FAMILYSEARCH GEDCOM 7
Keeps Getting Better

Produced by FamilySearch GEDCOM Steering Committee

Albert Emmerich, **GEDCOM-L** Chairperson

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Russell Lynch, AG, **FamilySearch** Program Manager

review

last year's

recorded

sessions

FamilySearch GEDCOM 7 Launched and Rolling Strong
Gordon Clarke

Come learn more about FamilySearch GEDCOM Version 7 that was released over 6 months ago after many industry software providers and key influencers contributed since RootsTech 2020. This new version includes ...

2022   18:33

FamilySearch GEDCOM 7 - What's Next? Teamwork
Gordon Clarke

What's next is to start working on bigger longer-term issues to improve FamilySearch GEDCOM especially as we make the specification more appropriate globally. Important areas that need to have multiple lengthy...

2022   16:38

FamilySearch GEDCOM 7 Live Q & A Webinar
Gordon Clarke

Get your questions answered about anything to do with FamilySearch GEDCOM Version 7. How did it come to be? Where is it headed? How can I contribute? What applications and tools are, and will become available? Is...

2022   56:39

FamilySearch
GEDCOM Version 7

RootsTech 2020
Kickoff Event

3 years ago

Activity Since Release of GEDCOM 7.0

GitHub.com/familysearch/GEDCOM

(public file specification)

Activity	People
Views	328
Unique Visitors	54
Watchers	20
Issues (open/closed)	45 / 165
Discussions (open/closed)	26/ 6
Pull Requests (open/committed)	100/ 99

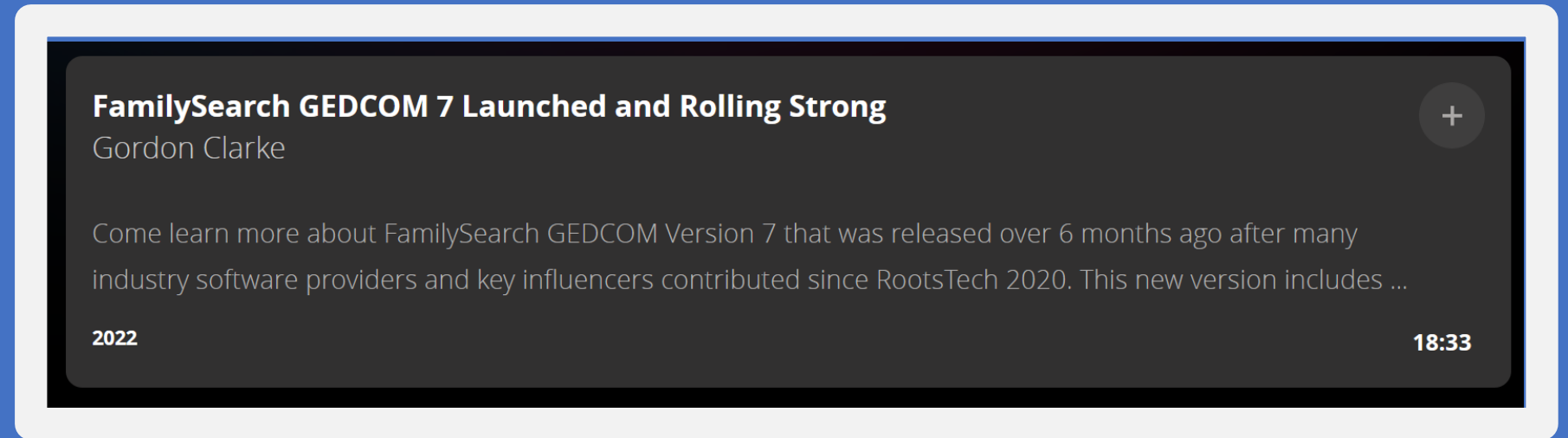# From the Providers

Commitment and Availability

Company	Application	Device	Adopting	Available By or Before
Synium Software	Mac FamilyTree	macOS	Yes	Mar 2022
Armidale Software	MagiCensus Deluxe	Win	Yes	Apr 2022
Parallax Viewpoint	SVG Family-Tree Generator (SVG-FTG)	Web	Yes	Apr 2022
Calico Pie	Family Historian	Win	Yes	tbd
Coret Genealogy	Genealogy Online	Web	Yes	tbd
FamilySearch	Genealogies	Web	Yes	tbd
Interesting.com	WikiTree	Web	Yes	tbd
MyHeritage	MyHeritage.com, FamilyTree Builder	Web, Win	Yes	tbd
Progeny Genealogy	Charting Companion	Win	Yes	tbd
Progeny Genealogy	Charting Companion	macOS	Yes	tbd
RootsMagic	RootsMagic	Win	Yes	tbd
RootsMagic	RootsMagic	macOS	Yes	tbd
The MagiKey	MagiTree	Win	Yes	tbd

