

FAMILYSEARCH GEDCOM 7

April 2026 Annual Update

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FAMILYSEARCH GEDCOM 7

Introduction, Priorities and Focus - Gordon

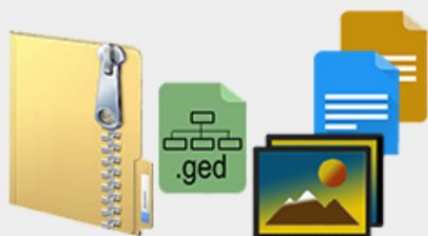
- the creation,
- the preservation,
- the exchange,
- by importing and exporting data and images
- with different applications and cloud services
- while maintaining user control of the originals

Companies Committed to Adopting FamilySearch GEDCOM 7

Below are some of the companies and websites committed to adopting the FamilySearch GEDCOM 7 standard: A growing list of companies around the world are adopting the new FamilySearch GEDCOM 7.0 standard. As they do, you will find transferring genealogy files from one application to another easier and easier. The appeal of FamilySearch GEDCOM 7.0 is international. In Germany alone, more than a dozen companies and organizations have adopted it for their products.

Author or Company	Application	Platform	Languages	Available By or Before	Video Demo
Albert Emmerich	GEN_DO!	Web	Deutsch, English	Dec 2022	
Ancestry	Ancestry.com	Web	English, Espanol	tbd	
Ancestris Association	Ancestris.org	Windows, Mac, Linux	Francais, English, Deutsch, Nederlands, and 16 others	June 2024	
Amidale Software	MagiCensus Deluxe	Windows	English	April 2022	
Boris Neubert	Omega	Windows	Deutsch, Francais	Dec 2022	
Calico Pie	Family Historian	Windows	English	Mar 2023	YouTube
Corel Genealogy	Genealogy Online	Web	English	tbd	
Chronoplex Software	GEDCOM Validator	Windows	English	Mar 2022	
Chronoplex Software	My Family Tree	Windows	English	Mar 2022	
Diedrich Hesmer	OFG/GPS	Windows	Deutsch, English	Dec 2021	

FamilySearch GEDCOM - genealogical data exchange



All Media In One Place

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

[Learn More](#)



New Expressivity, Flexibility, and Compatibility

FamilySearch GEDCOM Version 7.0 can 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. All text payloads may contain line breaks. LANG payloads are now language tags. Many other positive changes can be reviewed in the [ChangeLog](#) in the main public repository.



GitHub Public Repositories

Join the public repository for the GEDCOM 7 File Specification. Contribute with issues, pull requests, and comments. Copy, review, and use the published specification for programming whatever genealogical software you want.

[GEDCOM Specification Repository](#)

GEDCOM.IO REPOSITORY

- Updates to website
 - Added more FAQ questions
 - How do I record a place whose jurisdictional level is ambiguous?
 - How do I record information about one parent?
 - How do I record the URL of a source?
 - Added more sample files and test cases in existing samples
 - Added link to another third-party converter (TMG to GEDCOM)

COMMITTED TO TOOLS THE LAST 12 MONTHS

Mar 24, 2026

- [Add jayakren/GEDCOM7-SAXlike-parser-java to tools page \(#373\)](#)

Mar 17, 2026

- [Add GEDCOM 7 validator command-line tool \(#372\)](#)
- [Add cartwrightdj/gedcomtools to tools page \(#371\)](#)

Jan 6, 2026

- [Add dart parser \(#354\)](#)

Sep 9, 2025

- [Add compatibility test files to tools.md \(#316\)](#)

Apr 1, 2025

- [Add links to tree-to-v7 tools \(#249\)](#)

GEDCOM 5.5.1 - Dave Thaler

- GEDCOM 5.5.1 spec was released and will not be normatively updated
 - It does, however, contain contradictions
 - Also contains syntax errors and typos that don't affect GEDCOM files
- Community members reported issues, asked about machine-readable files
- After creating machine-readable YAML files for FamilySearch GEDCOM 7 in gedcom-registries, we similarly created machine-readable 5.5.1 ones
 - Scripts we used to create them found additional syntax errors and contradictions
- Added on gedcom.io an [errata table](#), and a (non-authoritative) [spec with errata highlighted](#)
- Errata table now contains 50 errata

GEDCOM 5.5.1 Errata: Principles

1. No impact on actual GEDCOM files
2. Spec should use syntactically correct specification syntax
3. If two interpretations exist, take the more liberal one
4. If two incompatible interpretations exist, with evidence of both in use, allow both
 - a. Example: Both “Mandrin” and the corrected spelling “Mandarin” are in use
5. If two incompatible interpretations exist, but evidence of only one in use, take that one
 - a. Example: EMAIL not EMAI
6. Minimize spec changes
7. Max field size is *minimum* an implementation must support, not a hard constraint
 - a. Spec already said: “The field sizes show the **minimum recommended** field length within a database that is constrained to fixed length fields.”

GEDCOM RELEASES SINCE FEBRUARY 2025

Russell Lynch

- GEDCOM 7.0.17 released 10 February 2026
- GEDCOM 7.0.18 released 17 February 2026

- <https://gedcom.io/changelog/>

Version 7.0.17

- A **patch** release: no change to .ged files, just to documentation and tooling
- New data type definitions for URI, Latitude, Longitude, Tag
 - Allows ABNF to be used to parse these types
- Update some external references and summaries of their content:
 - FILE payloads and non-ASCII characters
 - GEDZIP's use of ZIP's compression, encryption
 - RFC 3986 → WHATWG URL; RFC 4122 → RFC 9562
- Clarify that NOTE.MIME can support extensions (like text/markdown) without extension tags
- Note some cycles that make sense, others that don't
- Updated text on handling invalid extensions using non-underscore tags

Version 7.0.18

- A **patch** release: no change to .ged files, just to documentation
- Corrects a typo in 7.0.17-added ABNF that broke some automated tooling

GEDCOM 7.1 - Luther Tychonievich

- Criteria
 - Superset of 7.0
 - **Valuable** – we know how it will be used
 - **Absent** – only add things 7.0 can't represent, not new ways to represent things
 - **Used** – multiple applications do this as extension or commit to doing this if standard
- No planned release date

GEDCOM 7.1 - Github tags

- tag **next-minor** means “if this was added, it could be in 7.1”
 - not a commitment to add it to v7.1; three criteria still apply
- tag **awaiting-use** means “we don’t know of applications that use this”
 - If you know of some that do, please add to these issues!
- branch **v7.1** has additions that met all three criteria
 - details might be adjusted prior to release

GEDCOM 8.0 - James Tanner

- We have proposals from the community that would belong in 8.0 if implemented because they would be a breaking change to 7.0
- GEDCOM 8.0 is still in the future, with no current timeline
- We do consider future 8.0 directions when working on 7.1

Community Project Teams - Gordon Clarke

Active Project Teams

- **Names** - This project has been created to develop the `PERSONAL_NAME_STRUCTURE`, with aims of supporting a much wider range of human names and of supporting applications that process them. The GEDCOM 5.5.1 standard defined a `PERSONAL_NAME_STRUCTURE`. This was refined slightly in FamilySearch GEDCOM 7.0. It works well for most North-American and some European names, but it unable to properly represent names from many other cultures.

Join the GEDCOM Name Project by going to the [GEDCOM-name](#) public repository.

- **Citations** - This project has been created to develop the ability to reliably capture and exchange EE-style citations, Chicago-style citations, or an agreed subset of both.

Join the GEDCOM Citations Project by going to the [GEDCOM-citations](#) public repository.

Questions and Answers