



Link Plus 1.0

Released August 2004

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Link Plus Version 1.0 Release Notes

- Supports NAACCR file, fixed-width file, delimited file, and CRS Plus database.
- Computes probabilistic record linkage scores based on the theoretical frame work developed by Fellegi and Sunter. (Fellegi, I. P., and A. B. Sunter (1969), "A Theory for Record Linkage," *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 64, pp. 1183-1210)
- Provides the following comparison methods:
 - Value-specific (frequency-based) comparison method that sets weights for matching values, based on the frequencies of values in the files being compared. A match on a frequent value is associated with a low weight, while a match on a rare value is associated with a high weight.
 - Last name and first name comparison methods that incorporate both partial matching and value-specific matching to account for minor typographical errors, misspellings, and hyphenated names.
 - Middle name comparison method that accounts for occurrence of the middle initial only, versus the full middle name.
 - Date comparison method that incorporates partial matching to account for missing month values and/or day values.
 - Social Security Number comparison method that incorporates partial matching to account for typographical errors and transposition of digits.
- Can handle missing values of matching variables by automatically treating null or empty values as missing data and allowing the user to indicate additional values which are to be treated as missing data.
- Facilitates a simple and efficient blocking ("OR blocking") mechanism by indexing the variables for blocking and comparing the pairs with the identical values on at least one of those variables.
- Provides the option of using 1990 Census name frequencies or National Death Index name frequencies for computing weights of last name and first name
- Generates "soundex" automatically
- Allows CRS Plus users to use diagnosis date to select a subset of the patients table as the dataset for data linking or prevent duplicating.
- Provides the Graphical User Interface (GUI) for building record layout files and configuration files.
- Generates match report and non-match report that are tab delimited text files and can be easily imported into Excel for review.