From German Providers

Commitment and Availability

Author	Application	Device	Adopting	Available By or Before
Ekkehart v. Renesse	Stammbaumdrucker	Win	Yes	Dec 2021
Jan Escholt	Familienbuch	Win	Yes	Dec 2022
Michael Suhr	GHome	Win	Yes	tbd
Günther Schwärzer	PC-Ahnen	Win	Yes	Oct 2021
Boris Neubert	Omega	Win	Yes	Dec 2022
Josef Schnieders	GES2000	Win	Yes	Apr 2021
Diedrich Hesmer	OFB/GPS	Win	Yes	Dec 2021
Stefan Mettenbrink	Familienbande/ShowMeGedcom	Win/Linux/macOS	Yes	Dec 2022
Albert Emmerich	GEN_DO!	Web	Yes	Dec 2021
Josef Schnieder	GES2000	Win	Yes	Dec 2022
Dirk Böttcher	Ahnenblatt	Win	Yes	Dec 2022
Peter Schulz	GedTool	Win	Yes	Dec 2021
Johan Mulderij	PRO-GEN	Win	Yes	tbd
Jörn Daub	Ages!	Win	Yes	tbd

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2022   18:33

Russell Lynch: *available resources*
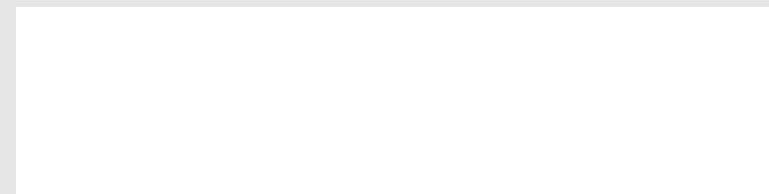

Luther Tychonievich: *technical features*

FamilySearch GEDCOM Resources

Russell Lynch, AG

May 2021

Family Search GEDCOM 7.0 released with valuable new enhancements

FamilySearch GEDCOM

FamilySearch GEDCOM 7.0

FamilySearch GEDCOM 7.0 incorporates the added ability to include photos and other files when you download a FamilySearch GEDCOM 7.0 file from a supported Family Tree product.

Users of FamilySearch GEDCOM 7.0 will be able to import files from older GEDCOM versions. However, users of older versions of GEDCOM will not be able to import from FamilySearch GEDCOM 7.0.

What is GEDCOM?

GEDCOM is an acronym for **Ge**nealogical **D**ata **Com**munication. GEDCOM was created by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as the specification for exchanging genealogical data between different genealogical software products. The original GEDCOM specification was released in 1984, and the last full update to the standard was version 5.5 in 1996. An incremental upgrade to 5.5.1 was released in 1999. FamilySearch GEDCOM 7.0 was released in 2021 and is the most recent update to the GEDCOM specification.

When a software company adopts the FamilySearch GEDCOM specifications for their product, users can download their family tree data to a FamilySearch GEDCOM file that can then be uploaded to another company's software product that recognizes FamilySearch GEDCOM. Hundreds of software products support reading and writing FamilySearch GEDCOM files, which may be comprised of websites, computers, or mobile apps. Individuals who use software products that implement FamilySearch GEDCOM file import and export can share all or portions of their data for collaboration, reports, charts, special analysis, and other innovative purposes.

https://gedcom.io   50%

FamilySearch GEDCOM
Genealogical Data Communication

About   Specifications   Tools   Guides   Community

FamilySearch GEDCOM - genealogical data exchange

Read the specs

All Media In One Place

Maintain, store, and share everything from one file: a FamilySearch GedZip file.

Learn More

New Expressivity, Flexibility,and Compatibility

New features add new semantic power to the older version of GEDCOM, allowing FamilySearch GEDCOM Version 7.0 to represent concepts Version 5.5 could not. Media can now link to the Internet as well as local files. Notes may now use a subset of HTML for basic rich-text markup. All dates now have date phrases, including date ranges and periods. Identifiers RIN, RFN, and AFN have been combined into a new EXID, which can now also be used to link to external databases and websites. All

GitHub Public Repository

Join the public repository and contribute with issues, pull requests, and comments. Copy, review, and use the published specification for programming whatever genealogical software you want.

