

# Using the DATAFEED<sup>SM</sup> Communication Interface (DCI)

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## Introduction

The DATAFEED<sup>SM</sup> Communication Interface (DCI) version 1.1.0.8 is a different method of accessing DATAFEED from your PC using a Microsoft<sup>®</sup> Windows<sup>®</sup> operating system.

If you are currently using WinDCI version 4.x and experiencing no problems with your data, then there is no notable advantage to using this version. If you access DATAFEED via a third-party vendor's software that uses the WinDCI, please contact your vendor to see if there is any benefit to installing this version of the software.

This software is written in the .NET C# language. It requires the .NET Framework, version 2.0 or higher, to function on your PC; aside from that, no installation procedure is required; see below for setup instructions. This software should be compatible with any version of Windows which supports the .NET Framework.

By default, DCI communicates with Interactive Data's server **idcrp.intdata.com** on port **6998** (different from WinDCI's default port of 60001). Before using this software, please verify with your company's IT department that you are able to communicate on this port, if necessary.

Please contact Interactive Data if you need access to a test port.

Below is a brief list of some of the differences between the "DCI" and "WinDCI 4.x" versions of the software:

- Installation procedure is no longer required (but is available; see below).
- No more reliance on storing configuration files in the C:\WINDOWS directory of your PC.
- Configuration files are optional. The program can be executed completely from a command line or a prepared Windows shortcut. Where needed, configuration files are now stored under the application data area designated by Windows.
- Single EXE file; no more DLLs required.
- No known conflicts with other software on your PC that would cause the process to hang or crash.
- There is a new option to control messaging format.

## ***Installation***

This software is distributed in two ways:

- 1) A standard Windows-based installer (currently named "DCI Installer.msi").  
Advantages to using the Installer:
  - .NET Framework will automatically be installed from Microsoft if it is not detected on your PC.
  - Shortcuts to the software (and its Setup utility) will appear in your Start Menu.
  - You may un-install the software using the "Add/Remove Programs" option in Windows.
  - Setup tool will automatically run to verify and initialize your settings in a configuration file.
  - Sample INPUT.TXT file included.
- 2) A standalone executable, DCI.EXE  
Advantages to receiving the software this way:
  - No administrative rights needed on PC.
  - No Start Menu or configuration file entries created if you wish to use the command line interface.
  - You may keep multiple versions of the executable in parallel.
  - No need for un-installation; if you don't need it anymore, you simply delete DCI.EXE.

If you choose to receive the standalone DCI.EXE, you will need to verify that the .NET Framework is installed on your PC.

You will also need to create your own Shortcuts in your Start Menu or on your Desktop, and run the Setup utility yourself (see below) if you require it.

## ***Setup Utility***

If you are planning to run the application **without** the use of our default configuration files, then **you may skip this section**. The Setup Utility is not required for the application to function.

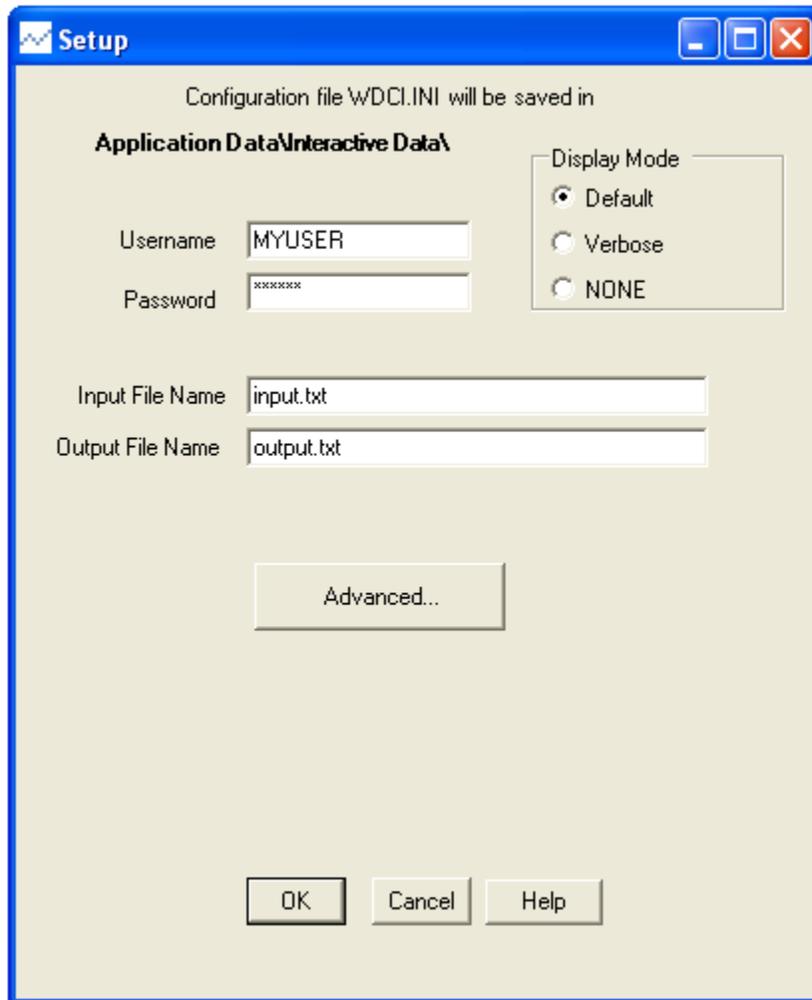
If you use the Installer to set up the DCI, the Setup Utility will appear automatically at the end of the Setup process, and a "DCI Setup" shortcut will appear in your Start Menu. If you do not use the Installer to set up the DCI, or wish to run Setup quickly, you may instantiate the software with the following command:

```
"dci setup"
```

