

DataLNx IRC Overview

Overview: DataLNx IRC , is a fully integrated solution to managing a state's instructional materials program. DATALNX IRC is a client-server application using Microsoft® Windows 98 or XP, Microsoft Office, and MS SQL server database. The application is available to local clients or statewide over your wide area network.

DATALNX IRC was developed to provide appropriate detail and linkages to speed the process of cataloging, locating, and shipping books, equipment, and supplies. We designed the program with powerful sort, search and grouping tools that allow the user to answer virtually any questions about the data in less than one minute. And, most importantly, DataLNx IRC was designed for instructional materials centers by people who know how these centers work. It was not designed to manage libraries.

Here are some frequently asked questions...

What does DATALNX IRC do? DATALNX IRC manages all aspects of the title, title copy, volume, patron and student. Transactions are tightly integrated and retained for historical reporting. Analysis of virtually all aspects of your program's operation is available at your fingertips.

What if I have a data management system now? Sometimes, the data contained in existing systems is migrated to DATALNX IRC for you by SyLNx as part of the installation process. Because DATALNX IRC is so comprehensive, data from various aspects of the program probably do not exist in your current system. These data will require manual entry during the installation phase. SyLNx can not assure you of a successful migration since some data are not compatible with the DATALNX file structure.

Does this mean I will need to add staff? No, current staff can bring your current data up-to-date and, simple data maintenance is all that is required. DATALNX IRC becomes a new and powerful tool for each of your staff.

What makes DATALNX IRC unique? First, DATALNX IRC has been designed to be as comprehensive as possible. Next, it is a transaction based system that checks business rules and refuses a transaction if the rules disallow or triggers associated processes if the transaction is approved. Also, program history is maintained over time so you can instantly see available materials, how many times they have been shipped, and to whom. These are just a few examples of the robustness of the program.

Is this an accessible program for blind and visually impaired persons?

Yes, DATALNX IRC works with JAWS® ,popular screen enlargement programs and font preferences may be customized to individual preferences within the Grid of the program.

What about security? Security features are configurable within the database. The program administrator will set access levels for all staff with respect to whether they may read-only, or read and update certain data, or read and update all data. SyLNx does not assume responsibility for security. This is the responsibility of your administrator.

Using DATALNX IRC

When you enter data into DATALNX IRC, it stores it into a large and complex database. DATALNX IRC serves as a window into the database and arranges the information you want to see into "views". DATALNX IRC comes with over two dozen views from which you may look at data. You may create as many additional customized views as you find useful. Views are displayed to you through three built-in screens.

The Grid

First, the Grid displays data in a column and row format. The Grid permits you to drag as many as four column headers into an area that organizes the corresponding data into groups relating to the column headers you selected. For example, you may group titles by author, publisher or subject. Or you can group your student registry by reading medium, grade level, or location. When you group like this, DataLNx IRC counts the members of each unique group.

Data may be entered, updated, and deleted directly into the Grid from the keyboard. As changes are submitted, the database is updated and all users are able to see the changes. Grid screens are implemented for all views within DATALNX IRC.

Once you have grouped, filtered, and sorted a Grid, you can instantly export the data to Microsoft Excel™, manipulate it further to meet your requirements, and print a report or a chart. A completely customized and properly formatted report can be generated in a few minutes without the need to master complicated procedures.

The screenshot shows a software window titled 'DATALNX - IRC' with a menu bar (File, Edit, View, Add, Edit, Help) and a toolbar. The main area displays a data grid with the following columns: Facility Type ID, Facility, Facility Name, and IP-LOC. The data is organized into several sections, including 'Facility Type ID', 'Building', and 'Machinery'. Each row represents a facility with its corresponding ID, name, and location.

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492	5001 E 100th	5001 E 100th	IP-LOC
498	5001 E 100th	5001 E 100th	IP-LOC
491	5001 E 100th	5001 E 100th	IP-LOC
492	5001		

Summary Features of the Grid

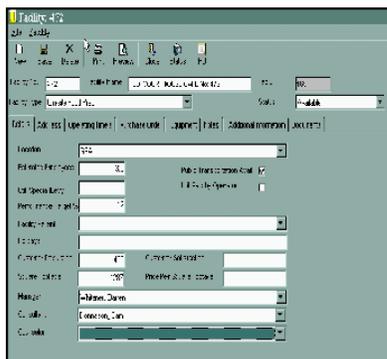
- User configurable display
- User selection of data fields to display or hide
- User selection of header/data font type and size
- Saving of user custom views in a personal folder
- Grouping for up to four data heading types
- Four level sorting by single or multiple columns
- Filtering by data entry, date/month, or date/year
- Aggregating data by group, sum, count, or average
- Count of records displayed
- Ad-hoc notes for each record with date stamp
- Expand or collapse groups for easy viewing
- First/last record navigation
- One click export to Excel

