

# DisposableLinks

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*Protect your digital goods with expiring download links  
Embed customer specific data to any downloaded file*

*Manual, documentation, and integration guide  
v1.0*



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## DISPOSABLELINKS MANUAL

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## What is 'DisposableLinks'?

With 'DisposableLinks' you can easily create secure 'throw away' download links for your digital goods. 'DisposableLinks' links can be set to expire by a certain amount of clicks, and after a specific amount of time, and can also be locked to a specific IP, which means that even if someone shares a link before it has expired, it will not work for anybody else. Additionally you can disallow downloads from specific countries, and 'sign' any downloaded file with unique (invisible) customer specific data which links each file to the customer who downloaded it.

Compared to competitive products, 'DisposableLinks' comes with a fully featured admin area, where the whole system can be maintained easily. Since 'DisposableLinks' is easy to set up on almost every web server with PHP 4 or higher installed, it is a state of the art solution for the delivery of digital goods through 'throw away' download links.

By using 'DisposableLinks' you can

- make any download link to expire,
- hide the real location of your files,
- 'IP address' lock download links,
- 'CountryLock' download links and disallow downloads from specific countries,
- embed hidden customer details into each file ('SignFile' technology) before it is downloaded,
- keep track on who downloads what, when, how often and from which IP address,
- easily maintain the whole system with the included admin area.

DisposableLinks is easy to set up and integrates into any website within a few moments only. No specific PHP, HTML, database knowledge is required. You will be ready to protect your goods with expiring links in a few minutes only!

*Can you answer at least one of the following questions with 'Yes'?*

- Do you need to deliver digital goods to customers?
- Are you a software developer who sells software applications over the internet and looking for a secure way to deliver your full versions to your customer?
- Do you worry about private download links that can be shared, accessed by anyone, at any time, without your control?
- Do you want to 'personalize' your downloads with a per customer data signature within the downloaded file?

*With 'DisposableLinks' you can*

- protect downloadable files with expiring links
- make download links expire by number of downloads or time
- 'IP address' lock files
- Disallow downloads of your files from specific countries
- hide the real location of the source file
- attach hidden customer details to each file before it is downloaded (the source file remains unchanged - the data is included to the file that is actually send out) - 'SignFile' technology

- admin your downloads with detailed statistics on protected files, number of downloads, downloaded from where and when

and much more!

### *DisposableLinks are*

- easy to set up and to integrate into any existing website (server must have PHP 4.1 or higher installed)
- not complicated in handling - just one line of PHP code integrates 'DisposableLinks' into your existing website (PHP required)
- easy to maintain with the included fully featured admin area: easily keep track on downloads, add new files by a few mouse clicks only, integrated database backup and restore

### *One free edition and two commercial editions for a reasonable price*

- the free edition of 'DisposableLinks' is limited to one file to be used with the system, and does not include the 'SignFile' technology to integrate customer data into the downloadable file
- the LITE edition is limited to 5 different files for which you can create disposable links - it also includes all other features, 'SignFile' technology included
- the PRO edition allows it to generate 'DisposableLinks' for as many files as you want, and also includes the 'SignFile' technology

### *Feature overview*

DisposableLinks comes with the following features:

- Securely hides the real location of downloadable files
- Creates download links that expire after 1 minute or even X minutes, days, weeks, months, years
- Creates download links that expire after X clicks
- Creates download links that can be locked to a specific IP address
- Creates download links that can be set not to work when accessed from specific countries
- Creates download links that do not expire but hide the real location of the source file on the server
- Embeds customer data into files that are downloaded - 'SignFile' technology (provided the type of file does not break on binary changes)
- Dynamically creates download links on your website
- Creates 'upgrade proof' download links that do not get broken if you change the source file URL, the 'send as' file name or any other detail of the source file
- Easy integration: two lines of PHP code and you're done
- Easy and fast to set up: the included admin area makes it very easy and fast to add new files to the system
- Complete statistics on who downloaded which file from where and when
- Complete global statistics on which file has been downloaded how many times

- Easy and professional installation on your server with the included automated FTP transfer of the script package, automatic installation of PHP extensions (if required), database and configuration setup. You're actually ready to run without having to upload or configure anything manually

With 'DisposableLinks' you get an all-round solution for the delivery of your digital products, like software, movie files, MP3 files, PDF documents, or whatever else you might have to deliver to your customers. Download links generated through the 'DisposableLinks' system are safe and the whole system is easy to integrate and maintain. Try it – you'll be surprised how easy it can be to securely and safely deliver your products online.

Some example download links generated by the DisposableLinks system can be found on the [DisposableLinks website](#).

