

## PPRNet Data Loader 09/25/06 release notes

The attached file, titled “PPRNetDataLoader.mex” will enable the user to bring patient demographic data into the Patient Level Reports Excel Spreadsheet that is provided by PPRNet. What it does is:

1. Modifies the spreadsheet to add columns for patient demographic data
2. Reads the “secret” PPRNet identifier from each row of the spreadsheet, and then pastes it into the DBGUI8 utility provided by Practice Partner
3. Harvests the demographic data for each patient from the DBGUI8 utility and pastes it into the appropriate columns of the spreadsheet.

In order for this to work, you need to have Macro Express. You can get this at [www.macros.com](http://www.macros.com). It is an inexpensive utility that can be used to automate virtually any Windows function, and anyone who uses a Windows computer to try to accomplish any meaningful work should have it. You can get a fully-functional version free for the first 30 days.

To make this work (after you have loaded Macro Express on your computer), you need to do the following:

1. Open up the Patient level reports spreadsheet
2. Open up the DBGUI8 utility provided by Practice Partner
3. Load Macro Express and the PPRNetDataLoader.mex macro by double-clicking on the PPRNetDataLoader.mex file
4. Press simultaneously the Ctrl-Alt-D keys
5. After about 5 seconds, you will get a pop-up box that asks you to be sure that the spreadsheet and DBGUI are loaded and running. If they are, press “Enter.”
6. Wait

The current version of the macro has been tested on Macro Express version 3.5e, build 1, and DBGUI8.exe version 1.0.0.1.

The macro is extensively commented, so can be modified by the user if necessary. Use the Scripting Editor in Macro express to do this. A couple of suggestions:

1. If you do not use the default “P” drive for your Practice Partner folder, you will need to change the two lines that say “ Change Directory/Folder: “P:\” to whatever drive letter you have mapped for Practice Partner.
2. To make the macro stop when you get to the end of your data, change the “10000” in the line: “Repeat until %N1% = 10000” to whatever number is two more than the last row in the spreadsheet.
3. If your spreadsheet has more than 10,000 rows, increase this number to two more than the last row.

If you have problems, most of them can be solved by tweaking the timing and delay numbers, such as “Macro Playback Speed,” “Keystroke Speed,” and “Time Wait

Delay.” This version has been slowed down so that it runs on a very slow laptop computer (the equivalent of a PIII Celeron 600Mhz) without problems.

If you have a faster computer (and I hope you do), you can try to speed it up by tweaking the above values. On the above computer with the current macro, the demographics are added at the rate of about 100 patients an hour. So you would probably want to run this on a computer you are not using for anything else and on a copy of your database, since it may take several days to do the full conversion on your database.

With a much faster computer, you can probably get it to run reliably at 4 times the above speed or more. The most critical factor seems to be the Time Wait Delay values after data is loaded in and out of the Windows Clipboard.

I am open to any comments, and will help as best I can if you are having trouble making this work. Drop me a line at [DonS@PineLakeMed.com](mailto:DonS@PineLakeMed.com).

(By the way, I do not hold this up as an example of great Macro Express scripting – it is a “quick and dirty” effort. Wiser scripters than I can almost surely make a much more efficient script.)