
Fast/Unload Release Notes Version 3.1

October, 1997



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August 5, 2010

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Proprietary Notices

The following products:

- *Fast/Unload*
- *Fast/Unload User Language Interface*
- *Fast/Reload*
- *Fast/Reorg*
- *Sirius Mods*
- *Sir2000 Field Migration Facility*
- *Sir2000 User Language Tools*

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CHAPTER 1 ***Introduction***

This document lists the enhancements and other changes contained in the newest release of *Fast/Unload*: version 3.1. The previous generally released version of *Fast/Unload*, 3.0, was released in February, 1996.

CHAPTER 2 *New Features*

2.1 \$FUNLOAD support for APPDATE clock

This version of *Fast/Unload*, together with version 5.0 of the *Sirius Mods*, cause the current date and time returned by various #functions to be calculated based on the user's APPDATE clock that is current when the \$FUNLOAD function is invoked. This current date is also used to convert a two digit year to a four digit year when a CENTSPAN argument is used for a #function.

\$FUNLOAD is part of the *Fast/Unload User Language Interface* and is documented in the *Sirius Functions Reference Manual*. APPDATE is part of the *Sir2000 User Language Tools* and is documented in the *Sir2000 User Language Tools Reference Manual*.

2.2 Support for Sir2000 Field Migration Facility

This version of *Fast/Unload* contains support for *Model 204* files which have had the SIRFIELD command executed against them, providing the following features:

Opening files

Older versions of *Fast/Unload* will not be able to open a file which has SIRFIELD information.

SIRFIELD and UAI

The UAI operation will preserve SIRFIELD information stored in a file, just as it preserves *Model 204* field definitions. The SIRFIELD information can be used in the LAI operation of *Fast/Reload* to create the same information after reloading the file, again just as it is done for field definitions.

See the chapter titled "File Reorganizations" in the *Sir2000 Field Migration Facility Reference Manual* for considerations about preserving SIRFIELD information using *Fast/Reorg*.

Referencing ALIAS fields

A FUEL program may refer to a field alias, as established by the SIRFIELD ALIAS command. Any reference to a field alias is completely equivalent to a reference to the base field.

Honoring REFERENCE WARN and REFERENCE CANCEL

If a FUEL program refers to a field (or alias) that has been restricted with the SIRFIELD SET REFERENCE WARN command, a warning message will be

issued during compilation of the FUEL program. If a FUEL program refers to a field (or alias) that has been restricted with the SIRFIELD SET REFERENCE CANCEL command, an error message will be printed, and *Fast/Unload* will terminate immediately after completing the compilation of the FUEL program.

2.3 FSTATS: validity checking & improved coded field handling

This version of *Fast/Unload* improves the operation of the FSTATS (Field STATisticS) parameter. (These features were also implemented as part of the maintenance zaps to *Fast/Unload* version 3.0, but were not previously mentioned in any release notes.) The enhancements are as follows:

- Validity checking** When the FSTATS parameter is specified, *Fast/Unload* will perform most feasible table B validity checking. If an error is found, *Fast/Unload* terminates with an error message and the current *Model 204* record number is displayed.
- Coded value lengths** The maximum and minimum lengths shown in the the FSTATs report for coded values will now reflect the length of the string value, rather than simply using the length of the stored code, which is always 4. This gives you information which may help you decide whether to convert a field from CODED to NON-CODED.
- Coded field attributes** The field attributes shown in the the FSTATs report for CODED fields will now also show the additional field attributes BINARY or FLOAT, where appropriate.

2.4 Date handling

2.4.1 Date #functions

The following changes have been made to the handling of values with the date-oriented #functions (for example, #DATE2ND):

ZYY date format token

This token has been introduced to handle dates with a mixture of two digit years (in the 1900's) and a century number followed by a two digit year (for example, 104 for the year 2004).

Interpretation of I and * tokens

These tokens now allow you to “copy” the “ignored” portion of a date string to the output value of the #DATECNV function.

CENTSPAN -50

The default value for CENTSPAN arguments to #functions is -50 starting with this release of *Fast/Unload*, making it consistent with date handling in other Sirius products. The previous version of *Fast/Unload* used -75 as the default. (Note that this change was also introduced in a zap for *Fast/Unload* version 3.0.)

