1. What is DF SDK?

DF SDK™ version 1.0.2.2

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DF SDK is a software development kit which provides an effective approach for creating software patches and updates, and integrating of the patch applying and/or building process directly into you own software product(s). Unlike other available products, DF SDK does not simply create incremental updates and re-package files, but analyzes each file at the byte level and builds the difference for updating the target file on the end-user's system.

DF SDK does not deal with any specific data structures, it operates with files as a binary data, and that why it is designed to work well on files of any type including executables, libraries, data files and others.
It can be used to build a difference for two binary files with the following reconstruction of the new version file(s) using an old file and the output difference file (df-file).
DF SDK is available as a standard dynamic link library (DLL), and can be used almost with any Windows development language. The DF SDK API is designed to be simple enough to integrate it into your existing products/solutions, and to provide a high-grade of performance and flexibility. DF SDK comes with sample programs, and includes examples which can simplify patch creation and applying process.

Keeping your customers on the most current version optimizes the performance of your product and significantly reduces your end-user support costs.

DF SDK can be used as an efficient instrument in solving of the following problems:

- Software updating/patching;
- Differential backup;
- Version control.

DF SDK package consists of two main components, which are:

- **LIBDF library (REDISTRIBUTABLE PACKAGE)**, functionality of this library provides comparing of two binary files and creating a difference-file (df-file), and reconstructing a new version file using an old file and created difference-file;
- **LIBDFP library (REDISTRIBUTABLE PACKAGE)**, this library contain all functionality needed to reconstruct a new version file using an old file and created df-file (only functions listed in the "Difference Applying" category are included so that the size of this library is significantly smaller then that of *LIBDF* library).

NOTE: Only libdf.dll and/or libdfp.dll modules may be freely redistributed, e.g. within your own software product(s). You may not redistribute any other documents, code examples, etc. included into the full-version distribution package (obtained after ordering)!

NOTE: Source code is not included into the the full-version distribution package (obtained after standard ordering)! It can be obtained only upon request for additional payment.
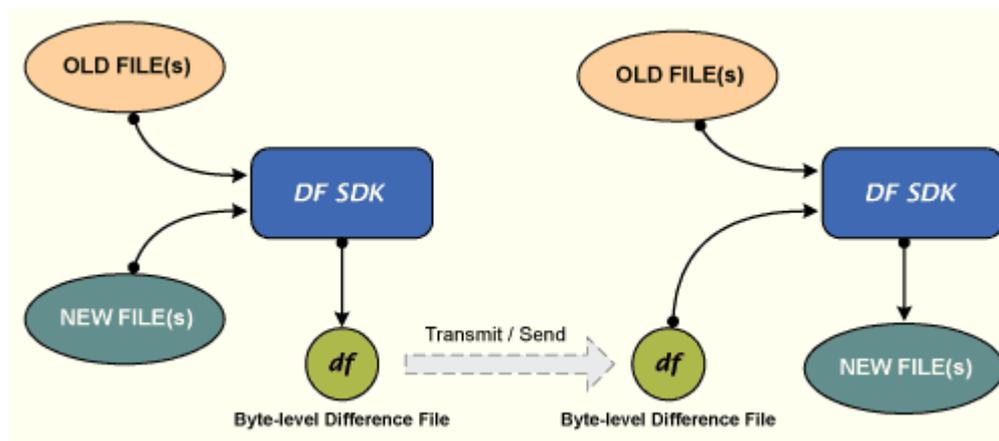
Key features of DF SDK v1.0.2.2 :

- Comparing files with size up to 2^63 Bytes (~8589934592 Gb).
- High speed of file comparing and df-file reconstruction
- Improved quality of file-comparing, resulting in smaller output df-files
- bzip2-compression is used and as a result the output difference-file (df-file) is smaller by size
- Flexible control under ratio "time/result" with the help of different comparing methods selection
- Setting utilized resources constraints
- Support for all Windows versions in use today -- Windows 95, 98, 2000, 2003, XP, Me, and NT 4.0 SP6.

