

## Increasing file sizes from within a COBOL Program

This article describes how to increase file sizes with the use of IDXFORMAT-8 in a COBOL program, rather than by using the rebuild utility.

Please also see Knowledge Base article [23003](#).

The program will look something like this:

```
$SET IDXFORMAT"8"  
    IDENTIFICATION DIVISION.  
    PROGRAM-ID. P4010.  
    .....  
    Etc.  
*
```

With the use of the Switch LOCKTYPE"2" you can increase the file size but it will only increase to about 4 GB and not more.

The documentation describes LOCKTYPE"2" as follows:

“Creates a new file with the same base name as the file being opened but with a .lck extension. Any record locks are recorded in this file. This enables the File Handler to read and write to files up to 4 gigabytes in size regardless of whether the file is shared or locked. You cannot set this value for striped files.”

Thus indeed here 4GB is the maximum.

The solution is to use the FILEMAXSIZE setting. If you set FILEMAXSIZE to 8, IDXFORMAT 8 supports very large files with the default locking mechanism. The result is that using the Switch FILEMAXSIZE=8 the file sizes can go beyond the 4GB.

How can you use this for just one file and leave the other files like they are in a program? (This is useful when you have for example hundreds of different files for Products, Prices, Clients, Stock, etc,...

To increase just the files say e.g.: Customers and Prices you can simply put the \$SET IDXFORMAT "8" before the actual file name in the program and then 'switch off' after that file (\$SET IDXFORMAT "3" or "0") which will leave the rest as it is (default).