

Are there any ISAM files left in SYSPRO 8?

SYSPRO 8 Technical Article

Last Published: March 2021



SYSPRO Help and Reference

Copyright © 2021 SYSPRO Ltd

All rights reserved

No part of this document may be copied, photocopied, or reproduced in any form or by any means without permission in writing from SYSPRO Ltd. SYSPRO is a trademark of SYSPRO Ltd. All other trademarks, service marks, products or services are trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective holders.

SYSPRO Ltd reserves the right to alter the contents of this document without prior notice. While every effort is made to ensure that the contents of this document are correct, no liability whatsoever will be accepted for any errors or omissions.

This document is a copyright work and is protected by local copyright, civil and criminal law and international treaty. This document further contains secret, confidential and proprietary information belonging to SYSPRO Ltd. It is disclosed solely for the purposes of it being used in the context of the licensed use of the SYSPRO Ltd computer software products to which it relates. Such copyright works and information may not be published, disseminated, broadcast, copied or used for any other purpose. This document and all portions thereof included, but without limitation, copyright, trade secret and other intellectual property rights subsisting therein and relating thereto, are and shall at all times remain the sole property of SYSPRO Ltd.

Contents

SYSPRO 8 and ISAM Files.....	3
SYSPRO 7 Background.....	3
SYSPRO 8.....	3
SYSPRO 8 and File System Related FAQs	4
Where can I find out more about the SYSPRO 8 Database Architecture?	4
What about the Data Dictionary?.....	4
What about the MRP Requirements Calculation?	5
How does SYSPRO 8 handle temporary data?	5
Does SYSPRO 8 still use the Setting folder?	6
Should I have any files in the DATA folder?.....	6
Should I have any files in the WORK folder?	7

SYSPRO 8 and ISAM Files

One of the key design considerations for SYSPRO 8 was to migrate the last remaining ISAM files used by SYSPRO 7 applications to SQL Server.

SYSPRO 7 BACKGROUND

In SYSPRO 7, end users had a choice to store their transactional data in SQL Server or as ISAM files in the file system. The choice was to allow customers who had elected to remain on the legacy ISAM environment, the opportunity to use the functionality provided in SYSPRO 7.

It also provided the opportunity for these customers on the legacy ISAM environment to migrate to SQL Server – gaining the benefits of this environment. Benefits such as:

- Vastly improved data integrity
- Enhanced performance and scalability
- Improved security and openness of data under strict access control

However, even if an end user elected to use SQL Server for their data storage, there were several configuration and log files that remained as ISAM data storage in SYSPRO 7.

SYSPRO 8

When migrating to SYSPRO 8, all of the configuration and log files that remained in ISAM on SYSPRO 7 are migrated to SQL Server, into either the system-wide or company specific databases, depending on the type of data.

During the migration process, once each ISAM file has been migrated to SQL Server, it is moved into an `ISAM_ARCHIVE` subfolder in either the `DATA` or `WORK` folder as appropriate.

Note: Apart from migrating data from SYSPRO 7 to SYSPRO 8 - SYSPRO 8 does not access any ISAM files in either the `DATA` or `WORK` folders.

The remainder of this document answers some of the additional questions that have been asked relating to SYSPRO 8 and the use of the file system.

SYSPRO 8 and File System Related FAQs

WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE SYSPRO 8 DATABASE ARCHITECTURE?

A comprehensive document describing the SYSPRO 8 Database Architecture from a conceptual and practical viewpoint has been published as part of the SYSPRO Help.

The key topics covered by this document are:

- SYSPRO and Online Transaction Processing
- Supported versions of Microsoft SQL Server
- The SYSPRO 8 Database Architecture
- Guidelines for customizing the SYSPRO database
- Configuring SYSPRO to work with SQL Server
- Insight into SYSPRO Applications and their interaction with SQL Server
- SQL Health Dashboard

Note: This document is part of the SYSPRO 8 Help Technical Guides (located under the **Resources** section of the [SYSPRO 8 Help](#) website) and is named: **Database Architecture**.

WHAT ABOUT THE DATA DICTIONARY?

SYSPRO 8 ships with a data dictionary that describes the database structures used by SYSPRO 8 applications.

This is a complete description of the following in the system-wide and company specific databases:

- Tables
- Columns
- Indexes
- Foreign keys

The data dictionary is shipped as a set of files in the `BASE\DD` folder.

During the initial setup of a SYSPRO 8 system, or when minor database upgrades are being applied, the data dictionary described by the files in `BASE\DD` are uploaded to a set of system-wide tables so that applications can access the data dictionary from SQL Server. The SQL Server BULK INSERT function is used when uploading the data dictionary to ensure optimum performance during this process.

Applications like the SQL Health Dashboard use the data dictionary described in the system-wide tables to perform generic database schema validation, and other generic functions.

