

# Migration Error (discovered 7/12/2022)

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## What

We have identified a problem in the code that migrates buyers from the prior year database. The problem code results in incorrect references to the migrated buyers in the buyer history and buyer group tables. The most evident symptoms of these incorrect references is that the buyer history entries are missing or attached to the wrong buyer, but it can have similar effects on the buyer group members.

## When

The faulty code was introduced when fixing other issues that was first published as version 2021.2.9 around 7/12/2021 and remained in the code until versions 2022.1.7 and prior year download 2021.2.16 around 7/13/2022. Unfortunately any version 2021.1.x to 2022.2.x must be considered suspect because of the way we track the last version used to open a database. We do have a few tests we can use to confirm the incorrect references are present, but those tests are not conclusive. In other words some data present can conclusively indicate that a version with the problem was used to migrate buyers, but if the incorrect references aren't present it doesn't conclusively indicate migrated buyers don't have issues.

## The Fix

Of course before initiating any repairs we recommend making a back-up of your database!!

We have added code that marks the database as having the error when it was last opened with one of the suspect versions. That mark remains in the database until you can run a repair using the prior year database (the one that was used to migrate buyers in the first place). We can't simply repeat the migration as the buyers may have changed since the original migration. Instead we will attempt to identify what current buyer matches the buyer from the prior year and reattach the correct history to that buyer. Also if the fix is not applied to this database before it is used to migrate buyers to a new database the errors cannot be corrected, which is why we do not allow the migration operation until the error mark is repaired.

There are two actions in the repair screen, Analysis and Repair. If you don't want to maintain the buyer history there is a checkbox that will allow you skip the analysis phase and directly repair the database without supplying the prior year database where we will delete all buyer history and buyer group member entries. If you have opened the prior year database with one of the suspect versions it will also get marked as having the error. That might commonly happen if you run a report or a backup on the prior year database with the 2022 version or the initial migration itself. This will be noted when the Analysis is initiated as an abundance of caution. If there is a chance the prior year database was created with the faulty program, you should run a repair on it first which would require the database prior to it. The Analysis will allow you to continue without repairing the prior year database, if you choose to do so. You can use the Buyer Purchase History report under Reports->Excel Reports to examine buyer purchase dollar amounts stored in the buyer history. If the faulty migration code was used to construct the buyer history, the amounts can get attached to the wrong buyer without creating invalid references.

In the analysis phase we try a few different methods of matching buyers and use the one that yields the most matches. The preferred method is to match buyer numbers. For that method we attempt to validate the buyer number is still in use by what appears to be the same buyer. If there are matching buyer numbers that have different names, you are presented with a grid that allows you to choose whether or not given buyer numbers are attached to the same buyer.

This is an attempt to allow you to identify if the buyer number has gotten reused or if the buyer name has simple been changed. If you are unsure which buyers should be marked as matches you can note the buyer numbers in question, quit the repair screen, research the identity of buyers and the history and groups will not be modified. The next time you start Grand Champions you will be prompted to repair again and can make the match selections based on your research. Once you close the grid (with the X button) you can then click the repair button. If the buyer number match method is not chosen the buyer name mismatch grid will not be presented.

The repair phase replaces the buyer history and buyer groups compensating for changes that potentially have been made to the current buyer data and then removes the mark representing the error. Once the repair has been completed the system will no longer prompt for the user to initiate the repair process. The repair code has been released in version 2022.2.1 and later.

## Repair Example

I download the 2022.2.1 version from the OldGC webpage, if I had access to the machine we used for the auction, I would need uninstall the old 2022 version and installed the new one. Since I am planning on using a different machine for the 2023 season I must install the repair version there and copy the 2022 database to the C:\GrandChampions folder and my 2021 database from my backup flash drive. I start GrandChampions and since it's a new machine, prompts to select a database and I select the 2022 database (if it was the same machine from the auction it would simply open). The 2022 database opens and immediately prompts to repair it. I click Yes, since I have my 2021 database ready, the repair screen opens, I select the name of my 2021 database to repair from and click Analyze. I get a prompt that the repair database might have the migration issue so I click No to give me time to evaluate and exit GrandChampions. Since my 2021 auction was in late July it is possible version 2021.2.9 or later was used to build my 2021 database. We didn't have a 2020 auction so the 2019 database was used to migrate buyers to the 2021 database and it is on my backup flash drive. I copy the 2019 database to my C:\GrandChampions folder, start GrandChampions again and this time click No to the repair question (it's still using 2022) so I can select my 2021 database in the Setup->Select or Create a New Database menu option. Once selected I get prompted to repair that database and click on Yes. I select my 2019 database and click Analyze. The name comparison grid pops up and there is one buyer number that is clearly just a spelling change to the last name. I click the checkbox on that row to indicate it is the same buyer and click the X button to close the grid. I then click Repair and Quit. A box with the repair log pops up and I close it. Now that the 2021 database is repaired, I go back and select my 2022 database and run through the same Analyze and Repair process on it. I should be all set to migrate the 2022 info the new 2023 database when I'm ready to get started.