FamilySearch GEDCOM 7
Popularity, Resources and Future

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What is GEDCOM

GEDCOM is an acronym for
GEnealogical **D**ata **COM**munication
which was created by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints over 30 years ago. GEDCOM has become a de facto text-based file standard and specification for exchanging genealogical data between different genealogy software and websites.

The GEDCOM Standard Specifications are designed to be used by programmers when modifying their own programs and websites to share information between different

genealogy software and websites. FamilySearch is still the owner of both the GEDCOM Copyright and the Trademark.

Brief History of GEDCOM
Why Continue GEDCOM

- Popular valuable file format for storing, exchanging and presenting genealogical data

- Continued responsibility, ownership and improvement by FamilySearch

- Continue and improve importing into FamilySearch.org

- Eliminate any question of copywrite and trademark ownership

Why Continue GEDCOM

- Used in all major countries and languages

- Personal private backup of family tree information and control for editing, copying and sharing

- Hundreds of website and desktop applications that support
  the reading and writing of GEDCOM files

- Many valuable applications need a file for virtual reality, visual tree (engraving, sculpting, machine embroidery), tree analysis and charting solutions

FamilySearch GEDCOM 7

A standard genealogical file format allowing for

the ***creation***
the ***preservation***
the ***collaboration***

importing and exporting data and images with different applications and cloud services

while maintaining control of the original copy

Videos from Application Supporting

FamilySearch GEDCOM 7

Synium Software, Mac FamilyTree
Calico Pie, Family Historian
GEDMatch
Nigel Parker, GEDinline Validator
Joseph Schnieder, GES 2000

2023 FamilySearch Import to GEDCOM 7

GEDCOM 7 files can now be imported from FamilySearch Family Tree:

- Read and Conversion Code is available at: https://github.com/gedcom7code/xto7

- Sample Application available at: https://gedcom.surge.sh/

Resources for Users and Programmers

Russell Lynch - *Overview of Websites*

Luther Tychonievich *– Technical Features*

Overview of Websites
Russell Lynch

FamilySearch GEDCOM 7.0 release with valuable new enhancements

GEDCOM 7 Technical Features
Luther Tychonievich

Improved Media Support

- Media files may be URLs or bundled with GEDZIP
- Images can be cropped
- Text can be styled (bold, italic, ect)
- Text can have its primary language identified

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- Improved Research Support
  - NO tag allows asserting some event did *not* occur
  - Individuals associated with families, events
  - Standardized identifiers to help with collaboration
    - Unique with UID
    - Link to database and websites with EXID
    - User-specified with REFN
  - Support for intersex individuals, same-sex couples

Semantic Versioning 7.0.11

Clarity

- Several dozen ambiguities removed
- Standardized document syntax and metasyntax
- URIs for unambiguous term identification
- Automated validation-support files
- Removed CONC, clarified CONT, simplified DATE

Extensibility

- Self-documenting extensions
- Backwards-compatible with 5.5.1
- May provide URL describing extension

- o Extension tags can be renamed to avoid collisions
- Rules for preventing extension incompatibility

Technical Improvements in 2023
Dave Thaler

Greater Participation in 2024
Gordon Clarke

- **More Developers**
- **More Vendors**

- **More Users**
- **More Feedback**

Please ask your favorite web, mobile, and laptop genealogy company:

Questions and Answers