

# Roadsoft Roundup

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## Roadsoft Data Cycle

The Data Cycle is one of the most fundamental concepts to understand when working with Roadsoft and the Laptop Data Collector (LDC). While the Center for Technology & Training (CTT) covers this during the Introduction to Roadsoft training, it can help to sometimes get a refresher.

### Differences in Software

To understand the cycle, you first have to understand the differences in the programs.

The LDC is meant for collecting data. It is designed so that you can easily enter your data as quickly as you can drive through your road network.

Roadsoft is meant for storing and managing, and reporting data. It has a wider functionality than the LDC, but also needs a computer with a bit more power.

### How the Data Cycle Works

Before going out in the field, you must export some sort of data from Roadsoft. To do this, launch Roadsoft, go to the top menu bar, and select **File -> Export -> Export Data for LDC...**, select a place to put the file and the type of data you want to export, then click **Export**. This will create a file that ends in *.ldcz*. Then, transfer the file to your laptop. To import the data, launch LDC, and when the login window opens, click the folder icon to the left of the **DB:** field, navigate to the import file, and click **Open**.

Once you have your Roadsoft data loaded into the LDC, you can go out on the road and collect data. Once you are done collecting new data, you can simply export it from LDC and import it into Roadsoft. To do this, go to the top menu bar and select **File -> Export DB/Data to Roadsoft...**, select a place to save the file, and click **Export**. This will create a file ending in *.ldc2rs* that can be transferred to a desktop machine and imported into Roadsoft.

To import your data back into Roadsoft, go to the top menu bar and select **File -> Import -> Import LDC Data...** The program will recommend that you perform a backup. This is to make for

Click on the chart to see a larger view.

an easy restoration if any imported data is incorrect. Once the backup is done, click on **Browse for LDC Export**, navigate to the LDC export file, click on **Open**, then select **Import LDC Data**. From there, the data is accessible to all of the functionalities of Roadsoft. If you want to collect more data, it is important to start with a new Roadsoft export every time to make sure you have the most recent data.

### Want To Learn More About Roadsoft?

The CTT conducts a number of Roadsoft trainings throughout the year. These range from Introduction to Roadsoft (which can be a great refresher even for experienced users) to advanced training workshops that cover specific topics in more detail.

To learn more about these events, visit [Roadsoft.org](http://Roadsoft.org), or contact the CTT to subscribe to training announcements by email.

The Center for Technology & Training at Michigan Technological University publishes Roadsoft Roundup four times a year. To subscribe, or obtain permission to reprint any articles or graphics from Roadsoft Roundup, contact the CTT.

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