

DevInfo 7.0 - FAQs

The Global DevInfo Initiative is pleased to announce the release, later in 2012, of the DevInfo 7.0 User application. DevInfo 7.0 will initially be a web application, featuring a data-centric, performance-enhanced DevInfo with access to global, regional and national databases. The objective is to increase the use of DevInfo by providing an improved interface, and also to provide open access to data stored in DevInfo format to enable external innovation with DevInfo datasets.

Below are answers to frequently asked questions about the upcoming release of DevInfo 7.0. For further details, please view a recording of our [DevInfo 2012 Webinar](#), or contact Peter Leth, DevInfo Specialist, UNICEF New York, at pleth@unicef.org.

Q: Will I be able to use my existing DevInfo 6.0 database with DevInfo 7.0?

A: Yes. DevInfo 7.0 will automatically convert your DevInfo 5.0/6.0 databases into the new format.

Q: What will Data Admin look like in DevInfo 7.0?

A: The updated DevInfo Data Admin application will focus on providing more effective solutions for updating template/database contents. The application will be SDMX-compliant to read/write SDMX-ML documents, which can be imported into DevInfo to create databases and exported to exchange data with third-party SDMX-compliant applications. The application will initially be desktop-based (offline).

Q: What are the new visualization tools in DevInfo 7.0?

A: DevInfo 7.0 visualization objects will be modularized into discrete visualization applications, which will be made available to users to easily create presentations from their data. In addition, these objects will also be packaged to enable developers to embed them in their own applications. The list of visualization objects will include tables, line charts, bar charts, pie charts, column charts, stacked bar charts, scatter plots, maps, pyramid charts, radar charts and tree maps.

Q: Do I have to be trained on DevInfo 7.0?

A: DevInfo 7.0 builds on the technology of DevInfo 6.0 and will contain an even more intuitive and user-friendly interface. Users of DevInfo 6.0 will not need to be retrained to use DevInfo 7.0. Additional resources including full documentation will be made available on www.devinfo.org later in the year.

Q: When is DevInfo 7.0 going to be released?

A: DevInfo 7.0 beta testing will take place in the second quarter of 2012. Following this, DevInfo 7.0 will be released as a standalone web application.

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Q: Would I be able to obtain a desktop version of DevInfo 7.0?

A: DevInfo 7.0 will be initially released as a standalone web application. A desktop version will follow in late 2012 and would be made available through setup CDs and online upgrade options.

Q: Can I become a beta tester?

A: Yes, you can. Please send your name to support@devinfo.info to apply to be a tester. Testing will take place in Q2 of 2012.

Q: How much will it cost to upgrade from DevInfo 5.0/6.0 to DevInfo 7.0?

A: There will be no charge for the upgrade. DevInfo continues to be provided royalty-free by the United Nations.

Q: Can I add my data in DevInfo to quickly create presentations? What is the 'My Data' feature?

A: The 'My Data' feature of DevInfo 7.0 allows you to upload data in table format and create maps and graphs without creating a database through the Database Administration application. Through a simple upload or copy and paste, visualizations can be created and shared.

Q: How has searching and speed been enhanced in the online version?

A: The DSG Software Development team has added many performance optimization techniques to increase the speed of data searches and data views. The Quick Data Search feature allows searching by keywords, topic and area in a single screen. Keyword searching is also enhanced to allow entering multiple keywords and to use context sensitive help.

Q: How will DevInfo 7.0 work with a Mac?

A: Since DevInfo 7.0 is a web application, it will work on all browsers on both PCs and Macs. We are still evaluating whether to provide a desktop version of the user application for the Mac.

Q: What kind of mobile technology can we expect to see in 2012?

A: DevInfo 7.0 will work on tablets, including the iPad and Android tablets.

Q: What are the plans to roll-out DevInfo 7.0?

A: DevInfo 7.0 roll-out plans will include conducting global and regional workshops in mid to late 2012. There will be less need for training on the use of the software compared to previous versions, which means we plan to focus more on how to use the toolset effectively for results-based management, based on specific use cases.

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Q: How does DevInfo 7.0 provide open access to DevInfo data?

A: DevInfo databases are potentially useful in many different applications built on various technology platforms, and often become more useful when combined with data from other applications. Therefore DevInfo 7.0 focuses heavily on providing open access to the data contained within databases. The software has native support for “Data Query Service” and “SDMX Registry”. Using “Data Query Service” developers can query data through HTTP query / SDMX SOAP message / RESTFUL url and receive response as XML / JSON / SDMX-ML. The SDMX Registry provides a web-based user interface and also implements an SDMX-complaint web service. It allows for Subscription & Notification / Data discovery / Querying structural artifacts (DSD, Codelists).