## System requirements

- Linux, Unix-Server
- PHP v4.3.0 or higher
- MySQL database v4 or higher
- IonCube Loaders (will be installed automatically on the target server if required)

## Installation

The 'DisposableLinks' script package comes with an automated ionCube PackageFoundry setup (Windows only) which transfers all required files to your web server. Just execute the setup executable and follow the instructions. The setup is very easy and takes a few moments only. The latest version of the 'DisposableLinks' installer can be downloaded from the 'DisposableLinks' website at <http://www.disposablelinks.com>

If you need help with the setup application of DisposableLinks, please check the ionCube PackageFoundry website where all possible scenarios that might appear during setup are explained: <http://help.ioncube.com/ipf/index.php> or just check our 'Setup and Installation Guide', which can be downloaded [here](#).

Once the installer has transferred all required files to your server, the installer will auto launch the final setup script on your server in your default internet browser. The setup itself is completed after 5 steps and consists of server requirement checks, database setup, admin user setup, and the setup of some additional script settings. The setup does not require any specific knowledge, except for some database access information. Please check with your webhosting company if you need help with setting up the required MySQL database.

After completing the installation and the setup of the 'DisposableLinks' script, you will have the 'free edition' of 'DisposableLinks' installed on your server. If you have purchased the LITE, or the PRO edition, please follow the instructions from your registration email which you have received after your order has been completed. The registration email includes all required information on how you turn the free edition of 'DisposableLinks' into the type of edition ordered by you.

## Integration guide

### Overview

The integration of 'DisposableLinks' into an existing website, ecommerce solution or any other online project is as easy as possible and requires no specific knowledge, nor any complicated instructions. The whole system from setting up files to be downloaded through a protected link generated by DisposableLinks, over to signing files with the included 'SignFile' technology, to tracking downloads is done through an easy to use and easy to understand admin panel, which runs as a PHP script suite on your web server, password protected to ensure highest security, so that no one unauthorized can view or change any settings related to your protected download links.

Once installed on a web server, 'DisposableLinks' are integrated into an existing website within a few minutes only. Two lines of PHP code do make any website ready to run with DisposableLinks. Files to be downloaded through the system are set up through the included admin panel as quickly. 'DisposableLinks' are full of features, yet not complicated to use.

Protected download links are generated by a specific PHP function call. All parameters important for the generation of a protected link are passed along the function call to the 'DisposableLinks' system,

which then returns the protected download link. After generating the protected download link, you are free to use it directly on a webpage, or email the link to a customer, or whatever might suit your needs. It is just up to you and you do not have to worry about the download link at all. Once generated, it is ready to be used – however, the only limit is how you have limited the download link (either in number of clicks before it will expire, expire by time, or locked to a specific IP address). But all that will be explained further below in this manual and should not confuse you at all.

## Setting up files for protected links

Files you want to be downloadable through a protected link generated by the 'DisposableLinks' system must be 'set up' with the system before a protected link can be generated for that file. Setting up a file with the system is very easy and done in a few moments only.

**NOTE: before you can set up a file you must upload the original file to the file storage folder of the DisposableLinks system!**

To set up a file, follow these simple steps:

- 1.) Log in to the 'DisposableLinks' admin area  
Please navigate your browser to the 'DisposableLinks' admin area:  
[http://www.YOURDOMAIN.com/INSTALLPATH\\_OF\\_DISPOSABLELINKS/admin.php](http://www.YOURDOMAIN.com/INSTALLPATH_OF_DISPOSABLELINKS/admin.php)
- 2.) After logging in, open the 'Files' section by clicking the 'Files' link of the left navigation menu

The screenshot shows the 'ADMIN AREA' for 'DISPOSABLE LINKS'. The header includes the tagline 'Easily create 'throw away' download links for the delivery of digital goods'. The main content area is titled 'List, edit and add new files'. Below this title, there is a table of files currently set up and ready to be downloaded through the system. The table has columns for 'Friendly file name', 'File ID', 'Source file', and 'Save as' file name. Two rows are visible: 'Sample' and 'DisposableLinksSetup.exe'. Each row has 'Get Edit Edit X' buttons. A callout box points to the 'Add a new file' link at the bottom left of the table area.

Friendly file name	File ID	Source file	'Save as' file name	
Sample		sample.pdf	sample.pdf	Get Edit Edit X
DisposableLinksSetup		DisposableLinksSetup.exe	DisposableLinksSetup.exe	Get Edit Edit X

- 3.) Files that have already been set up with 'DisposableLinks' will be displayed in a table – 'Edit' and 'Delete' functions are accessible for each file listed. Note that when deleting a file, not the file itself is deleted – it is just removed from the 'DisposableLinks' system.

