

GO Loader Response to:

‘Questions to consider when choosing OS MasterMap® data loading and management software’



The Ordnance Survey has produced a [checklist of questions](#) for use by technical staff evaluating software for use with OS MasterMap data. GO Loader is proven as the leading software for managing OS MasterMap. Below are prepared responses to the OS checklist. Please contact us if you have any questions.

1 Should I use an Ordnance Survey licensed partner value-added product or service?

Clearly this will depend on your business objectives and whether a suitable service exists for your needs. GO Loader makes managing an OS MasterMap holding simple, so you do not need to look for a service to handle the data management issues.

2 Which of the OS MasterMap layers does the software support?

All layers. GO Loader contains full support for all current OS MasterMap layers, including Topographic, Address, Address 2, ITN Road Network and ITN RRI and Imagery Metadata. As a generic GML tool, GO Loader will support new layers immediately without the need to buy and wait for costly updates. Its unique schema parsing technology can support new layers without the need for software change, meaning GO Loader can read and translate new layers on the day they are released simply by reading the format definitions (known as XML Schema files) provided by OS. GO Loader is a fast, cost-effective and future-proofed choice for your business.

3 Do you want the software to read the data while you are not there?

GO Loader is designed to allow you to schedule your data loads, controlled either through the graphical interface or set to run at off-peak times, such as evenings and weekends. Should a load fail for some reason (network outage, database shutdown etc) GO Loader has the ability to restart from the last successfully loaded file.

4 Can the software read the OS MasterMap compressed data files directly?

GO Loader can read compressed or uncompressed files and so can read the data directly from OS supply disks. Given a top level directory GO Loader can search through all sub directories loading all OS MasterMap files found.

5 Is the software suitable for the quantity of OS MasterMap you will be using?

GO Loader has been successfully deployed in some of the most demanding OS MasterMap installation in the country. Endorsements for GO Loader include the Ordnance Survey, IBM, Accenture, BT, QinetiQ, Landmark Information Group and many more from large central government customers such as DEFRA to County and City Councils such as Warwickshire CC and Southampton City Council. (See our customer list.)

6 Do you need software based on a Database Management System (DBMS)?

GO Loader loads data into Oracle databases. If you have decided to use a DBMS then Oracle and GO Loader is the leading combination for managing your OS MasterMap holding.

7 What aspects of loading/translation can be customised by the user?

GO Loader can automatically create data models and translations for GML data to get you up and running in minutes. However, GO Loader also comes with a complete graphical data modelling engine

which allows you to customise your data model and the translation process. This makes GO Loader both the quickest to use and the most flexible data translation solution on the market.

8 Does the software load/translate all the information in the GML file?

GO loader translates every attribute in OS MasterMap (except the ones you ask it to ignore) including all complex attributes such as change history and text rendering attributes. Its data modelling functionality provides you with a range of methods for handling these attributes so that you can choose the one that best suits your applications.

9 Is the software supplier committed to support improvements to OS MasterMap?

Yes. Not only is Snowflake Software committed to supporting OS MasterMap, but already GO Loader is future proofed to manage any changes to OS MasterMap. The unique schema technology available in GO Loader means that GO Loader customers are up and running with new layers of OS MasterMap without changing or upgrading their software. This was proven with the Address layer, ITN layer and upgrade to OS MasterMap v6 schema. In fact, Ordnance Survey use GO Loader to test and validate new OS MasterMap layer before they are released to the public.

10 Is the software designed for your preferred hardware/network configuration?

Yes. GO Loader is written entirely in the Java programming language, which means that it can run (and is proven) on any of the major operating systems such as MS Windows, Solaris and Linux. As an enterprise solution it is designed to make the most of your hardware by supporting parallel load processes for multi-processor and networked hardware configurations. GO Loader can be deployed on either a client or a server architecture.

11 Does the software store OS MasterMap data efficiently?

Yes. GO Loader contains a range of unique functions, such as spatial partitioning of the database, to allow large amounts of OS MasterMap data to be stored and managed efficiently in Oracle. The point and click functionality in GO Loader lets you configure the database for the optimum performance for your applications. Further the comprehensive modelling tools let you resize and reorder string sizes to achieve efficient storage and fast performance metrics.

12 How efficiently does the software handle duplicate features when loading data?

GO Loader uses the full power of Oracle's relational database engine to carry out duplicate removal and so is one of the most highly optimised duplicate removal processes possible. GO Loader also fully supports the non-geographic chunking supply option available in OS MasterMap v6 thus removing the requirement for duplicate removal.

13 Does the software make best use of the GML file-level metadata?

GO Loader uses the file-level metadata to detect automatically **change-only update** files and apply the updates appropriately. New to OS MasterMap v6, GO Loader also supports the load and management of the Order Summary record storing and maintaining this alongside the data holding within the database.

14 Does the software remove features correctly; can it create a feature archive?

Yes. GO Loader removes deleted features correctly and efficiently and replaces updated features with the new version. It can create and maintain an archive containing all deleted features and all out of date versions of updated features. The archive lets you see the state of the database at any point in its history and, consistent with GO Loader design features, the archive is an efficient solution to managing very large numbers of features. You do not need to worry about the archive affecting the performance of your database since GO Loader uses specialised optimisation to manage the archive separately from the current data.

15 & 16 Does the software provide tools to create your application features efficiently? Does the software provide tools to maintain your features efficiently?

GO Loader is a solution that creates, loads, updates and manages the database and so provides a solid platform to underpin your applications. How effective your applications are will depend on the software you choose to connect to your database.

17 Does the software apply the contents and structure of the OS MasterMap GML files as per the XML schema files and DTDs (Document Type Definition)?

Yes. GO Loader is the only solution on the market that directly interprets the XML schema in order to load and model OS MasterMap. As a result GO Loader is effectively ‘future-proof’ as it automatically supports all current and future OS MasterMap layers. As there is no ‘hard-coding,’ there is no need to wait or pay for a software upgrade to load and use new OS MasterMap layer. In fact the OS actually uses this feature of GO Loader to load new test data

18 Does the software apply the style definitions and mapping styles to features as per the OS MasterMap user guide?

Yes. GO Loader incorporates plug-ins to fully integrate all the major GIS packages with the OS MasterMap style guide. In addition to plug-ins, pre-prepared MapInfo workspace files, ESRI layer files and projects for GeoMedia, Mapguide and CadCorp are all available as downloadable resources from the GO Loader support site. Users can use the prepared plug-ins or create their own styles, as required.