DF SDK is developed to effectively accomplish a "binary files updating/patching" task.

If you are familiar with such standard utilities of the UNIX system as *diff* and *patch* then we could say that functionality of DF SDK can accomplish the same task though there is a significant difference: <u>DF SDK effectively operates not only with text but with all binary files</u>.

The idea behind DF SDK is simple: when modified file(s) must be transmitted, send only the changes (byte level differences) stored in one reliable self-installing update module rather than the entire software installation package. DF SDK lossless byte-level compression is not content dependent, so it may be used whenever data is changed at one location and must be efficiently updated and/or archived at another.

NOTE: DF SDK does not deal with any specific data structures, it operates with files as a binary data. Databases or files of other formats can be updated only as binary files (**warning:** database update can be implemented only if it is not changed on the end-user's machine at the moment).

System requirements :

- Microsoft Windows 95, 98, NT4, 2000, ME, XP, 2003 or above
- Processor 486 and above, 16 Mb RAM
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 5.0 or later *- only to view this chm help-file*
- Display resolution 800x600 hi-color (16 bits) *- only to view chm help-file*
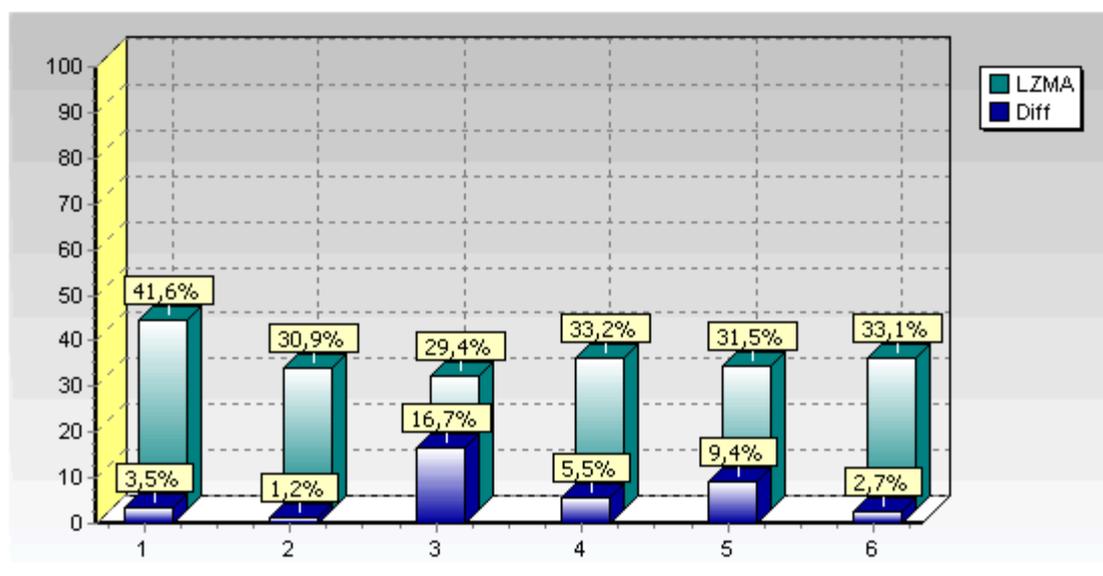
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2. Binary files comparing

Preface...

Construction of a small-size patch is closely related to the number of changes of the new version versus an old one, and also to the efficiency of the methods, capable to determine these changes and present them in a compact form. Well-known algorithms of text data comparing can't help in comparing of the binary data when the structure of files is completely unknown in advance, and the nature of these changes is poorly predicted. Attempt to apply LCS-search algorithms (Largest Common Subsequence) also have shown their incompetence. Comparison of binary files requires a special approach which is successfully implemented in DF SDK. The differencing algorithm used in DF SDK provides creating of the smallest difference-files available in the industry.

