



Using WRDS at American University

WRDS (Wharton Research Data Services) provides access to data in the university's subscriptions to **Standard & Poor's Compustat Global** and **Compustat North America**, as well as from **CRSP's (Center for Research in Security Prices) daily and monthly stocks** from the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business. WRDS is provided by The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

If you are a student at a public workstation in the American University Library or the Kogod lab, you may click on the URL below to access WRDS (you will NOT need to create an account):

<http://wrds-web.wharton.upenn.edu/wrds/>

Faculty members, masters and Ph.D. students may establish individual WRDS accounts that may be accessed from any location by going to <http://wrds-web.wharton.upenn.edu/wrds/?register=1>. Accounts will be activated as quickly as possible, but please allow up to two business days for your account to become active. Access to WRDS is also available via public workstations in the Kogod lab and the University Library.

Accounts for individual undergraduates, classes, visiting faculty, administrators and staff, and research assistants may be established according to the guidelines detailed below.

Account Types

Users can request individual usernames and passwords and have an option for their specific category including:

Faculty: Faculty members may establish individual WRDS accounts by going to <http://wrds-web.wharton.upenn.edu/wrds/?register=1>. Standard accounts allow unlimited access via web, SSH, and/or FTP, and include 750 MB of permanent disk storage. Faculty will have their own password access; this password is to remain confidential and is not to be shared with any other individual.

Administrative and Staff: Staff accounts are for librarians and IT staff of member institutions. Accounts may be established by going to <http://wrds-web.wharton.upenn.edu/wrds/?register=1>. Staff accounts allow unlimited access via web, SSH, and/or FTP, and include 750 MB of home directory storage. Staff will

have their own password access; this password is to remain confidential and is not to be shared with any other individual.

Ph.D. Students: Ph.D. accounts are available to all current Ph.D. candidates. Accounts may be established by going to <http://wrds-web.wharton.upenn.edu/wrds/?register=1>. Standard accounts allow unlimited access via web, SSH, and/or FTP, and include 750 MB of home directory storage. Doctoral students will have their own password; this password is to remain confidential and is not to be shared with any other individual.

Masters Students: Individual accounts are available for students enrolled in masters programs. Accounts may be established by going to <http://wrds-web.wharton.upenn.edu/wrds/?register=1>. These accounts allow unlimited access via the WRDS website. Masters students will have their own password access; this password is to remain confidential and is not to be shared with any other individual. Masters accounts will expire at the end of the semester.

Visitor: Visitor accounts are available to visiting faculty (non-permanent or part time position). These accounts are subject to additional review and may not be used after the visiting appointment ends. Accounts may be established by going to <http://wrds-web.wharton.upenn.edu/wrds/?register=1>. Standard accounts allow unlimited access via web, SSH, and/or FTP, and include 750 MB of permanent disk storage. Faculty will have their own password access; this password is to remain confidential and is not to be shared with any other individual.

Research Assistant: Research accounts are available to graduate and undergraduate students performing research for a faculty member. Faculty members may establish accounts for research assistants by going to <http://wrds-web.wharton.upenn.edu/wrds/?register=1>. Research Accounts allow access via web, SSH, and/or FTP, and include 750 MB of permanent disk storage. Research assistants will have their own password access; this password is to remain confidential and is not to be shared with any other individual.

Class: Class accounts may be requested by standing faculty of member institutions and are used to access the WRDS web interface only. Class accounts are primarily for student usage that is associated with a specific class and all students in the class share the same password. Up to 15 simultaneous users will be able to share the same account and password at one time. Accounts may be established by going to <http://wrds-web.wharton.upenn.edu/wrds/?register=1>. This type of account provides web access only and DOES NOT have disk storage. They expire at the end of the term. The password is not to be shared with anybody outside the affiliated class.

All Others: If you do not fit into any of the above categories, you are free to use WRDS without an individual or class account on public workstations at the American University Library and in the Kogod lab. Click on this link to access WRDS from one of these workstations: <http://wrds-web.wharton.upenn.edu/wrds/>

Account Parameters

- 1) Projects Directory/Home Directory: Users also receive 750MB of home and permanent project space.
- 2) SAS Temp Directory: There is a 90 GB shared workspace designed for actively running programs. Output may be saved there at the completion of a program, but only to be IMMEDIATELY removed. Files on /sastemp are deleted automatically every 48 hours.
- 3) If a user's job exceeds these parameters, the process will automatically be deleted. To avoid this outcome, users are only permitted to run one program at a time.

Technical and Research Support

WRDS staff of technical and research specialists may be reached at wrd-support@wharton.upenn.edu. They are available to assist you with difficulties pertaining to database access, data queries, and programming in SAS, FORTRAN, or C. If you request support related to a particular program that you are unable to execute successfully, please copy the program into the body of your e-mail for a quicker response. This is helpful for detecting any errors in your program.

American University Library staff is available to assist with account questions and setup. They may be reached at liberm@american.edu.