



## Need to Import Data? Do it the Easy Way!

Article has been contributed by Roxanne Brown, CQA – Professional Business Solutions 4U, LLC & Managing Editor, IDNAC Newsletter **January/2006**

### Company Information:

**Company:** Flexquarters.com LLC

**Contact:** Chuck Vigent, [chuck@flexquarters-solutions.com](mailto:chuck@flexquarters-solutions.com)

**Website:** [www.FLEXquarters.com](http://www.FLEXquarters.com)

**Hours & Time Zone:** 9am to 6pm EST, M-F

**Established:** 1987 **IDN Membership:** Premier 2002

**QuickBooks Integration:** Pro, Premiere, Enterprise, Online

**Integration with other software:** Retrieves data from any source including: txt, csv, IIF, Excel, Access, SQL, MySQL or any ODBC compliant software; and imports it into QuickBooks Desktop or On-Line Version seamlessly

### An Interview With

Chuck Vigent,  
FLEXquarters.com LLC

I work with a great deal of eCommerce clients who have very large and customized Item lists that consist of Inventory and Non-Inventory Items. On a regular basis there is a need to start a new file or transfer list information; the QDataImport tool has been unbelievably easy to use and significantly reduces the amount of time and errors. One of the best features is the ability to transfer Custom Fields and Inventory Value without errors, a huge timesaver!

*Roxanne Brown, CQA*

### At a Glance:

- *Import List Data, including Custom Fields, Inventory Value, etc.*
- *Manipulate Data and Correct all Pre-import Errors from Within the Tool*
- *Re-Use Import Templates*
- *Full Pre-Import and Audit Trail Reports*

### Why was the QDataImport Tool developed?

There were three pain points I encountered in my accounting practice when dealing with the import of data into QuickBooks – for any version. Pain point one: I never trusted the import process; sometimes the information would show up, other times it wouldn't and I would never know why. It became a matter of hit and miss, going back and forth between Excel and QuickBooks, trying to figure out what was "good data" or "bad" data. Pain point two: I always had to massage the data in Excel – which usually meant several extra steps just to get the data INTO Excel. Pain point three: I had never had a record of what actually went into QuickBooks – I would have to spend an inordinate amount of time reconciling what I intended to import, as opposed to what actually imported.

### Who is Your Target Market and Why?

This product needed to be easy enough for end users to work with, and powerful enough for ProAdvisors and Accountants to use when starting new QuickBooks files for their clients. Traditionally there have only been two methods to import lists into QuickBooks; either via the .iif file or an Excel file. The .iif file does not error check the data and you are never really sure what has or has not been imported, not to mention they are difficult to work with. The Excel import is also not very efficient, is not very user friendly, and many fields can not be mapped. We have been able to address all these issues and more with our tool.

### How does the QDataImport Tool Work?

As with other integrated applications, the user must establish the connection between the tool and their QuickBooks file. QDataImport allows you to take data from various formats, map the fields using an Excel like grid inside the tool, preview the data, and make changes if needed. The tool then validates the data and updates the QuickBooks file that you are connected to. Once the process has finished, it generates an audit log of any records that were skipped, and why, as well as what was successfully imported.

### Who is your competition and how does QDataImport differ?

While there are a few other tools that allow you to import list information, we feel ours offer more flexibility in many ways. The .iif and Excel transfer that is offered from within QuickBooks is difficult to use and does not validate the information, creating quite a bit of frustration and lost time. Also, our tool can use any source data: .iif, Excel, CSV, Text, or direct ODBC connection to other databases (such as Access, SQL, etc.).

Our tool works with the Desktop versions of QuickBooks **and** with the Online Edition; offering a great deal of flexibility that has not existed before now.

### QuickBooks Integration:

All information is 100% verified **before** you complete the import process. It will NOT import a bad record, which saves a great deal of time and frustration.

The following lists are available to import, using our tool:

Account	Payment Method
Class	Payroll Wage Item
Customer	Sales Rep
Customer Message	Sales Tax Code
Customer Type	Shipping Method
Employee	Terms
Job Name	Vendor
Other Name	Vendor Type

You can also import the following Item Lists:

Discount	Other Charge
Fixed Asset	Payment
Inventory Item	Sales Tax Item
Non-Inventory Item	Service
Assembly Item	Subtotal

Inventory Valuation & Custom Fields can also be included, which we have found to be a very popular need.

### *A mini customer case study:*

*A client runs a retail store and receives a great deal of new inventory items on a regular basis. Their vendor also sends them an Excel spreadsheet that includes all the item information, such as price, description, SKU number, etc. These items must be loaded into their QuickBooks file quickly so they can sell the items in a timely fashion. The SKU number is a Custom Field in QuickBooks and it had always been a challenge in the past getting the information loaded into QuickBooks. Sometimes the SKU's would come in correctly and other times the leading zero's would be dropped, or other valuable information would be missing; such as quantity. With this tool we don't have to choose, it all comes in! And it comes in correctly the first time, what a time saver for us!*

### Installation & Setup:

Installation is quick and easy downloadable product on our site at [www.qodbc.com/qdataimportdownload.htm](http://www.qodbc.com/qdataimportdownload.htm). Once installed, the product opens with a wizard which will walk you through the 5 steps to complete the import process. A Help button is available on every screen. None of our beta testers have required assistance or use of the help files, which we are very proud of.

### Demonstrations & Trials

We offer a fully functional demo that will work on sample companies for 30 days; after that time the user is required to purchase a license code to continue using the product.

### Pricing, Support, Enhancements & Updates:

Pricing for the QDataImport tool is \$199.00 for use on an unlimited number of companies, on the same computer. The licensing is tied to a computer, so if you want to use the tool on various computers in your company you will need additional licenses. Connectivity support is free. Product questions can be found via [www.qodbc.com/faq](http://www.qodbc.com/faq) are answered online at no charge. Any product 'bugs' are addressed and fixed as soon as possible. Future enhancements are gathered and prioritized according to the number of affected users; then added in the next release. There maybe several releases during the year.

### *How can the QDataImport Tool help Advisors with their clients?*

The QDataImport tool fills a need that Advisors and end-users have been consistently requesting the last several years. It allows the CPA or Advisor options that we not available in the past, a way to get complete and accurate data into an existing QuickBooks file, or a new file. Advisors can use this tool on a regular basis to increase their billable hours quickly and easily, while offering the client a valuable service.

### Closing – What is the most important point you would like to make?

There are several advantages we feel set this tool apart from others currently on the market:

- (1) It can import from any data source – eliminating the trouble it takes to export the data from another system into Excel first and then manipulating it and hoping for the best.
- (2) The user knows what data is "bad" before it an attempt is made to import into QuickBooks; thus saving valuable time and frustration.
- (3) Users can edit the data before importing into QuickBooks and get instant feedback whether it is "god" data or not. This eliminates the need of going back and forth between Excel and QuickBooks between failed imports.
- (4) The users know up front that any "bad" data will NOT be imported into QuickBooks, keeping your data file clean. The import is 100% validated beforehand.
- (5) Users can see a Quick Report of the "bad" data, and can print/save an audit trail of what actually went into QuickBooks, and what was omitted.