

## **ASNA DataGate Studio Introducing DataGate Studio**

Introducing DataGate Studio.....	1
Primary Features .....	1
Comparison of Database Manager and DataGate Studio .....	2
Getting Started .....	4

# DataGate Studio

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## Introducing DataGate Studio

The ASNA DataGate database access platform has been used by Visual RPG developers for many years to create useful Windows data applications. As development goals changed, so did DataGate; implementing one of the first managed-code .NET data providers for both the iSeries and SQL Server. **DataGate Studio** leverages the power of the DataGate .NET provider, and the strong foundation of Microsoft Visual Studio to implement the tools required by developers and administrators to design, maintain, and manage the database.

DataGate Studio is more than **just** a database manager. It contains a suite of utilities that can be tailored to a particular usage.

- Developers will appreciate the project system and the Database and Print File Designers.
- Database administrators can use the various tools for moving, copying, deleting, viewing, modifying, exporting, and importing the data.
- Solutions technicians can easily deploy and configure databases and connections.

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## Primary Features

- **Visual Studio Integration.** DataGate Studio runs in the Visual Studio Shell; the same integrated development environment engine used by Visual RPG, Visual Basic, and Visual C#. The common IDE offers benefits such as Solution Explorer support, document window integration, output window integration, property window support, shortcut keys and menus, and many others.
- **.NET and XML.** DataGate Studio is implemented using 100% .NET managed code. The DataGate .NET data provider, which is the same library used by Visual RPG applications, expresses data and metadata with XML documents. This allows DataGate Studio to offer enhanced views of data and file definitions.
- **File Definition Projects.** With DataGate Studio's file designers and project system, developers can design database and print files, and save and manipulate the definitions as source code. This offers many benefits, including off-line development and source code control.
- **Data Viewing/Editing.** View and edit data using two different tools: a single-record viewer, or a grid-based, multi-record viewer.
- **Import/Export.** Export a single member, or one or more entire libraries to a file on the local computer. Import the contents of that file to another database server, or another location on the same server. Import/export supports both database schema and data.
- **Traditional Tools.** Many of the same commands and applets DataGate users became familiar with in ASNA Database Manager are fully implemented or enhanced in DataGate Studio, including Copy Data, Copy Logical, and Work with Databases.
- **Active Dictionary Access.** Browse and modify all aspects of the current structure of the database, including libraries, files, data areas, and members using DataGate Explorer.

- **File Designers.** Design .NET print files with a WYSIWYG designer hosted by the IDE. Design database files with an all-new graphical designer. Both designers offer a code view, which allow you to edit the underlying XML document based definitions, independent of the database. Further, the XML schema for file definitions is installed with DataGate Studio, facilitating IntelliSense® and syntax checking features when using the XML editor view. DataGate Explorer commands also let you examine and modify the definitions of existing files using the Designer.
- **Database Naming & Labeling.** Browse, label, and configure connections to the database for every possible DataGate application deployment scenario.

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## Comparison of Database Manager and DataGate Studio

The venerable predecessor of DataGate Studio, ASNA Database Manager, uses the DataGate COM client library for database access. **Database Manager will be retired from the ASNA product lineup following a future release of DataGate Studio; such as 9.1 or 9.2.**

Former users of Database Manager will find enhancements and new features to many of the replacement functions implemented by DataGate Studio. Some of these and other comparisons are listed below.

### Active Dictionary Access

Database Manager	DataGate Studio
Database Manager allows you to browse the database in its <b>Active Dictionary</b> pane, which is the primary axis for most management tasks.	Similarly, DataGate Studio offers the <b>DataGate Explorer</b> tool, which presents database servers, connections, and database names in a tree view control. You browse the database by expanding a connection node, which represents a live view of the database.

### File Definition Access

Database Manager	DataGate Studio
Database Manager provides the <b>Definition Work Area</b> pane for viewing and designing database file definitions. <b><i>Database Manager does not provide a way to save file definitions outside of the database.</i></b>	DataGate Studio offers an XML-based, graphical designer view of file definitions, in a standard document window. DataGate Studio file definitions can be saved as source code files and arranged in a DataGate project as well.

### Data Area Access

Database Manager	DataGate Studio
Database Manager does <b>not</b> provide access to data area objects.	DataGate Studio fully supports data areas in DataGate/400 and DataGate for SQL Server databases.

## File Editing

Database Manager	DataGate Studio
<p>Database Manager invokes the <b>Acceler8DB File Editor</b>, a grid-based viewer to display and update database files.</p>	<p>DataGate Studio allows you to display and update files using two different integrated viewers, which are displayed as document windows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>single-row editor</b> is useful for files with duplicate keys. It displays one record at a time for editing, and provides controls for navigating through the file.</li> <li>• The <b>multi-row editor</b> is grid-based, with scrollbars for navigating the records and fields.</li> </ul>

## Archiving

Database Manager	DataGate Studio
<p>The Database Manager Archive utility provides a way to import and export files and data to and from DataGate for Windows databases.</p> <p><b>Note that Database Manager archive files cannot be used in DataGate Studio.</b></p>	<p>DataGate Studio's <b>Import/Export tool</b> is a client/server-based archiving scheme, which allows you to import to, and export from, any DataGate database; including DataGate/400 and DataGate for SQL Server.</p> <p>Export file catalog browsing is much improved in comparison to Database Manager archiving.</p>

## Print File Designer

Database Manager	DataGate Studio
<p>Database Manager can only manipulate "OLE" print files by invoking the <b>Acceler8DB Print File Editor</b>.</p>	<p>DataGate Studio integrates the <b>.NET Print File Designer</b> (originally delivered with ASNA Visual RPG for .NET), and enhances it to provide a code view of the underlying XML document.</p> <p><b>Note that .NET print files can only be used with DataGate for .NET, and OLE print files cannot be used with DataGate for .NET.</b></p> <p>However, DataGate Studio includes a <b>conversion utility</b> to help upgrade your existing OLE print files to .NET print files.</p>

## Database Name Registration

Database Manager	DataGate Studio
Database Manager saves database name Connection information in the <b>Windows registry</b> .	DataGate Studio still honors database name information in the registry, but newly-created database names are now saved to a <b>.NET configuration file</b> . This scheme prevents unnecessary use of the Windows registry, which is less broadly accessible in current Windows operating systems.  <b>Note that .NET configuration file-based database names are only available to the DataGate .NET data provider (not Database Manager or DataGate COM).</b>

## Connection Information Management

Database Manager	DataGate Studio
Database Manager can only access databases for which a database name has been registered.	DataGate Studio allows connections to databases without the use of a database name.  The process of entering database connection information has been streamlined, and includes a “ <b>test</b> ” function, which allows you to confirm the validity of connection parameters as they are entered.  Database connections are managed independently of database names in DataGate Studio. However, connections may also be based on database names.

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## Getting Started

To assist you with getting started with DataGate Studio, please refer to the following files.

- [Creating a Connection](#)
- [Creating a Database File](#)

You can also find the latest information on the DataGate Studio on the web at:

[http://devnet.asna.com/documentation/Main\\_DGStudio\\_90.htm](http://devnet.asna.com/documentation/Main_DGStudio_90.htm)

Please check the above location often, as the documentation for DataGate Studio is constantly being developed and revised.