(Make sure DCI.EXE is in your current directory or your current path).

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When you run Setup, you will see a screen similar to this one:



This will store a file called **C:\Documents and Settings\your\_windows\_username\Application Data\Interactive Data\WDCI.INI** with all of your chosen settings.

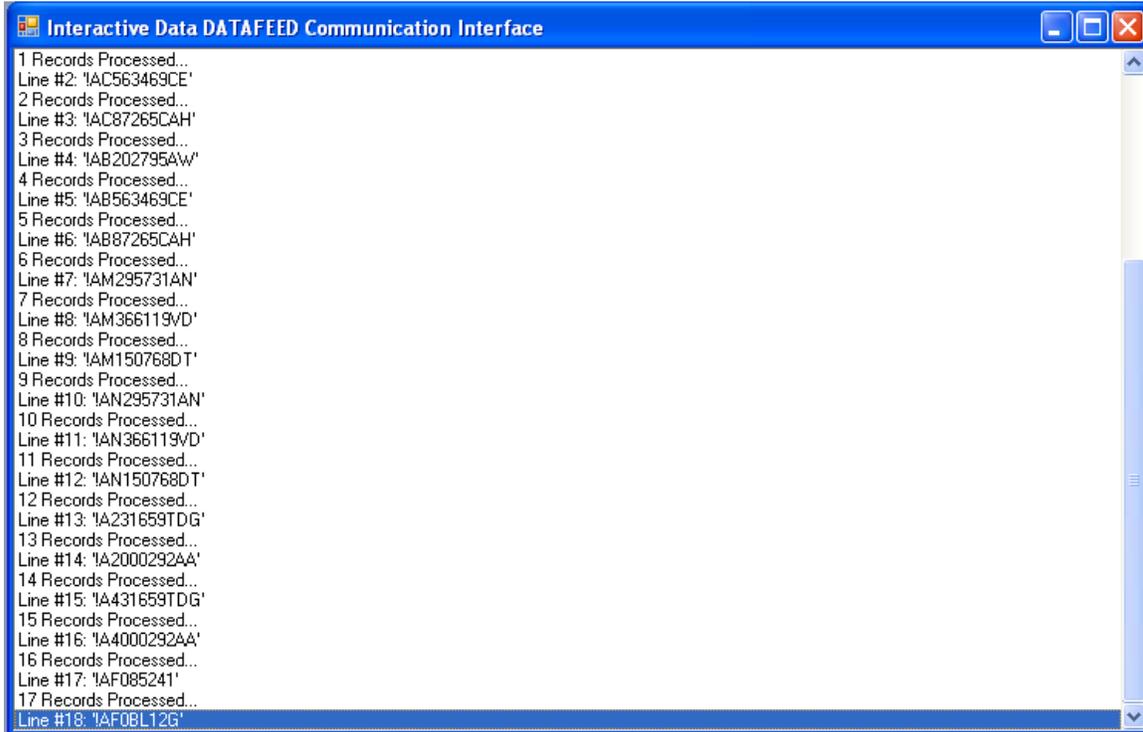
Display Mode is a new enhancement to the user setup. The different display modes look as follows.

Default:

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Verbose:



NONE:

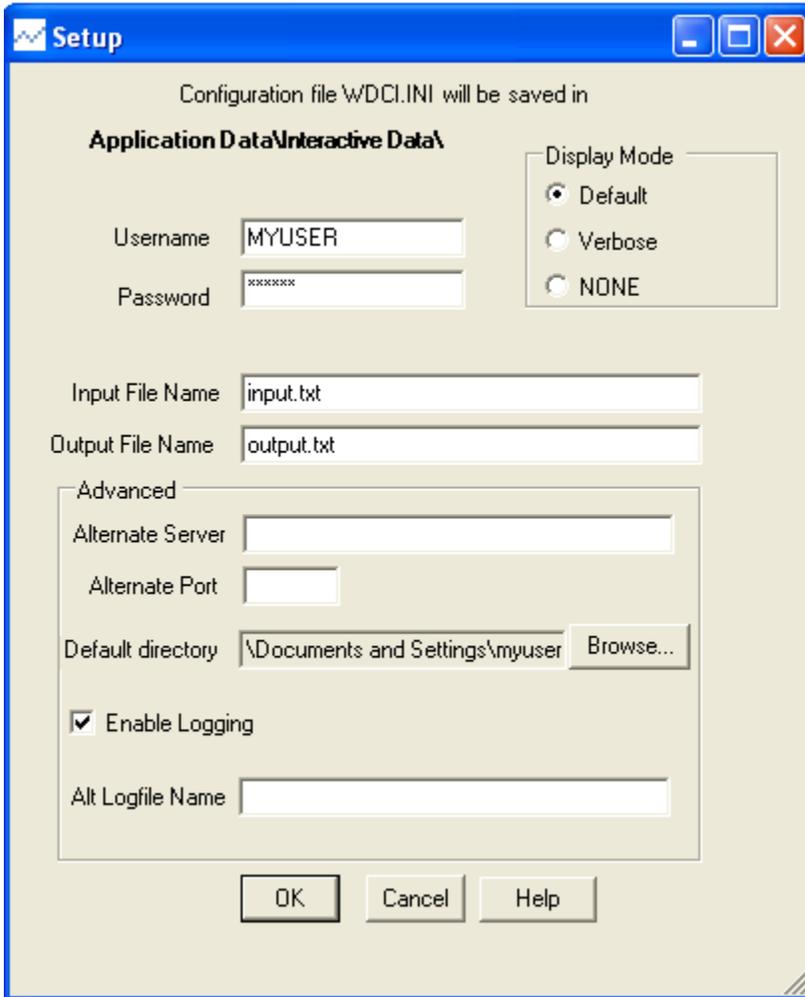
This will display no message while DATAFEED is running.

If you have entered all of your information correctly, then you should be able to run the DCI utility with no command line parameters or from the icon in your Start Menu.

### **Advanced**

The "Advanced..." button will expose more fields, which are further explained in the box when you click the Help button. You will typically not need to change these unless instructed by your IT department or by Interactive Data.

The setup screen with advanced options is shown below:



By default the server is set to idcrp.intdata.com on port 6998. To change these values enter an alternate server or alternate port in the corresponding fields in the advanced section of the setup screen.

The default directory will be set to C:\Documents and Settings\your\_windows\_username\Application Data\Interactive Data\; you change this by clicking the [Browse] button and selecting a different directory. The directory selected here will apply to the input file, output file and log file if you've enabled logging. The WDCI.INI file will remain in C:\Documents and Settings\your\_windows\_username\Application Data\Interactive Data\ regardless of the setting for the default directory.

If you enable logging but do not select an alternate logfile name; then your logfile will be saved in your default directory under the filename DCI.LOG.

## Running DCI

There are three main ways to run DCI.

### Start Menu

You can run DCI from the icon in the Start Menu that was created from the Installation Procedure



### Command Line

You can also run DCI from the command line with no arguments like this:

```
C: \dci >dci
```

If you run it this way, you will see a popup window appear briefly, with a scroll of several lines of information describing the processing of your input.txt file. If it succeeded, then your output file will be generated properly. By default, it will appear here:

```
C:\Documents and Settings\your_windows_username\Application Data\Interactive Data\output.txt
```

The other method of running DCI is with Command Line Arguments.

The following Command Line Arguments are valid, separated by spaces:

- username** Will accept either a plaintext DATAFEED username, or one that was previously encoded in an WDCI.ini file
- password** Will accept either a plaintext DATAFEED password, or one that was previously encoded in an WDCI.ini file
- inputfile** If not specified, will be "[home\_dir]input.txt". Be sure to use double-quotes around this parameter, especially if you use spaces. If a file name is provided with no path, the file will be accessed from the same directory that was used to call the program.
- outputfile** If not specified, will be "[home\_dir]output.txt". Be sure to use double-quotes around this parameter, especially if you use spaces. If a file name is provided with no path, the file will be accessed from the same directory that was used to call the program.
- logfile** If not specified, logging is off. If you set this value to "default" or "on", then the log will be "[home\_dir]DCI.LOG". If a file name is provided with no path, the file will be accessed from the same directory that was used to call the program.
- home\_dir** If not specified, this will be "[Your Application Data Folder]\Interactive Data\".
- display** Controls message display, valid options are default, verbose, and none

- If you are using the command line options, it is best to use at least **username**, **password**, **inputfile**, and **outputfile**
- If you are using the command line options, it is best to specify FULL pathnames with those files. (like "C:\mydci\input.txt"). The home\_dir parameter does not work from the command line.

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**Note:** If a command line argument is NOT specified, DCI will attempt to read that configuration information from a configuration file generated by its own Setup application. As a result, you may wish to store your input filename inside of your configuration, but use a different userid and password upon each run of the software.

For example:

```
C:\dci>dci username=MYUSER password=MYPASSWORD inputfile="c:\my windci files\input.txt"  
outputfile="c:\my windci file outputs\output.txt"
```

## Defined Shortcut

Note that you can also include these command line arguments inside a Windows Shortcut, for example:

