



*Frequently  
Asked Questions*  
Upgrading to  
Rocket UniData 8.1  
from Earlier Versions  
of UniData



We gathered a few frequently asked questions surrounding the Rocket UniData 8.1 product release. To consider yourself better informed when considering to upgrade, please familiarize yourself with the content of this useful document. If you should have a question that is not covered in this FAQ document, please contact your support provider.

***Q: Will I have to pay for this Upgrade to 8.1?***

A: There is no charge to upgrade to 8.1 if you are on currently on maintenance. If you are not actively on maintenance, you will need to reinstate with your Rocket Software provider.

***Q: What are some of the features of the new release (UniData 8.1)?***

A. Some of the highlighted new features and updates associated with 8.1 are as follows:

**Performance and Reliability Features**

- 64 bit file support
- 64 bit architecture
- Hash algorithm improvements
- Merge/Split improvements
- Recoverable File System enhancements

**Security and Compliance Features**

- Automatic Data Encryption enhancements
- IBM WebSphere MQ-MQI
- IPv6 support added
- Key / Index encryption
- SSL Updates (major patches for security vulnerabilities)

**Usability Updates**

- Account-based licensing
- External Database Access enhancements
- Installation and upgrade improvements
- Replication Performance Monitor
- XML support for U2 Dynamic Objects
- Local Subroutines/Functions with Variable Scoping

The above represents some of the major features, however for a more comprehensive list, see the ***UniData New Features Guide*** that is included with the *UniData 8.1 documentation set*.



**Q: What else should I consider when upgrading to UniData 8.1 from a previous version?**

A. Here are some items to take into account when upgrading:

- The 8.1 release will only run on supported 64-bit Operating Systems. If you do not already own 64-bit hardware, you will need to obtain it.
- Upgrading to 8.1 is a good opportunity to evaluate your current disk structuring. For example, in a RAID environment changing the configuration of RAID-10 with small stripe sizes could increase performance.
- It is advised to not resize all of your files initially to 64-bit or type 3 hashing, in case you need to revert them, as these new parameters are not backwards compatible. Consider resizing files to 64-bit and type 3 hashing in a staging or testing environment first. *By default*, new files are created with type 3 and 32-bit.
- Due to some stability improvements, specific to the way UniData handles shared memory, basic shared memory has been changed in some situations to heap memory. Segments that store UniBasic variables are now stored in heap memory. You may want to review your UniData shared memory udtconfig parameters, as they may be oversized for this release.
- With the 8.1 release, the way that the cleanup process detects inactive processes now requires each UniData session to have its own semaphore. This may require a review of the kernel tuning parameters for semaphores.
- If your installation requires a remake of the udt executable, you should ensure any linked libraries, code, DLL's, are all 64-bit compatible.
- Be aware that udtinstall/updatesys is deprecated in UniData 8.1.0 and will be removed from the product in UniData 8.1.1. Please use the udtsetup script in regards to upgrade and refer to the UniData Installation Guide appendix for details.
- Have a "rollback plan" for upgrading in a production environment. UniData 8.1 makes it easier to back up your core UniData environment in the event you need to roll back. For Windows, there's now a backup question prompted to the user during the upgrade process. For UNIX/Linux, you can now use the udtsetup script to get similar backup questions when upgrading. The udtinstall/updatesys script does not have this feature. Please see the UniData Installation Guide (bundled with the Documentation set) for more detail.

**Q: Will I need to run UniData 8.1 in parallel with my existing system?**

A. The answer depends upon the current release you are coming off of before upgrading to 8.1. In most cases no. You can only run one point release from each major UniData version at a time. For example, you can run 7.3.6 and 8.1.0, but not 7.3.6 and 7.3.7.



**Q: Once I upgrade to 8.1, will I need to compile and catalog my programs?**

A: We recommend that you compile and catalog your programs, however it not required. Be aware that we have made several performance changes in this release around compilation that deal with the performance of the equate statements.

**Q: Will I need to increase my disk area where UniData is installed to accommodate the new release?**

A: UniData's footprint has not grown substantially, however it is always a good idea to re-evaluate your file systems and an upgrade to the UniData database is always a good time to do it.

**Q: Should I upgrade my Operating System if I do an upgrade to UniData 8.1?**

A: Before upgrading your OS, check our [Product Availability Matrix \(PAM\)](#) and be sure UniData 8.1 will run with the current version of your 64-bit OS.

**Q: Is there anyone at Rocket that can help out with the upgrade process or be available if I need additional support?**

A: Yes, Rocket Software offers MultiValue Professional Services team to assist you with your upgrade to UniData 8.1. The cost of our professional services would be commensurate with the services rendered. For more information or to request a quote, email [MVServices@rs.com](mailto:MVServices@rs.com).

**Q: With the new 64 Bit feature, is it necessary for me resize all my files?**

A: We suggest that you do not initially resize *all* of your files into 64-bit or type 3 hashing - in case you need to revert them, as these new parameters are not backwards compatible. Consider resizing files to 64-bit and type 3 hashing in a staging or testing environment first. By default, new files are created with type 3 and 32-bit.

**Q: Are any features deprecated/removed in the 8.1 release?**

A: Yes, two things are being deprecated or removed:

- The AMI interface has been superseded by MQ-MQI, as IBM deprecated AMI many years ago. Any programs compiled in AMI will need to be refactored using MQI.
- Object-call functionality has been removed. Please migrate to UniObjects or U2 Toolkit for .NET.



***Q: How long will it take to migrate to the 8.1 release?***

A: How long it will take to migrate to 8.1 will depend on the size of your application, how many accounts, how many programs, and other factors.

***Q: Is there a learning curve associated with the 8.1 release?***

A: The new features may require some time to learn, but they are well documented. Administrators and programmers alike will be able to learn quickly.