- 4.) To add a new file, click the 'Add file' link

- 5.) Enter the required details in the 'Add a new file' dialog:

*Friendly file name:*

For your use in identifying this file. The 'Friendly file name' does not appear anywhere in relation to the download link on your site(s).

*File ID:*

The File ID is a unique ID and generated automatically by the 'DisposableLinks' system. It is used to tell between the different files that are set up with the system.

*File storage folder:*

This is the path to the folder where all files for which you plan to use 'DisposableLinks' must be stored in. The folder must be located in the 'DisposableLinks' script folder. It can contain subfolders. The file storage folder can be changed in the 'Settings' section of the 'DisposableLinks' system. **You must upload all your files to this folder via FTP.**

*Selected target file:*

This is the file that will be send. Please select a file from the drop down file select box above the 'Selected target file' box. If the drop down file select box is empty, then you have not uploaded any file to the file storage folder yet.

*'Save as' file name:*

This is the file name used for the download - when a user later clicks the disposable link, the DisposableLink system will send the downloadable file under that name.

*File is active and can be downloaded?*

If checked, downloads of this file are possible. If unchecked, downloads are not possible, although 'DisposableLinks' can be generated for this file. If a customer clicks a download link for an inactive file, an error message is displayed in the browser.

- 6.) Once you have entered all required information about the new file, click the 'Add file' button.
- 7.) If the file has been successfully added to the system, you will be navigated back to the 'File list' screen, where the new file should appear in the file list.

- 8.) Done. You are now ready to create protected download links for the file you have set up a few moments before.

How you create a protected download link is explained in the following chapter.

## CountryLock – disallow downloads from specific countries

Did you ever want to block people from certain countries downloading your files? Did you ever want to save server bandwidth by limiting your product evaluation downloads to popular and 'common' countries? This is possible with DisposableLinks!

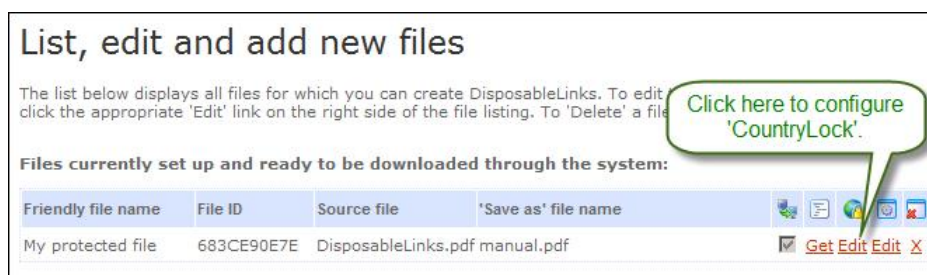
With 'DisposableLinks' you can easily disallow downloads of files from specific countries – you can do this on a 'per link' basis, which means that you can specify whether 'CountryLock' should be enabled or disabled while generating a download link. 'CountryLock' is available for protected links only, which are generated through the 'GetDisposableLink' function call.

### How it works:

For every file you have set up with the 'DisposableLinks' system you can specify a list of countries from which downloads of the file should not be possible. You can easily limit downloads to a few countries only, or, for example just disallow downloads from one or a few countries.

If 'CountryLock' is enabled for a specific download link, the DisposableLink system will check from which country the client (the user who clicks a download link) comes from. DisposableLinks includes GeoLite data created by MaxMind, available from <http://www.maxmind.com>. To set up 'CountryLock' for a specific file do this:

- Open the 'Files' section of the 'DisposableLinks' admin area
- Click the 'Edit' link below the 🌐 symbol




- The following screen will be displayed:



- To finally enable 'CountryLock' for a download link, you must set the 'CountryLockEnabled' variable to 'Yes' when you generate a protected download link. Please check the 'Integration' section for details.


## Automatic PHP integration code generation

The DisposableLinks system can automatically generate PHP code for the generation of download links for a specific file. Just click the 'Get' link below the  image in the list of files:



By default, the DisposableLinks system will auto-generate a sample protected download link for the selected file. That link will expire after 3 clicks, or after 24 hours. You should configure the download link settings on the 'Code generation' page to fit your requirements:

**Custom integration code generator:**

To customize the integration code for the file with the FileID  with your settings, please specify the data below and click the 'Generate code' button. The page will then reload and display the integration code according to your settings.

