Data Format

Defining the data format of an ASCII file for merging into CARStat or DUMPStat.

Note: The most important characteristics of the data file are that all fields (of a data
      record) must appear on one line and the same order of fields must be maintained
      throughout the file.

```
sodium     A30UA          2    1    03/15/94 ug/l
sodium     A30UB         10    1    03/15/94 ug/l
sodium     A30UC        1.4    1    03/15/94 ug/l
sodium     B31U           2    1    03/15/94 ug/l
sodium     B318          16    1    03/15/94 ug/l
sulphate   A39D          13    1    03/15/94 ug/l
sulphate   A40D           9    1    03/15/94 ug/l
sulphate   A41D           7    1    03/15/94 ug/l
sulphate   A42D           2    1    03/15/94 ug/l
sulphate   A42E    ND     1    1    03/15/94 ug/l

...
```

Here is a portion of a data file used with DUMPStat. The first character of each line is in column 1.

The data format settings for a file formatted in this way are described on the following
page. Each fixed column field must be clearly defined for starting column, length and
ending column; or each field of a delimited record must have a unique position (entry) in
the record.

The Merge Data screens in DUMPStat and CARStat include a WYSIWYG window that
allows you to specify the format. There are four basic operations:
1. Dragging the column headings to change their ordering.
2. Altering the column width by dragging the vertical bars between the columns.
3. Creating a new 'spacer' column by double-clicking on the column heading to the right
   of where you want the new column placed.
4. Deleting a 'spacer' column by setting its width to 0; that is, by dragging the vertical
   bar on the right all the way to the left. Columns with headings cannot be deleted.

The behavior of the columns is dependent upon the segmentation style: fixed-column
mode 'slices' your data up by the columns, while delimited mode will include all text
between delimiters in a column even if there is not enough room on the screen to display
it all. That is, column width is irrelevant when merging delimited data.

Note that changes in the WYSIWYG window only define how your data are interpreted.
You are changing the column headings and the widths of the columns to match the data,
not the data to match the headings. The Syntax Check column will alert you to any
remaining formatting problems. The Details button opens a screen with a series of text

boxes that allow you to numerically specify where columns start and end (or the order of columns in delimited mode). It doesn't matter whether you specify your format directly or by entering the starting position, ending position, and length in the details screen. Thi s screen simply provides another method of format specification, which you may prefer depending on how many modifications you need to make and whether or not you already have numeric values to describe the column positions.

CARStat and DUMPStat can determine the length or ending column automatically when given the starting column and one other piece of information. If you are altering an existing format, you may wish to clear all the settings before starting (to prevent the program from overriding your selections) by clicking on Clear. Alternatively, if you do not wish to lose the existing format, use the Save and Restore command buttons to save the format and re-use it later. See Save/Restore Format Settings in Chapter 7, The Database Menu, of the User's Guide for information about Save and Restore.

Constituent Name:	Start - 1	(text begins in column 1)
	Length - 10	(max. length of the field is 10 char.)
	End - 10	(last character would be in column 10)
Units:	Start - 40	(text begins in column 40)
	Length - 4	(max. length of the field is 4 char.)
	End - 43	(last character would be in column 43)
Sample Points:	Start - 11	(text begins in column 11)
	Length - 7	(max. length of the field is 7 char.)
	End - 17	(last character would be in column 17)
Results:	Start - 21	(text begins in column 21)
	Length - 6	(max. length of the field is 6 char.)
	End - 26	(last character would be in column 26)
Detection Limit:	Start - 27	(text begins in column 27)
	Length - 4	(max. length of the field is 4 char.)
	End - 30	(last character would be in column 30)
Date:	Start - 31	(text begins in column 31)
	Length - 8	(max. length of the field is 8 char.)
	End - 38	(last character would be in column 38)
	Format - mm/dd/yy	(the date format must be defined correctly. This format is **not** mm/dd/yyyy)
Qualifier:	Start - 18	(text begins in column 18)
	Length - 2	(max. length of the field is 2 char.)
	End - 19	(last character would be in column 19)

Not all columns must be used. *Eg.* There is no "use" of column 20. Entry 3 ends at column 19 and entry 4 does not start until column 21. This is quite acceptable to both CARStat and DUMPStat.