

# Why and how to use ds.exe

We explain purpose and usage of a tool to support  
Data Modeling and/or Data Schema Reengineering via [ERD Notation](#)

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## Purpose of ds.exe

The typical user of [ERD Notation](#) (and then also of [ds.exe](#)) is a person responsible for designing and implementing relational data schemas.

With the help of [ds.exe](#) such design can be

- checked for consistency,
- automatically be implemented (by default in SQL and Java),
- and can – as a Logical as well as a Physical Data Model – be presented in HTML.

## How to install ds.exe (a part of docs2web)

[Docs2web \(containing ds.exe\)](#) is freeware under the condition that you will use it on your own risk only. It can be downloaded from here:

[www.greiterweb.de/spw/use/docs2web.zip](http://www.greiterweb.de/spw/use/docs2web.zip)

After unzipping this file, you have a folder docs2web containing everything you need to use [ds.exe](#) as well as docs2web.exe as command line tools (just add the path to the docs2web folder to your PATH environment).

## Use ds.exe to create SQL, HTML, and Java

Given a file [X.er1](#) containing a datamodel X specified in ERD Notation, a call of the form

```
ds toSQL X
```

will create or re-create the files

```
./dataMo_X/ X.SQL
```

as well as the datamodel's HTML presentation `./dataMo_X/( X.SQL.htm, X.er1.htm )`

The call will also implement the datamodel in Java: `./dataMo_X/code_for_Hibernate/*.java` (we could easily generalize ds.exe to get implementations based on other programming languages, interfaces, or OR mappers – if you need one, please contact me (mail to [ggreiter@gmx.de](mailto:ggreiter@gmx.de)).

## Use ds.exe for SQL Data Reengineering

Given a file [X.SQL](#) containing a datamodel X specified in SQL (an export from a relational DBMS),

`ds toERD X`

will create or re-create ERD Notation `./dataMo_X/( X.er1.TXT )` for this datamodel.

**Disclaimer:** Because it is quite rare that the export function of different SQL-supporting DBMS is creating identical SQL code, I cannot guarantee that ds.exe is already general enough to understand every such dialect. However, should you have problems, please report these problems by mail to [ggreiter@gmx.de](mailto:ggreiter@gmx.de) (and attach your SQL file). A corrected version of ds.exe might then reach you very soon.

One of my **test cases for ds.exe** is [docs2web/testcase/for\\_ds](#) ( Mantis.er1, Mantis.sql, dataMo\_Mantis\* ).

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Should you speak German, please read also "[ERD Notation – Königsweg zur Datenmodellierung](#)".