The basis of the algorithm is the ability to find concurrence in compared files at a level of octet-byte subsequences. Such byte-oriented nature of the algorithm allows to make the efficiency of its work independent of a file format. The size of a resulting difference file, in view of time spent for its construction is assumed as the main criterion of patch-building algorithm efficiency.

Key features of new algorithm:

- Significant improvement of algorithm quality parameters (generated difference files are smaller, work speed is greater);
- Special optimization providing considerable raise of comparison quality for executable modules (exe, dll);
- Comparing files with size up to 2^{63} bytes;
- Flexible control under ratio "time/result" with the help of different comparing methods selection;
- Setting utilized resources constraints (memory size, process priority);
- Caching of comparing results. Storage of comparing results in intermediate files allows to significantly reduce the time of patch building.

The table below contains the examples (implemented for well-known software products main exe-files), illustrating the efficiency of df-files in comparison with LZMA-compression. Percentage values show the ratio of the LZMA-compressed file and df-file sizes to the size of a new file.

File	New file size, bytes	LZMA-compression		DF-file size	
		bytes	%	bytes	%
RAR.exe [3.40 beta3] – [3.42]	**297 472**	123 733	41.6	**10 291**	**3.5**
Winamp.exe [5.04] – [5.05]	**980 480**	303 275	30.9	**12 240**	**1.2**
TheBat.exe [3.4.0.933] – [3.5.0.1013]	**8 955 464**	2 632 520	29.4	**1 493 827**	**16.7**
HelpMan.exe [3.4] – [3.5] (Help&Manual)	**5 139 456**	1 704 393	32.2	**284 577**	**5.5**
SPECCTRA.exe [10.2] – [15.2] (SPECCTRA ShapeBased Automation Software	**13 307 978**	4 190 654	31.5	**1 245 494**	**9.4**
Fireworks.exe [7.0.0.288] – [7.0.2.295]	**14 696 448**	4 861 690	33.1	**400 728**	**2.7**

3. Frequenlty asked questions

1. General Questions:

2. Technical Questions:

1. General Questions:

- **1.1 Can I get the software on a disk or CD media?**

  You can include CD with installation file if you order DF SDK software at ShareIt!. It is shipped via Air Mail, within 2 business weeks. CD-ROM is free if buying a Commercial or a Corporate license, and 9.95$ value for Shareware license. At the subscription time in the future, if you lose your copy of the software due to a hard drive failure you can download the latest trial version from our site. If for any reason your registration code becomes invalid or lost - just send an e-mail to Sales Support with details of your previous registration. You will receive a new code via e-mail at no charge as soon as we validate your old registration data.

- **1.2 Will I get 'SPAM' if I give you my e-mail address?**

  No. We never, ever give out customer information or e-mail addresses in any manner.

- **1.3 Can I order via fax machine or phone, purchase with a check?**

  - Our sales agency now offers both a Toll-Free Voice Registration Service and a Fax Registration Service for buying our products. To order software using the Toll-Free Voice Registration Service, please check links within online secure order forms after selecting an appropriate license from our Order page. You must have DF SDK Product ID ready.
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- **1.4 What are your product IDs at RegSoft and ShareIt?**

Please, visit our online FAQs page at our public website www.agensoft.com/faq.html

- **1.5 How long does it take to get my registration code or full version after I purchase a product online?**

  After our sales agency receive your online credit card order, it may take up to several hours to authorize your transaction. As soon as your charge is authorized, you will receive an authorization e-mail with your Tracking ID# as well as instructions on how to obtain the full registered version the product you ordered. It is important that the customer check his or her e-mail to obtain the charge authorization and instructions. In the unlikely event that your credit card is declined, you will receive an e-mail stating the reason. If you do not receive any e-mail within 48 hours - there may be a problem with your order. In that case, kindly contact us by e-mail at sales@agensoft.com with your name, Tracking ID# and the approximate date and time of your order to obtain the status of your order.