GitHub Repository

FamilySearch GEDCOM 7

FamilySearch GEDCOM

Genealogical Data Communication

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FamilySearch GEDZip

FamilySearch GEDZip

It is often useful to transmit a GEDCOM document together with a set of external files. The FamilySearch GEDZip file format is provided for this purpose. A FamilySearch GEDZip file is a Zip archive, as defined by http://www.pkware.com/appnote and standardized by ISO/IEC 21320-1:2015.

Note — A few details about the zip archive format are useful to fully understand GEDCOM Package :

- An archive can contain one or more files.
- Files within an archive can be added, removed, or updated individually without needing to re-process the rest of the archive.
- Libraries such as libzip allow applications to operate directly on the
- zip archive as if it were a normal directory tree.
- What the zip specification calls a "file name" is actually a local path and may contain directories.
- Directory separators are / internally and are converted to the appropriate form by the zip processing tool during zipping and unzipping. Because of this, unzipping a GEDZip file in any local directory results in all GEDZip FILE (p.58) references working as-is for the resulting gedcom.ged without the need for any additional processing.

More instructions and recommendations can be found in the actual specification.

ATOM FEED

FamilySearch GEDCOM

Genealogical Data Communication

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SPECIFICATIONS

Version 7
Previous Versions
GEDCOM X

GEDCOM Specifications

Access to recent specifications and current repository

The section provides access to past and present specifications, and a public repository for future versions of FamilySearch GEDCOM. Specifications for versions 5.5 and 5.5.1 are provided since they are both currently in use in the marketplace. The released version 7.0 is available in both PDF and HTML. Contributors are invited to work on future versions of FamilySearch GEDCOM through the public GitHub repository. A link to GEDCOM X, the backend data structure behind FamilySearch Family Tree, is available for learning and joining that repository.

FamilySearch GEDCOM Version 7

- Version 7.0 PDF
- Version 7.0 HTML
- Github Repository
- Changelog

Previous Versions

Previous versions of GEDCOM are listed below, but these older specifications may contain now-obsolete links or email addresses. The current contact email address for all GEDCOM versions below is GEDCOM@familysearch.org.

- Version 5.6 (XML)
- Version 5.5.1
- Version 5.5
- Version 5.4
- Version 5.0
- Version 4.0

FamilySearch GEDCOM
Genealogical Data Communication

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TOOLS

Tools for FamilySearch GEDCOM

Code and sample files for developers

This page contains links to code and tools that may be of use to software developers. These tools are authored and maintained by third parties and may vary in license, quality, and correctness.

v5.5.1 to v7.0 Conversion Code

Language	License	Site	Notes
C	public domain	https://github.com/gedcom7code/c-converter	Command-line
Java	public domain	https://github.com/gedcom7code/java-converter	Command-line
Web tool	—	https://magikeygedcomconverter.azurewebsites.net/	under development

v7.0 parsers

Language	License	Site	Notes
Javascript	public domain	https://github.com/gedcom7code/js-parser	DOM-style, no validation, with SCHMA handling

Validators

Language	License	Site	Notes
Web tool	—	http://ged-inline.elasticbeanstalk.com/	in beta

Example FamilySearch GEDCOM 7.0 Files

The following files are provided for testing.

File	Notes
escapes.ged	This file contains @ characters that are doubled only when they appear at the start of a line string.

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Guides for GEDCOM

Technical guides and best practices

This sections provides helpful technical FAQs and common cases that need to be encoded for compliance with the FamilySearch GEDCOM specification and best practices. Other guides and tips will be provided as they become available.

General FAQs

The General FAQs are basic information that helps you understand the background, ownership, purpose and changes to the specification.

Go to General FAQs

Technical FAQs

The Technical FAQs presents how to handle some of the more difficult coding situations in v7.0.

Go to Technical FAQs

Migrating v5.x to v7.x

This guide has many tips on situations where coding was done one way in version 5.5.1 and is recommended to code it a little differently in version 7.

Go to Migrating v5.5.1 to v7.0

FamilySearch GEDCOM

Genealogical Data Communication

COMMUNITY

General Group
Public Repository
Issue Tracker
Project Teams

FamilySearch GEDCOM Community

Joining and staying connected with the community

Community has links to current issues, discussions, the blog, groups to join, and information about contributing to this project.