2

Forms

DATALNX IRC has other and even more powerful screens with which to enter and record your data. When viewing data in the Grid, you can select the entity you wish to view and then open the "Forms" screen (figure 3). Forms are available from many views. The powerful feature of Forms is in its ability to bring multiple views of the data to your desktop. In addition to the view you are in, you can switch to other views of the data by clicking file folder tabs on the form. For example, if you were viewing information on a title and wanted to see how many copies you have and whether they are available or not, you simply click the desired tab and that information is displayed on the form.

For data entry purposes, many people prefer to enter data on a form rather than, for instance, in the Grid view. Forms provide a concise summary of information in one place rather than scrolling or navigating a large area of data. Forms also have the look and feel of paper forms, which most people are accustomed to using. As with the Grid, Forms have pop-up lists of commonly entered data. These data are maintained by you in lookup lists. Instead of typing repetitive information into fields, these lists give you a choice to click from a set of pre-described data. This feature cuts typing significantly, reduces error, and makes your data look clean and orderly.

The image shows a screenshot of a software application window titled "Facility.d72". The window has a menu bar with options like "File", "Edit", "View", "Print", "Format", "Data", "Help", and "F3". Below the menu bar, there are several input fields and dropdown menus. The main area of the form contains several sections with labels and input fields, including "Facility", "Facility Name", "City", "State", "Country", "Phone", "Fax", "E-mail", "Website", "Address", "City", "State", "Country", "Phone", "Fax", "E-mail", "Website", "Address", "City", "State", "Country", "Phone", "Fax", "E-mail", "Website". There are also several tabs at the bottom of the form, including "Facility", "Equipment", "Personnel", "Inventory", "Maintenance", "Reports", "Settings", and "Help".

Reports

DataLNX IRC has three types of reporting functions:

1. Ad-hoc reports: this function all allows you (with minimal training) to produce raw or aggregate data into informational reports by using:
 - a. The Grid and its multi-functionality for on-screen or printout.
 - b. The Grid exporting to Microsoft Excel.
 - c. SQL to Microsoft Excel
 - d. SQL to Microsoft Access
2. Customized (hard-wired) reports that collect appropriate data for printing such as:
 - a. Packing lists for shipping
 - b. Acknowledgements to patrons
 - c. Intent and completion forms
 - d. Transcriber assignments
 - e. Inkprint request forms to patrons
3. Customized (hard-wired) reports that collect appropriate data for auto emailing such as:
 - a. Patron order acknowledgements
 - b. Inkprint requests
 - c. Transcriber assignment
 - d. Publisher requests for electronic files

Optional Modules:

- Wireless barcode scanning system for inventory management
- Web based on-line patron search and ordering system

SEE MINIMUM SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS BELOW:

Minimum System Requirements for SyLNX Product Line

Server

- ✿ 1. Operating System: Windows 2000 Server (Latest Service Pack)
- ✿ 2. Note: For installations of 5 or less users, Windows XP Professional will suffice.
- ✿ 3. For an **existing server** minimum requirements call for a Pentium III computer 800 Mhz
- ✿ 4. For a **new server**, it is recommended that the server is equipped with a Pentium Xeon CPU. A fast CPU should be selected for high use environments.
- ✿ 5. 512 MB Memory (1GB Preferable)
- ✿ 6. 9 GB Available Disk Space (RAID Preferable)
- ✿ 7. Monitor
- ✿ 8. Network Interface Card
- ✿ 9. CD-ROM Drive (DVD Preferable)
- ✿ 10. Tape Backup Device and Software (Compliant with Microsoft SQL Server)
- ✿ 11. Microsoft SQL Server 2000 (Latest Service Pack)
- ✿ 12. Internet Connection Recommended
- ✿ 13. Depending on Installation Options:
(*) Modem

Client Desktop/Laptop

- 1. Operating System: Windows 98, NT 4.0 Workstation (SP5), Windows 2000 Pro or Windows XP Pro
- 2. Pentium computer (800 Mhz or better recommended)
- 3. 128 MB Memory
- 4. 4GB Disk Storage
- 5. 17" Monitor (19+" recommended)
- 6. Network Interface Card
- 7. Microsoft Office 2000 or XP Professional
- 8. Access to Laser Printer
- 9. Internet Connection Recommended

Recommended Customer Knowledge/Training Pre-requisites

- 1. Windows NT Workstation, Windows 2000/XP Professional, XP (depending on target operating system)
- 2. Microsoft Office Professional