

Comparison Between SyncDeK and fmDataGuard

With the introduction of SyncDeK 8, there is a functionality overlap between it and fmDataGuard. In fact, perhaps put more correctly, SyncDeK envelopes the functionality of fmDataGuard.

fmDataGuard is a FileMaker plugin, which runs client-side as record add, change and delete operations are being committed. Using Limited Privileges and Validation by Calculation formulas, fmDataGuard performs logging services as a pre-condition for a user being allowed to make a change. It is a synchronous process. Therefore, the user must wait while the logging operation is performed.

SyncDeK is a Windows Service and a Mac Daemon, running in the background on a single server machine. It performs queries into either FileMaker Pro or FileMaker Server Advanced to collect Add and Change records based on flags that are set through a simple auto-enter calculation in a number field. It collects deletes using one of a variety of supported methods, the default being a query into a temp table that is populated in a similar fashion to fmDataGuard via a helper plugin (SyncDeK_TCP). This is not the only option for deletion tracking, however. SyncDeK's logging operations are asynchronous, therefore there is little to no impact to user performance.

In addition to the significant performance enhancement offered by SyncDeK 8 over the fmDataGuard logging approach, another important capability available to SyncDeK is support for network clients that do not, or can not, have a plugin installed. For instance, the newly released FileMaker Go application for iPhone and iPad, while supporting much of the FileMaker Pro experience, does not support plugins as of yet. Therefore, users of fmDataGuard (or any other plugin used for critical services like audit logging) can not support FileMaker Go clients. However, SyncDeK can. As mentioned above, an alternative to the default method of deletion logging would need to be enabled. More information is provided about such methods in the SyncDeK Developer Guide.

Is there anything that fmDataGuard does which SyncDeK does not? Yes, but very little. There are ancillary functions provided in fmDataGuard 2 that were not implemented in the SyncDeK_TCP helper plugin in version 8. These include: DataGuard_Difference (returns a marked up comparison of a before and after content); DataGuard_Look (performs a lookup of information in the Audit Log table); and DataGuard_PostCustomEvent (writes a customizable entry to the audit log). As for the last entry, the SyncDeK_ExecuteSQL function provided with the SyncDeK_TCP plugin can be used to do the same thing to a table of your choosing. See the [SyncDeK Developer](#) guide for more information.

For additional information, send email to support@worldsync.com.