Note that starting with version 3.1 you can customize the default value of CENTSPAN arguments; see the chapter titled “Customization of Defaults” in the *Fast/Unload Reference Manual*.

SPANSIZE

In the previous version of *Fast/Unload*, interpretation of two-digit years in various #functions allowed a full 100-year period to be used; version 3.1 introduces a limit called **SPANSIZE**, which is 90 unless customized otherwise in your FUNLOAD load module. This provides a mechanism to detect 2 digit year conversion errors and makes *Fast/Unload* consistent with date handling in other Sirius products.

Note that starting with version 3.1 you can customize the value of SPANSIZE; see the chapter titled “Customization of Defaults” in the *Fast/Unload Reference Manual*.

2.4.2 UAI SORT support for 2-digit years

The UAI statement with the SORT clause now allows a FORMAT specification, which may be used with your sort package to indicate that a field contains a 2-digit year date. Also, the SORT OPTION statement may now be specified in combination with the UAI statement, so that you may specify the 100-year window to the sort package.

Note:

- This change was introduced in a zap for *Fast/Unload* 3.1. Generally, features introduced as a zap for a given version are not mentioned in the release notes of that version; we do so here due to the current importance of communicating date-related issues to our customers.
- This change is also available as a zap for *Fast/Unload* version 3.0.

Compatibility/Fixes

This section lists any compatibility issues with *Fast/Unload*, and any fixes contained in this version of *Fast/Unload* but not, as of the date of this release, in the immediately prior version (3.0).

3.1 Backwards compatibility with Fast/Unload 3.0

This section lists any differences in processing that result from execution with *Fast/Unload* version 3.1, as compared with the same inputs to *Fast/Unload* version 3.0 at current maintenance levels.

Current date & time The current date and time, as returned by various #functions, will be affected by the APPDATE clock when the *Fast/Unload User Language Interface* is used.

CENTSPAN -50 The default value for CENTSPAN arguments to #functions is -50 starting with this release of *Fast/Unload*, making it consistent with date handling in other Sirius products. The previous version of *Fast/Unload* used -75 as the default. For example, with version 3.1, if the following statement is invoked (assuming the current date - or APPDATE clock - is between 1981 and 2005),

```
%V = #DATECNV('YY/MM/DD', 'YYYY/MM/DD', -
'30/01/01')
```

the value stored in %V is '2030/01/01'; if the same is invoked with *Fast/Unload* version 3.0, the value stored in %V is '1930/01/01'.

Note that starting with version 3.1 you can customize the default value of CENTSPAN arguments; see the chapter titled “Customization of Defaults” in the *Fast/Unload Reference Manual*.

SPANSIZE In the previous version of *Fast/Unload*, interpretation of two-digit years in various #functions allowed a full 100-year period to be used; version 3.1 introduces a limit called **SPANSIZE**, which is 90 unless customized otherwise in your FUNLOAD load module. This provides a mechanism to detect 2 digit year conversion errors and makes *Fast/Unload* consistent with date handling in other Sirius products.

For example, with version 3.0, if the following statement is invoked (assuming the current date - or APPDATE clock - is between 1995 and 2004),

```
%V = #DATECNV('YY/MM/DD', 'YYYY/MM/DD', -  
             '44/01/01', -50)
```

the value stored in %V is '2044/01/01'; if the same is invoked with *Fast/Unload* version 3.1, *Fast/Unload* will terminate with an error message.

Note that starting with version 3.1 you can customize the value of SPANSIZE; see the chapter titled “Customization of Defaults” in the *Fast/Unload Reference Manual*.

3.2 Fixes in Fast/Unload 3.1 but not in 3.0

This section lists other fixes to features existing in *Fast/Unload* version 3.0 but which, in absence of customer problems, have not, as of the date of the release, been fixed in that version.

There are no problems without fixes.

3.3 Version co-requisites

This section lists any restrictions on usage of various products (including *Fast/Unload* itself) which will be imposed by use of version 3.1 of *Fast/Unload*.

Fast/Reorg and Sir2000 Field Migration Facility

When the UAI statement of *Fast/Unload* is used to unload a file for reorganization, and that file has SIRFIELD information, the version of *Fast/Reload* used to reload the file has the same constraints as the version of *Sir2000 Field Migration Facility* required to open the file. See the appropriate *Sirius Mods* release notes to determine *Sir2000 Field Migration Facility* version co-requisites.