

# Technical NEWS

800.822.2742  
949.448.8600  
support@dynamic.com  
www.dynamic.com



September 1998

## Converting to Universal Data Files

Is moving UniBasic data files from one platform to another platform a chore? If so, relief is here with UniBasic release 6 in the form of Universal Data files.

### What exactly are Universal Data files?

Universal Data files are not a new data file type. They use existing Formatted, Contiguous, and Indexed-Contiguous file access methods. However, they employ a new file format which allows Universal Data files to be both hardware and product independent. They may be shared or moved among different Unix platforms without conversion. They may be used concurrently with UniBasic, dL4 for Unix and Windows, and IQ for Unix and Windows. Since Universal Data files are used just like the old formats, pre-release 6 versions of UniBasic BITS and IRIS programs do not require any modifications and run seamlessly. Creating Universal Data files requires no program modifications because it can be done by adding 8192 to the PREALLOCATE environment variable.

### Converting UniBasic BCD files

Creating and accessing newly created Universal Data files is easy, but what about converting existing, non-Universal Data files to Universal Data files? Is it like moving to a different platform? (Yikes!)

Not to worry . . . UniBasic release 6 contains a new conversion utility, `ubconvert`, which, along with documentation, is available from [www.dynamic.com](http://www.dynamic.com). The `ubconvert` utility converts UniBasic BCD data files ("Q" file attribute or PREALLOCATE 32 option) to Universal Data files. The `ubconvert` utility program creates a file list, requests file list verification and off it goes while you take care of important business. When you return, you are presented with converted files along with a statistical report.

### Converting UniBasic non-BCD files

But what happens if my files are non-BCD files? Do I press the panic button or the reset button? Neither!

Dynamic Concepts is currently developing a new utility, codenamed `ctool`, which converts non-BCD files to Universal Data files. This utility is extremely easy to use and is ready to be field tested. As a matter of fact, several customers are already testing `ctool`. It can even be used to migrate UniBasic data files to dL4 for Unix and Windows. Remember, Universal Data files are not accessible with UniBasic prior to release 6. Prior to running `ubconvert` or `ctool`, remember to perform a backup of your system.

### How can I obtain a copy of `ubconvert`?

The `ubconvert` utility is bundled with UniBasic release 6. You will not need a special SSN to operate this utility. Download UniBasic release 6 from our website or ftpsite at [www.dynamic.com](http://www.dynamic.com) or [ftp.dynamic.com](ftp://ftp.dynamic.com) respectively.

### How can I obtain a copy of `ctool`?

A beta version of `ctool` is available with preliminary documentation upon request. The final release date for this utility is October 30. You will not need a special SSN to operate this utility. Please contact us at (949) 448-8600 or by e-mail to [support@dynamic.com](mailto:support@dynamic.com) to request your copy today!

---

A new *UniBasic Reference Guide* for release 6 is available from [www.dynamic.com](http://www.dynamic.com).