

How to install and use the USS .dat File Tool

The following guide demonstrates how to install and use the USS .dat File Tool for help with testing and analyzing download files.

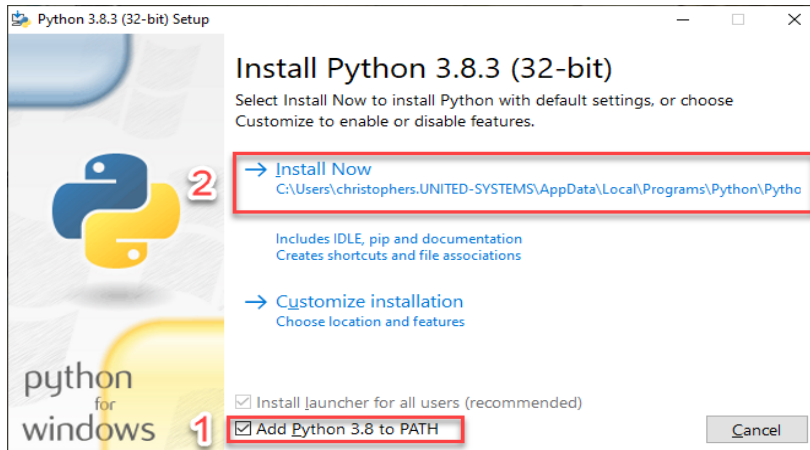
Step 1. Installation

To use the tool, simply download the Python programming language from www.python.org/downloads to install it.



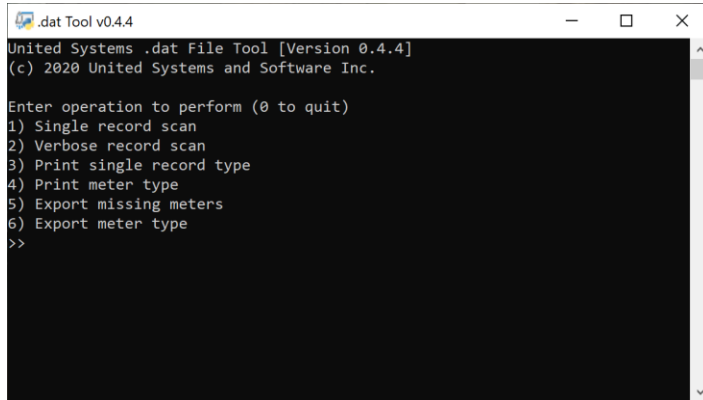
It is important to ensure that “Add Python 3.X to PATH” is checked during installation.

This allows the program to run at the command line without issues.



Step 2. Running the Program

After installation, we can ensure that the program is working properly by simply double-clicking on the tool. It should open a command prompt window like the picture shown below.



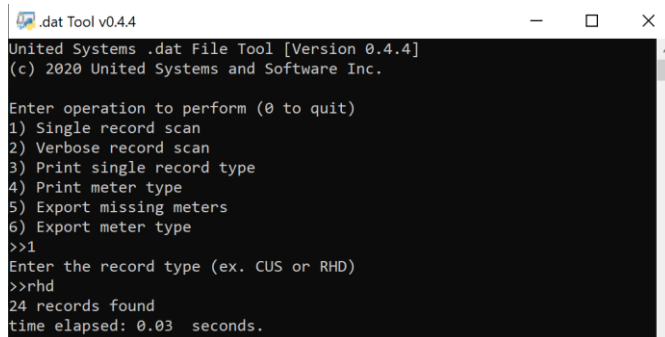
```
.dat Tool v0.4.4
United Systems .dat File Tool [Version 0.4.4]
(c) 2020 United Systems and Software Inc.

Enter operation to perform (0 to quit)
1) Single record scan
2) Verbose record scan
3) Print single record type
4) Print meter type
5) Export missing meters
6) Export meter type
>>
```

Step 3. How to use the tool's features

Before using the program, ensure that the download file you would like to scan is in the same directory as the tool. The tool looks for any file named 'download.dat' and uses that by default. Below is a quick description of each operation the tool can perform.

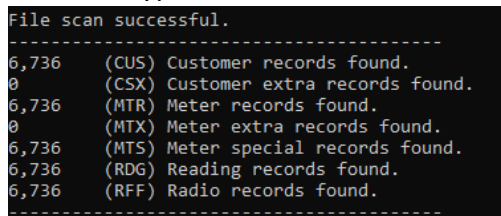
1. **Single record scan:** search for the number of instances of a single type of record within a download file. An example would be searching for the number of RHD records, shown below.



```
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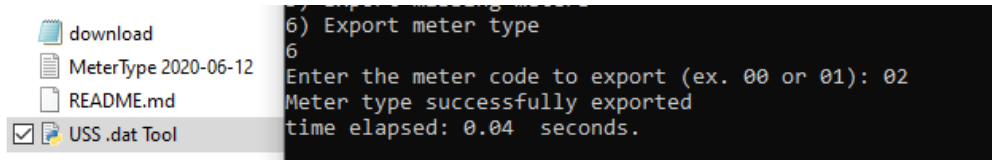
Enter operation to perform (0 to quit)
1) Single record scan
2) Verbose record scan
3) Print single record type
4) Print meter type
5) Export missing meters
6) Export meter type
>>1
Enter the record type (ex. CUS or RHD)
>>rhd
24 records found
time elapsed: 0.03 seconds.
```

2. **Verbose record scan:** search the entire download file and print the number of the most common types of records.



```
File scan successful.
-----
6,736 (CUS) Customer records found.
0 (CSX) Customer extra records found.
6,736 (MTR) Meter records found.
0 (MTX) Meter extra records found.
6,736 (MTS) Meter special records found.
6,736 (RDG) Reading records found.
6,736 (RFF) Radio records found.
-----
```


6. **Export meter type:** searches the download file, and exports the customer record of every customer who has a specified meter type in the RDG record to a text file.



For example, we want to find every customer with a meter number '02', so we export that meter type, and this is the text file we get:

MeterType 2020-06-12 - Notepad

File	Edit	Format	View	Help
CUS03001206001120602650020		DICKEN, LARRY	225	VINE ST
CUS03001705001170501400020		COTTON, JANE	361	ELM ST
CUS03001705001170506350022		GOBLE, STEVE	332	SHORT ST
CUS03001705001170511650024		BOWLING, ALFORD	440	WALNUT ST