**Unique customer ID:**  (Enter a unique ID - maybe an Order ID or some other unique string - or [generate](#) one)

**Clicks to expire:**  (Enter the number of clicks before the link will expire)

**Seconds to expire:**  (Enter the amount of seconds before the link will expire - minimum: 60 seconds)

**Lock to IP:**  (Enter the IP address to which the protected link should be locked to)

**Enable 'CountryLock'**  (Check if you want to disallow downloads from the countries specified in the 'CountryLock' settings for this file)

**Data to embed into file:**  (Enter the data to embed into the downloaded file - leave empty if not required)

After clicking the 'Generate code' button, the system will automatically generate the PHP integration code for the generation of a download link according to your settings. The code will be displayed in the code box:



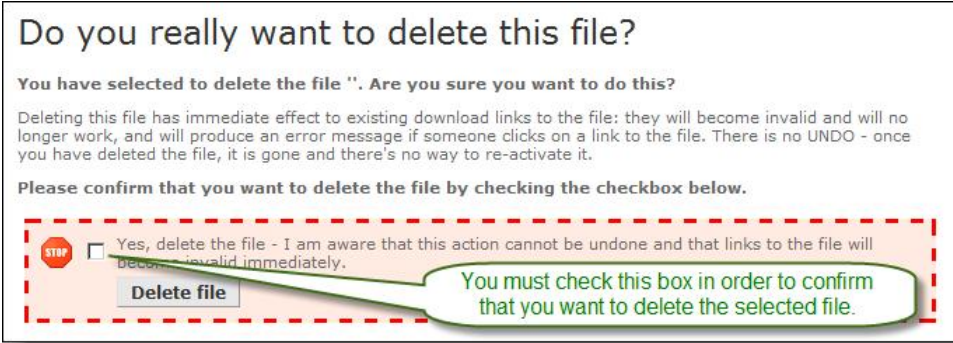
### The 'Edit' and 'Delete' file options

Deleting or editing files is as easy as setting up new file. Just click the appropriate link next to a file's listing to either edit, or delete a file.

#### Delete a file:

If you want to delete a file, please note the following: once you have deleted a file the generation of a download link for that file will fail with error code -10 (see error code table further below in this manual). There is no undo of the 'Delete' function – once you have deleted a file, it is permanently removed from the system and cannot be re-activated!

For your security we have added an additional confirmation screen if you click the 'Delete' link. On that screen you have to confirm whether you are sure to delete the selected file:



#### Edit a file:

To change any details of a file that is already set up with the system, click the 'Edit' link and you will be shown this screen where you can edit all changeable items of the chosen file:

## Edit a file:

To edit the settings for the file below, please make the appropriate changes and click the 'Update file' button. Note that changes will become active immediately after clicking the 'Update file' button and that all changes affect existing links to that file.

>

**File identification settings:**

Friendly file name:  \*

File ID:

**File source settings:**

File storage folder: files-uaz3anpf/  
Select a file from the file storage folder:  ▼

Selected target file:  \*

'Save as' file name:  \*

**File status setting:**

File is active and can be downloaded?

**Update file**

Make all appropriate changes to the file and click 'Update file' to save your changes.

Please note that any change you apply to a file will take effect immediately after clicking the 'Update file' button.

## The integration – how to generate protected links

Integrating a DisposableLink link into your website is a matter of seconds only – the 'DisposableLinks' system can automatically generate example integration code for every file that has been set up with the system. Just click the 'Get PHP code' link next to a specific file on the 'Files' screen of the system and the 'DisposableLinks' system will generate both a protected and an unprotected sample link for the selected file:

**List, edit and add new files**

The list below displays all files for which you can create links. To edit the settings for a file, click the appropriate 'Edit' link on the right side of the file.

Files currently set up and ready to be downloaded through the system:

Friendly file name	File ID	Source file	'Save as' file name	
My protected file	683CE90E7E	DisposableLinks.pdf	manual.pdf	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Get</a> <a href="#">Edit</a> <a href="#">Edit</a> <a href="#">X</a>

Click here to generate some PHP sample link generation code for the selected file.

Alternatively you can manually set up the link generation script for integration into your website as explained in the following.

