needed to apply the analytic setup – this data needs to be accessible.

This document has been written to support the technician extracts data from ERP and shares it with users in the organization.

### 1. Data File format and extraction intervals

Please refer to the document *How to create a data file* found at <http://abcsoftwork.com/support/resources> for further information about data format, contents and extraction intervals.

### 2. Data placement

In order to ensure a smooth integration with templates, the data needs to be accessible for all template users. This includes both ABC Analyzer users and ABC Viewer users.

The template includes the analytic setup and a *data link*. The data link is a full path to the data file as well as a definition of how the data should be interpreted (e.g. format, column types and column names). For this document we are only interested in the path of the data file. When opening a template, the data is automatically fetched and loaded from this location.

A possible location could be on a shared network device, FTP server or even a web server. These three options have one thing in common; the path is identical for all users<sup>1</sup>;

- \\share\folder\filename
- ftp:\\share.com\folder\filename
- http:\\share.com\folder\filename

Please consider data security when determining the location of the data. This means that web server approach might not be a viable solution. Consider marking the data file, read only, such that altering becomes impossible.

When updating the data file, the old file should be **replaced** by the new file. This will insure that the data link is still correct and the template users will automatically get the latest data.

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<sup>1</sup> The shared network device requires the use of UNC-paths and **not** network drive mapping

Before replacing the data, it could be a good idea to take a back-up of the old data file. This is a good idea for 2 reasons;

1. Historicity – Analytic users might want to compare analytic result over time
2. In case the new data file contains errors, the old data file can replace the faulty one.

To recap: implement a backup procedure before replacing the data file and timestamp old backups for ease of use for the ABC Analyzer users interested in progress.

## 2.1 Fault tolerance

In case the data link is broken, e.g. the exact path can't be found; an open file dialog is shown. This is an unnecessary annoyance for the template users, which should be avoided. The feature is implemented solely to support the scenarios, where the shared location is unreachable. For instance, the server has crashed or the template user is outside the normal network location.

## 2.2 Optimizations

ABC Analyzer and ABC Viewer store a cached template project, which can be used by other template users. This is done, such that each template user isn't forced to wait for calculations to be done. The cached template project is renewed each time the data file is renewed (or if the template changed).

Per default the cached template projects are stored in the same directory as the data file(s). If the user doesn't have write access to the folder, no cache is stored. Furthermore, the cached template project is only stored, if the data link isn't broken.

Please contact support for assistance, if a different location should be used.