Discussions page

This is the open discussion and mailing group related to GEDCOM in general. The discussions are visible to all at FamilySearch/GEDCOM Discussions; you can post to it after creating a free github account. Subscribe to the mailing list via the "Watch" button at the top of the page.

Public Repository

Become a GitHub contributor for the next version by contributing to the FamilySearch GEDCOM public repository.

Issue Tracker

You can review issues being discussed for the working version of FamilySearch GEDCOM when it becomes available.

Project Teams

- **Places** - consider changing from a comma-separated place hierarchy to a set of linked place records.
- **Names** - consider changing personal names from being specified in the Name tag and optional subordinate tags to a new set of subordinate tags.
- **Relationships** - support for varying definitions of families, roles and relationships.

Search or jump to...   Pull requests   Issues   Marketplace   Explore

Single sign-on has been enabled for **FamilySearch**.

Single sign-on allows you to sign-in to access this organization using your company's preferred identity provider. Learn more

Authenticate your account

📖 **FamilySearch** / **GEDCOM**   Public

👁 Unwatch 16   ⭐ Star 31   🍴 Fork 7

<> **Code**   ⊙ Issues 27   ⑂ Pull requests   💬 Discussions   ▦ Projects 3   📖 Wiki   ⚠ Security   ···

⑂ **main** ⌄   ⑂ **3** branches   🏷 **6** tags   Go to file   Add file ⌄   **Code** ⌄

About

No description, website, or topics provided.

📖 Readme

⚖ Apache-2.0 License

🧑 **tychonievich** Merge pull request **#101** fr... ··· e7a8a92 5 days ago 🕐 **169** commits

📁 build	Merge pull request #101 from FamilySearch...	5 days ago
📁 extracted-files	formatting fixes	6 days ago
📁 specification	Merge pull request #101 from FamilySearch...	5 days ago
📁 version-detection	Fix some nits, to match what was actually s...	27 days ago
📄 LICENSE	update notice of license	6 months ago

Releases 6

🏷 **Version 7.0.5** Latest
on Sep 29

Technical Features of FamilySearch GEDCOM 7

Luther Tychonievich

Improved Media Support

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

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

$$7 \, . \, 0 \, . \, 11$$

Major Version   **Minor Version**   **Patches**

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

Highlighting Important Improvements In 2022

Valuable Commits in 2022

- The "next-minor" branch now contains some changes slated for a future 7.1, such as expanding the use of PHRASE and RESN to more structures.

- Added a registry for EXID types.

- Added EXID type values for various types of FamilySearch IDs.

Tools Improvements

- ## Conversion Code – Magikey GEDCOM Converter Webtool.

- ## Parsers – Python-based parser with MIT license

- ## Development Aids - Added links from gedcom.io to community-authored validation and compatibility checking tools. Additional contributions welcome.

- ## Testing Files - Added a maximal70.ged for testing all tags and enum values.

New Repositories

- GEDCOM-name Public Repository

- GEDCOM-registries Public Repository

Future Communities
in 2023

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2022   16:38

Watch this video to learn what

will be worked on in 2023

Join A Team for Future Developments

❖Relationships

❖Places

❖Sources and Citations

❖Hypotheses

Send an email to GEDCOM@familysearch.org putting the project name in the subject.

Join and Contribute to the New Repositories

- GEDCOM-name Public Repository
  https://github.com/fisharebest/gedcom-name

- GEDCOM-registries Public Repository
  https://github.com/familysearch/GEDCOM-registries

Post RootsTech 2023
Live FamilySearch GEDCOM
Zoom Technical Q & A

March 14, 11:00am MT

Got questions? Want answers?
Be sure to attend this technical Q & A

https://churchofjesuschrist.zoom.us/j/95474207633?pwd=a0M4b1o4Yi82aEpWa2F6ekJpd1V5UT09

Plenty of Resources

❖ For General Information, please go to http://GEDCOM.info or
http://FamilySearch.org/GEDCOM

❖ For the actual specification, programmatic tools and guides. please go to
http://GEDCOM.io

❖ Get involved in the public repositories at:
https://github.com/FamilySearch/GEDCOM
https://github.com/FamilySearch/GEDCOM.io

❖ Any inquiries can be emailed directly to **GEDCOM@FamilySearch.org**

Enjoy organizing, saving and sharing valuable family history data, stories, and photos in

FamilySearch GEDCOM 7