### DisposableLink that will expire:

- Insert the following line of code right after the <body> tag of your page - fill in the appropriate path to the script:

**Include the DisposableLink link generator script:**

**Ensure you set the correct path to the script!**

```
<?php
include ('[PATH]/getlink.php');
?>
```

- Now, after including the script required to generate a protected link, call the link generation function along with the parameters required:

#### Call the GetDisposableLink function:

```
<?php
$DisposableLink = GetDisposableLink(string FileID, string
UniqueCustomerID,integer MaxDownloads,integer ExpireSeconds, string
SignFileData, string IP, string CountryLockEnabled, string
LinkGeneratorSecret);
?>
```


#### Example:

```
<?php
$DisposableLink = GetDisposableLink('1234567890',
'MyUniqueCustomerData', 3, 86000, 'TESTSIGNATURE', '127.0.0.1',
'No', 'MYSECRET');
?>
```

The example will generate a disposable link for the file with the ID 1234567890, which will expire after 3 clicks and after 86000 seconds (24 hours), and the file will be signed with the text 'TESTSIGNATURE'. Downloads will only be possible from IP 127.0.0.1, CountryLock is not enabled. The 'UniqueCustomerData' is the string 'MyUniqueCustomerData', and the secret to make the generation of the link possible is MYSECRET

- The GetDisposableLink function will return the disposable link as a string. In case something went wrong, the function will return an error code.

#### *The arguments of the GetDisposableLink function:*

- *string FileID:*  
the FileID of the file the system should generate a disposable link for
- *string UniqueCustomerID:*  
a unique string that identifies the customer (or the user) who is allowed to download the file. This can also be some random string as long as it is unique and was not used for the generation of another protected link before. Maximum length is 32 characters  
 **ATTENTION:** if you want to allow a specific customer to be able to download again through a new expiring link once a previously generated link has expired, this unique string must be a different one for the generation of a new link, otherwise the system will not generate new link but will display the old (expired) link to the customer again if the same unique string is used. [Read this](#) for further details.
- *integer MaxDownloads:*  
the amount of maximum downloads (click) before the disposable link will expire; minimum is 1
- *integer ExpireSeconds:*  
the amount of seconds before the disposable link will expire - one hour=3600 seconds; minimum is 60

- *string* **SignFileData**:  
a string with a maximum length of 64 characters which will be embedded into the downloaded file (SignFile must be enabled for the file)
- *string* **IP**:  
a string containing the IP address from which downloads should be allowed. If the link should not be locked to a specific IP, set this to 0 (zero)
- *string* **CountryLockEnabled**:  
'Yes' or 'No' to either enable ('Yes'), or disable CountryLock ('No')
- *string* **LinkGeneratorSecret**:  
a string containing the secret required to generate a link. This secret is specified in the 'DisposableLinks' admin area ('Settings' section)

## UniqueCustomerID – how it affects the generation of download links and the behavior of the whole system

The UniqueCustomerID parameter, which has to be passed to the link generation function, plays an important role in the 'DisposableLinks' system. Per customer you should pass something unique to the 'DisposableLinks' generation script to tell the system that the link to be generated should 'belong' to a specific customer. Let's imagine this scenario:

1. A customer gets a link from the 'DisposableLinks' system to download a purchased product. The link is limited to 3 clicks and to 24 hours – once 3 clicks have been reached, or once 24 hours after link generation have been passed, the issued link will be invalid and a download of the product won't be possible any longer. The 'DisposableLinks' system saves the UniqueCustomerID along with some other data in the system's database.
2. If you offer your customers a 'customer area' with log in functionality based on a per customer username and password, the 'DisposableLinks' system will display the same (old) protected link to the customer if the link generation function is called with the same 'UniqueCustomerID' as when the customer accessed your 'customer area' before, no matter if the old link has expired or not. The reason for this is simple: the whole idea of protected links makes no sense if a customer could generate a new (unexpired) link just by re-loading the website on which the protected link is (generated) and displayed.
3. However – under certain conditions you might want your customers to be able to get a fresh and new protected link even if a previous link has expired – maybe to allow the download of an updated product, or similar. To achieve this, you must modify the UniqueCustomerID for the generation of a fresh download link for the same customer. For example: you could create the UniqueCustomerID from an Order ID plus the version number of the product the customer is allowed to download. You could do that dynamically:

```
<?php
$CustomerID='123456789'; //Alternatively get it from a customer database
$ProductVersion='v1.0'; //Could also be retrieved from a database
$UniqueCustomerID=$CustomerID . $ProductVersion;
// now call the GetDisposableLink function and pass the $UniqueCustomerID to the system
?>
```

4. The above example will ensure that customers can get a fresh download link even if a previous one has expired.
5. If you want to use completely unique IDs for every link generated, which are not somehow linking back to a specific customer, then you can use this piece of PHP code for the UniqueCustomerID generation:

```
<?php
//Generate a unique ID with a length of 8 characters
$UniqueCustomerID=strtolower(substr(md5(uniqid(rand())),0,8));
// now call the GetDisposableLink function and pass the $UniqueCustomerID to the system
?>
```

### Permanent links that will not expire:

You can also generate permanent download links which will not expire and which are not limited in any other way – such a link will just hide the original location of the source file.