The following table lists the files migrated from `BASE\DD` to the system-wide database:

Data dictionary files in <code>BASE\DD</code>	Tables in system-wide database	Notes
<code>DDSTAB</code>	DdsTables	Table definitions
<code>DDSCOL</code>	DdsColumns	Column definitions
<code>DDSCVL</code>	DdsColumnValues	Column value text (describes column usage)
<code>DDSIDX</code>	DdsIndexes	Index definition (primary and alternate keys)
<code>DDSFKY</code>	DdsForeignKeys	Foreign key definitions (links between tables)

WHAT ABOUT THE MRP REQUIREMENTS CALCULATION?

When running the **SYSPRO 8 MRP Requirements Calculation**, you now have a choice of either storing temporary data in the SQL database or using a temporary scratchpad set of files created in the snapshot folder to optimize system performance.

If you elect to use the file system (in some cases it can be faster due to the temporary nature of the calculation scratch pad), upon completion of the Requirements Calculation process any suggestions (such as suggested purchase orders or jobs) are uploaded to SQL Server using the BULK INSERT function to ensure the best level of performance.

For more details about the MRP Requirements Calculation, please see the SYSPRO 8 Help Technical Guide document named: **SYSPRO 8 MRP Requirements Calculation temporary scratchpad**.


HOW DOES SYSPRO 8 HANDLE TEMPORARY DATA?

There are several situations when SYSPRO 8 applications create temporary data.

In many cases the applications make use of the SQL Server **tempdb** database.

For this reason, it's important to ensure that the parameters configuring this database are appropriate – such as database size and growth factors. When you exit SYSPRO any tables created in tempdb will be removed automatically.

In addition, some SYSPRO 8 applications use the file system to store temporary data on the application server.



The Windows environment variable **%TEMP%** is used to determine the location of these temporary files. Each of these applications is responsible for removing any temporary data stored in the temporary folder once they have finished.

DOES SYSPRO 8 STILL USE THE SETTING FOLDER?

Many system and personal preferences and settings are stored in SQL Server in SYSPRO 8.

SYSPRO 8 2020 R2 also allows you to store many of the preferences and setting in SQL Server. See the System Setup options if you wish to take advantage of this capability.

Alternatively (by default) we still make use of the `BASE\SETTINGS` folder on the application server to persist various preferences and settings.

The files in `BASE\SETTINGS` typically relate to the user interface, such as:

- Listview
- Form
- Toolbar
- Task dialogs
- Pane preferences for system-wide, role and specific operators

However, additional files are stored including:

- Automation settings
- Dashboards
- Operator preferences

None of these files contain data being added, updated or changed or details of any transactions being performed.

SHOULD I HAVE ANY FILES IN THE DATA FOLDER?

Once the migration from SYSPRO 7 to SYSPRO 8 has completed, SYSPRO 8 standard applications do not reference any files in the `DATA` folder.

The only files that may reside in the `DATA` folder are files that are used by third-party applications.

If you find any files in the `DATA` folder and you are sure they are not being used by third-party applications, then you could archive them and remove them from your `DATA` folder.

Warning: Take care when considering removing any files from the `DATA` folder.

SHOULD I HAVE ANY FILES IN THE WORK FOLDER?

Once any migration from SYSPRO 7 to SYSPRO 8 has completed, SYSPRO 8 standard applications do not reference any ISAM files in the `WORK` folder.

i.e. ISAM files that have an extension of `.DAT` or `.IDX` are not referenced by standard SYSPRO 8 applications in the `WORK` folder.

The only ISAM files that may reside in the `WORK` folder are files that are used by third-party applications.

As with the `DATA` folder, if you are sure that any ISAM files in this folder are not being used by any third-party applications, then you could archive them and remove them from your `WORK` folder.

Warning: Take care when considering removing any ISAM files from the `WORK` folder.

Apart from ISAM files mentioned above, you will have some files and subfolders in the `WORK` folder. These files and subfolders are used by SYSPRO 8 applications and should not be removed.

Examples include:

- Subfolders
 - `crm_XXXX` (where `XXXX` is a company)
 - `license.sav`
 - `notes`
 - `vbscripts`
- Files
 - `IMPACT.INI`

Warning: Take care when considering removing any files from the `WORK` folder.

CONTACT MANAGEMENT FILES AND RICH TEXT NOTES

From SYSPRO 8 2021 R1 onwards, you have the option of storing the Contact Management files (`WORK\crm_XXXX`) and Rich text notes (`WORK\notes`) in SQL Server. A utility to migrate your files from these folders is provided to make this a seamless process. If required, you may elect to retain these files on the file system – for example if you have custom software that also requires the files to be stored in the file system.



www.syspro.com

Copyright © SYSPRO. All rights reserved.
All brand and product names are trademarks or
registered trademarks of their respective holders.