- **1.6 What is the policy on updates...how much do they cost?**

  All minor updates are free as of this writing (subject to change). Minor updates are those where the software version number to the right of the decimal change (minor updates usually slightly differs from each other), but the digit to the left of the decimal stays the same. For example, updates from 3.0 to 3.1 are free, however, 2.x to 4.0 will be on a cost basis.

  Additionally, if a new major version does get issued, it is offered to our current customers at a discounted rate (50% discount) - it means that to register a major version update you will have to pay only 50% of its total price for each license to be renewed (for instance, $50 USD for one license renewal if the price is $100) to renew your registration.

- **1.7 What are the advantages for distributing patches?**

  Distributing the changes as the "patch" has several significant advantages over distributing new version of the product. First, you don't have to make new CD-ROM's (or multiple floppy disks) and new boxes.

  The patches are usually small and easy to distribute on single floppy or over the Internet. Due to the differential nature of the patches, you can also distribute your patches freely (from your web page for example), because it is impossible to install patch without previous (bought and registered) version of product.

- **1.8 What is the difference between patching and incremental updating?**

  Incremental update contains all the files which have been changed between two versions.

  DF-files made with DF SDK consists only of the changes from within each individual file with the help of byte-level differencing technology used by our patching engine, resulting in a significantly smaller update size.

2. Technical Questions:

- **2.1 What is the main idea of building update modules?**
  The main idea of building patches is that patch file represents only information concerning changes made to an old version software product files relatively to a new version software product files. And if these changes are not significant relatively to total size of new version files than such delivering of update module (patch file/patch module) can become more effective method of update delivering.

  Software has its bugs. These bugs are often discovered after the official release of the product. You are getting bug reports from your users. It's terrible that you spent your money to create fancy box, to record CD-ROM's and to distribute your software and several days after they appear. So, you should use "patch" which just contains description of changes you have made to your product since the official (or just previous) release. What's more, the difference between previous and current version to keep the patches as small as possible.

- **2.2 Why patch file size for EXE-files and DLL-files update sometimes appears to be rather large... ?**

  This is so indeed, similar effect can occur sometimes. At recompilation of source code with insignificant changes regarding source code of the old version output file of newer version (EXE, DLL, etc.) most likely will have significant difference comparing with old version files. First of all, it is a result of some features of program binary code representation in Win32/PE executable files.

  Here are some recommendations to reduce the size of output patch file in this case:
  - Try to reduce files size by moving unchanged parts of the program (viz. their invariability from version to

version or their insignificant changes) to dll-modules.
- Do not apply Exe-compression utilities to deflate executable files (if there is no extreme necessity).

But nevertheless PatchFactory considers all these features of EXE and DLL files and provides optimal patch building in these cases.

- **2.3 I need to update a database with things like adding columns or so. Does your software could help me to patch the database using sql or it can replace old files...?**

  DF SDK does not deal with any specific data structures, it operates with files and directories. Databases or files of other formats can be updated only as binary files (**warning:** database update can be implemented only if it is not changed on the end-user's machine).

- **2.4 Does the DF SDK require any third-party libraries to run?**

  DF SDK is entirely self-contained: it does not use any 3rd party libraries, and only requires libraries which are part of the base operating system.
  With DF SDK, you have the assurance that customers with different hardware and software configurations will always be able to update your software.

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and at sales@agensoft.com regarding sales issues (ordering problems, partnership suggestions, etc.)
You can also use our online email-form (preferably) to contact us.
We'll get in touch with you as soon as possible (usually within two business days).
* Do not forget to provide us with necessary technical information (Windows version, Detailed description of your problem,
and your registration information, if you are a registered user).

4. Registration and Support

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• **Premium Corporate License**	intended for large companies and corporates with many employees. The software is licensed to the name of the company purchasing the license. And besides this type of license entitles an organization to receive one copy of the distribution software and to duplicate the software for any number of people or workstations within the corporation. It also entitles an organization to receive high-priority support (with guaranteed answer within 1 business day) via email and free major version upgrades during lifetime of the product.