- Insert the following line of code right after the <body> tag of your page - fill in the appropriate path to the script:

#### Include the DisposableLink link generator script:

Ensure you set the correct path to the script!

```
<?php
include ('[PATH]/getlink.php');
?>
```

- Now, after including the script required to generate a protected link, call the link generation function along with the parameters required:

#### Call the GetPermanentLink function:

```
<?php
$PermanentLink = GetPermanentLink(string FileID, string
LinkGeneratorSecret);
?>
```

#### Example:

```
<?php
$DisposableLink = GetPermanentLink('1234567890', 'MYSECRET');
?>
```

The example will generate a permanent link for the file with the ID 1234567890. The secret to make the generation of the link possible is MYSECRET.

- The GetDisposableLink function will return the permanent link as a string. In case something went wrong, the function will return an error code.

## Link generation error codes

The DisposableLink system will return a valid download link when the link generation function is called properly with all required parameters. If something goes wrong during link generation because incorrect parameters were submitted to the 'DisposableLinks' system, an error code is returned instead of a download link. The table below lists all possible error codes, the cause for a specific error, and solutions to fix the error.

Error code	Cause	Solution
-1	"MaxDownloads" and "ExpireSeconds" are both zero	Either "MaxDownloads" or "ExpireSeconds" must be set
-2	Authorization to generate a permanent link failed!	Validate the correct authorization secret
-3	Incorrect value for "MaxDownloads"	Ensure that a correct value for "MaxDownloads" is submitted
-4	Incorrect value for "ExpireSeconds"	Ensure that a correct value for "ExpireSeconds" is submitted
-5	"UniqueCustomerID" is too long (max 32 characters)	Ensure that the value for "UniqueCustomerID" is not longer than 32 characters
-6	No "FileID"	Ensure that a valid "FileID" is submitted
-7	"MaxDownloads" is nothing	Ensure that "MaxDownloads" is set to at least 0 (zero) - it cannot be set to nothing
-8	"ExpireSeconds" is nothing	Ensure that "ExpireSeconds" is set to at least 0 (zero) - it cannot be set to nothing
-9	No "UniqueCustomerID" specified	Ensure that "UniqueCustomerID" is not nothing
-10	Wrong FileID - FileID does not exist	Ensure that a valid "FileID" is submitted
-11	"SignFileData" too long (max 256 characters)	Ensure that the value for "SignFileData" is not longer than 256 characters
-12	File not active	Activate the file from the admin area
-13	"Expire seconds" too small	Ensure that "ExpireSeconds" is set to at least 60 (zero) - it cannot be below 60 (one minute)
-14	"MaxDownloads" too small	Ensure that "MaxDownloads" is set to at least 1 (one) - it cannot be 0
-15	Wrong "CountryLockEnabled" value	Set "CountryLockEnabled" to either 'Yes' or 'No'
-50	Database error – download ticket could not be saved in	Check the database settings and that the database is

	database	available, re-try link generation
-99	Link generation called from unlicensed server	Ensure you call the link generation function from a server licensed to run 'DisposableLinks' on

With the table of error codes you can easily set up an error catching routine if you plan to generate links dynamically. However, if you call the link generation script properly, and if you have set up your files correctly, errors should not occur.

## 'SignFile' technology

### What is it– an overview

With 'DisposableLinks' you not just get a system to create 'throw away' download links. You also get a feature which allows it to embed customer specific data to any downloaded file, just like the customer's name, an Order ID, the download date, the IP address from which the download has been initiated, or just any other kind of data, as long as the data has a maximum length of 256 characters, which should be long enough to customize a file and to lock it to a specific customer.

Imagine you find one of your products being offered illegally for download somewhere on the internet. Usually you have no option to find out which of your customers was the one to share his file with somebody else, since every file is exactly the same for every customer. This makes it impossible for you to track which file was originally sent to which customer. 'SignFile' helps you here! It makes it easy to include 'per customer' data to a file – invisible for your customers! If 'SignFile' was used in the scenario described above you could have easily tracked who originally shared his file and lock that specific customer from downloading future updates of your product. Isn't that easy?

