

**#56 Transferring records from one database to another**

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Published Date: Feb 3, 1988

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**Checking the status of the records to be duplicated while using SEND RECORD**

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Technical note #25, showed how to use the "Send Record" and "Receive Record" commands to clone an entire record with a minimal amount of effort. This method can also be used when it is necessary to transfer data between two 4th Dimension databases that are not physically located in the same area.

The goal is to be able to clone a file's records, transfer them to disk, then load them into a second database. As the records are imported we need to determine if the new record already exists, and if it does whether we should modify the existing record with the new information or disregard the new record. The first example is a straight dump and load from one database to another.

```
`Dump Procedure in DatabaseA
DEFAULT FILE([Personel])
ALL RECORDS
SET CHANNEL(12;"Names")
APPLY TO SELECTION(SEND RECORD)
SET CHANNEL(11)
```

```
`Load Procedure in DatabaseB
DEFAULT FILE([PersonelArchive])
SET CHANNEL(10;"Names")
While(OK=1)
    CREATE RECORD
    RECEIVE RECORD
    SAVE RECORD
End While
SET CHANNEL(11)
```

Very simple and gets the job done. However, what if we wanted to check the record being loaded to see if it already exists and if it does do one of two things, disregard the new record or write over the existing record.



`Load Procedure. Ignores new records that match old ones.

```
DEFAULT FILE([PeopleArchive])  
SET CHANNEL(10;"Names")  
While (OK=1)  
  CREATE RECORD  
  RECEIVE RECORD  
  If (OK=1)  
    xCode:=[PeopleArchive]KeyCode  
    PUSH RECORD  
    SEARCH BY INDEX([PeopleArchive]Code=xCode)  
    If (Records in selection=0)  
      POP RECORD  
      SAVE RECORD  
    Else  
      POP RECORD  
    End if  
  End if  
End while  
SET CHANNEL(11)
```

With this procedure we can perform actions before we just blindly stuff data into the database. Notice that once the variable "xCode" has been assigned from a field of the new record, the new record is pushed onto the record stack (**PUSH RECORD**). This allows us to search using "xCode" without losing the record just created. In the example we check to see if the record exists and if it does we ignore the new one.

The following example shows how to replace the old record with new ones.

`Load Procedure. Replaces old records with new records.

```
DEFAULT FILE([PeopleArchive])  
SET CHANNEL(10;"Names")  
While (OK=1)  
  CREATE RECORD  
  RECEIVE RECORD  
  If (OK=1)  
    xCode:=[PeopleArchive]KeyCode  
    PUSH RECORD  
    SEARCH BY INDEX([PeopleArchive]Code=xCode)  
    DELETE SELECTION `Will do nothing if no records are selected.  
    POP RECORD  
    SAVE RECORD  
  End if  
End while  
SET CHANNEL(11)
```