NOTE: Source code can be provided only with Commercial or Corporate license for additional payment.

NOTE: All licenses include the royalty-free distribution of modules marked as redistributables both for you and your customers for an unlimited number of applications, free minor version updates with special 50% discount for major upgrades during lifetime of the product and high-priority technical support via email and public support forums.

NOTE: The price for Personal, Commercial and Corporate licenses as well as other service terms are

subject to change without any notice. **To get the latest information about our pricing and discounting policy and other services, you can** *visit our public web-site at* **www.agensoft.com.**

If you do not receive a responce from us within a reasonable amount of time (usually two business days for credit card payments or two weeks for other payments), please notify us by email at sales@agensoft.com. We request your apologize for any inconvenience caused by those delays if any.

If you have any problems after you placed an order, visit our Ordering Problem and FAQ pages or send an e-mail to our Sales Support Team at sales@agensoft.com. Please include your name, e-mail address, and detailed description of your problem. We make every effort to reply to all e-mail inquiries within two to four hours with a maximum of 48 hours or two business days.

Competitive Upgrade - up to 50% OFF for migration to DF SDK. If you have previously purchased an updating solution and have experienced any options, performance, or reliability issues, AgenSoft offers you the chance to upgrade from your current vendor's software to PatchFactory. Please forward a copy of the order confirming your purchase of that updating software at sales@agensoft.com and we'll gladly e-mail you the special instructions to obtain your upgrade to PatchFactory.

Purchasing a DF SDK license entitles you to the following:
• Royalty-free distribution of DF SDK redistributable modules in your applications • Free minor version updates during lifetime of the product • Free Technical Support (via email and public Support Forums) • Access to all Technical Support resources (including hidden area available only for registered users) • Discounted License Upgrade and Registration Renewal price

* "Free minor version updates" means that by purchasing version 1.0, you have also purchased 1.1, 1.2 and all other 1.x versions, but not version 2.0 and later. However, you will get free major version update if it has passed less than 3 months since the date of your purchase.

4.3. Update and support

- **Update**

As a registered user of DF SDK you will be able to receive all minor updates of DF SDK free of charge.
It means that by purchasing version 1.1, you have also purchased 1.2, 1.3 and all other 1.x versions, but not
version 2.0 and later. However, at the present time there we are not planning to release a new major version
update and it is entirely possible that only minor versions will ever be published.

Update information: www.agensoft.com/updates
Download information: www.agensoft.com/download.html

- **Support**

If you have a question regarding the operation of DF SDK, please take a moment to review the most common
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs). You may find there the answer you are looking for! If there is no answer do
not hesitate to contact us. We'll help you and respond to your message as soon as possible (usually within 24 to 48
hours).

Support information: www.agensoft.com/support

You can use our online email-form (preferably) to contact us. Just fill all necessary fields and click on "Send Email"
button. Do not forget to select the correct Question Category for your message and write the detailed description of
your problem - it can significantly shorten the respond time.

All comments and suggestions concerning improvements to DF SDK are appreciated!

When asking for technical support please inform us about the following:
- DF SDK version installed (from the "About" dialog including build number)
- Full OS version installed (including Service Pack installed and Localization)
- Detailed description of your problem (with a screenshot if possible)
- Your registration information (if you are a registered user)

NOTE: before requesting technical support, please ensure that you are using the latest version of DF SDK.

5. Contact information

Contacting AgenSoft...

Please refer to the E-mail addresses below for further information.

- info@agensoft.com
General information and feedback. Any suggestions and comments will be welcomed!

- support@agensoft.com
Customer technical support service or bug report.

- sales@agensoft.com
Purchase or registration code affairs. We will be happy to help you.
Software distribution, promotion in software compilations, or business cooperation. We are open to various levels of cooperation.

- webmaster@agensoft.com
Exchanging links or placing advertisement.

You can also use our online email-form (preferably) to contact us.

Visit our public web-site www.agensoft.com for further information.