### Make any downloaded file unique and linking back to its owner!

With the 'SignFile' technology coming with the DisposableLinks system, you can easily include customer specific data to every downloaded file. The data is embedded to a file right before download - the original source file remains untouched!

```
00000210h: 8C 6B 56 56 B8 62 83 CB 0B 5B 82 98 08 31 D3 CA ; GkVV,bfE.[,~.10Ê
00000220h: 03 41 6A 8F 2B F7 B8 A2 2D 33 B2 5A AB BC 72 81 ; .Aj +÷,c-3²Z«4r
00000230h: 2B CE EB 90 63 FF 24 A3 50 F9 EC 66 DD B3 BA A4 ; +Îë cy$£PùlfÝ³°x
00000240h: 66 DE 67 D0 1D 99 D9 90 34 80 ; àŽ. YuFqD.™Ù 4E
00000250h: 45 44 44 45 44 5F 44 41 54 41 ; MY EMBEDDED DATA
00000260h: F9 A4 AD 4A DD B6 13 D8 0A 6D DA 36 0D AA 96 26 ; ûx-JYq.Ø.mU6.²-£
00000270h: 2B 19 32 F1 6F 18 CF DB 4C 72 43 82 F8 FC FE 84 ; +.7p.IÛLrC,øüp,,
00000280h: AF 90 69 91 56 C4 34 17 C3 70 4C 59 90 75 4E EE ; i'VÄ4.ËpLY uNi
00000290h: 8D 05 A3 58 C8 E5 99 7C A3 CC 9B D2 9A 9C 79 78 ; .£XÈÄ™|£i>òšey|
```

### Custom data embedded into a file

This feature makes it easy to find out which of your customers shares his files with others. Just open the questionable file in a HEX editor, and check for embedded customer data. Then, block that very customer from downloading updates or other files.

This can be any kind of data, like a customer's name, an Order ID, an IP address, or whatever you want to embed to make every single file which is downloaded unique and easy to identify.

## How does it work?

For 'SignFile' to work with a specific file, the source file must be combined with a special 'placeholder'. We provide a special Windows application ('PrepareFile.exe') to make the preparation of files for the 'SignFile' technology as easy as possible. Registered users of DisposableLinks can download the 'SignFile Preparer Application' from the 'Registered Users Area' after logging in [here](#).

The `$SignFileData` variable (which you can populate with customer specific data of a length of max 256 characters) tells the 'DisposableLinks' system what to embed into the file to be downloaded. We suggest to encrypt the data to be embedded so that it is not readable for someone viewing the HEX code of the file.

That way, 'SignFile' makes it easy to personalize each downloaded file with customer specific data. In case a customer shares his file with others, you can easily find out who originally downloaded the shared file, and block that customer from any future download: just view the file in a HEX editor, check the last 512 bytes of the file, where your customer specific data have been embedded into the file.

An example of a file that has been signed dynamically can be downloaded from the [DisposableLinks website](#).

### Instructions:

Download and installation of the 'SignFile Preparer Application': registered users of DisposableLinks download the 'SignFile Preparer Application' from the 'Registered Users Area' after logging in [here](#). After downloading the setup package, execute it and follow the instructions given by the installer.

Once the 'SignFile Preparer Application' has been installed, follow these steps to prepare a file for 'SignFile':

- 1.) Go to the 'Settings' section of the 'DisposableLinks' system
- 2.) Click the 'Download the 'SignFile' pattern file' link
- 3.) Download the pattern file by clicking the 'Download pattern file' link. Ensure you download the file to the same directory where the "SignFile Preparer Application" is located
- 4.) Execute the 'SignFile Preparer Application'
- 5.) Specify the file you want to prepare to be signed – please note that files that are digitally signed will lose their valid digital signature after signing – read below for further details
- 6.) Click 'Prepare selected file'
- 7.) The 'SignFile Preparer Application' will create a copy of your source file in the source file's folder with the 'SignFile' pattern attached to its end
- 8.) Upload the prepared file to your 'DisposableLinks' file storage folder
- 9.) Set up the file in the 'List and edit files' section – you can skip this step if the file has been set up before. Just ensure that the source file is properly set and linking to the prepared file!

Provided the `$SignFileData` variable was populated with some data, the system will automatically embed the data into the file to be downloaded. Please note that the original source file

on the server is NOT touched in any way – the customer specific data is embedded into the data stream that is sent as the download!

Suggestions for embedding customer data to a file:

1. Encrypt the data to be embedded – you don't have to use any strong encryption. A very simple one does a great job.
2. If you encrypt the data, you should mark the beginning and the end of the encrypted data with a special character, or with a combination of characters, which will tell you where the embedded data in the file begins and where it ends. Otherwise you won't be able to find the data in the HEX view of the target file.
3. Embed data which links back to the original customer. Embedding an IP address makes only sense if you also keep records of the IP addresses of your customers when they downloaded a file. The 'DisposableLinks' system logs IP addresses (see the log file section), but to make tracking easier, we suggest to embed any kind of Order ID or some other order specific data which links back to a customer.
4. Please note that digital signatures of a file, like Microsoft Authenticode signatures, do get broken on files that have been modified by the 'SignFile' technology. If a file is modified the file's binary structure will change which will result in an invalid digital signature. That means that you cannot embed data to any file which must be delivered to the end user with a valid digital signature!

## Other features of the admin area

### Logs and statistics

The 'DisposableLinks' system comes with several features to keep control over which file is downloaded by which customer: date, time and IP address of the download request are all logged by the system. Additionally the system provides global download statistics on all files that are currently set up with the system.

The 'Logs' section displays all download link generation requests. Every link generation is logged and saved by the system, along with unique customer data, 'SignFile' data, link generation time and date, IP address of the system that downloaded from a link, as well as the number of downloads that were logged for one specific download link. This makes it easy to determine whether a customer actually clicked a download link, or just accessed the site on which a download link has been generated.

You can reset the log files by clicking the 'Delete all log files' link above the log files table. Please note that deleting all log files and all related download tickets will make existing download links of one of the download tickets you are about to delete, invalid. Therefore you should only delete all log files and the related download tickets if you are sure that all related download links have expired or are no longer valid for some other reason.

If you just want to delete a specific log, click the 'Delete' link next to the log listing. Note that all 'Delete' actions are final and cannot be undone!

The 'Statistics' section displays details on the number of downloads per file. Additionally you can view a statistic on downloads that were blocked by the 'CountryLock' feature. Please note that 'CountryLock' statistics are only available for files which have been set up for 'CountryLock' – see the 'CountryLock' chapter of this manual.

CountryLock statistics for 'My protected file' File ID: 683CE90E7E		Reset
Countries blocked	# of downloads blocked	
Albania	0 download(s) blocked	
American Samoa	0 download(s) blocked	
Andorra	0 download(s) blocked	
Germany	0 download(s) blocked	

## Settings

Database settings, admin user settings, and several system related settings can easily be changed in the system's 'Settings' section. Please note that almost all settings in the 'Settings' section immediately apply once the appropriate 'Save' button has been clicked.

**ATTENTION:** you should **NOT** change any of the available options unless you know what you are doing and unless a specific setting has to be changed for some reason. Incorrect settings can make the whole system unusable which also makes generated links, as well as the integration into a website not to work any longer.

The 'Database settings' section also includes a 'Database optimization' feature which optimizes the tables of the DisposableLinks database. Optimization should not be required, though, as long as the DisposableLinks system has to handle thousands of downloads / download link generations per day.

## Database backup

The 'DisposableLinks' system comes with a database backup and restore feature which allows a convenient backup of the whole system's database, including files, statistics, and system settings. Backups are not stored on the server itself, but can be downloaded instead – this ensures that even if something goes wrong with the server, your system backup is safe.

The restore feature restores the whole system to the state of a backup selected for restore. Please note that existing data in the database will be deleted during restore. You should **NOT** restore from a backup unless you know what you are doing and unless you have not created a backup of the current state before restoring. There is **NO UNDO** of the restore feature – once a restore has been started, there's no way back to the previous state of the system.

**ATTENTION:** you should **NOT** restore from a backup unless you know what you are doing because existing data in the database will be removed prior restore. Restoring data has immediate effect and can make the whole system unusable which also makes generated links, as well as the integration into a website not to work any longer.

## FAQ and help

The FAQ and help section of the 'DisposableLinks' system includes a few important on how the system works, and on how to integrate the system into an existing website. Note that this section only includes the most important information on the system – details on each feature of the system are provided in this manual here.

## Product support

Product support for 'DisposableLinks' is available to users of the LITE and the PRO edition for the first 12 months after purchasing a license. For the FREE edition of 'DisposableLinks' we unfortunately cannot offer product support. The LITE and the PRO edition can be purchased [here](#).

If you are a licensed user of the LITE or the PRO edition of 'DisposableLinks', please connect to our ['Contact' section](#) where you can submit a support request. Please note that all requests are answered in the order they come in - that means that you might not expect an immediate reply, but we are trying to answer all requests within 24 to 48 hours (weekends, and holidays excluded).

## Known problems

Under certain circumstances specific software applications can interfere with download links generated by DisposableLinks:

- Download accelerators: such applications can make a protected download link expire right before the download has actually started. Please encourage your customers to disable any kind of download accelerating software before a download through a protected download link is initiated. Otherwise the generated download link might expire before anything is downloaded at all.
- Anti-Virus, software firewalls, and similar applications: applications controlling the data stream from the internet to the local machine can interfere with the download process of the DisposableLinks system. In such cases downloads stop at 99.9% and do never complete. To get around that problem please do encourage your customers to unload anti virus applications, and similar programs before download, and to re-enable them once the download has completed.