

Uploading autosomal DNA raw data to GedMatch

For the workshop to be held by Nora Galvin, CG, for Connecticut Ancestry Society

Purpose: GedMatch.com is a private Web site where data from different companies can be compared. This can save you money so you do not have to get tested at all three companies to cast the widest net. You can use an alias at the site so that you are anonymous. Your email address will be visible.

Overview: You will need to download your data from your testing company and save it in a location where you can find it. Then you will go to the GedMatch Web site and follow instructions to upload the file you saved.

To download your DNA from one of these companies:

23 & Me Log on and select the user profile you want to use. (Some people have multiple family members in their account. If you do, you will want to upload all of the profiles, with consent of the individuals, of course.) Click on the down arrow next to the person's name (top right of page) and select "Browse Raw Data." On the next page click on "Download" at the top right. This will start the download of a zipped file. Make sure you know where this file is saved. Now go to "Gedmatch" below.

Ancestry.com Log in and click on "DNA" near the top of the page. On the DNA home page click the link "Settings" under your name. On the right, under "Actions" find "Download your raw DNA data" and click on "Get Started." You will be prompted to enter your password again. They will send you an email. Follow the instructions, then save the file. Proceed to "Upload to Gedmatch" below.

Family Tree DNA Log in to your account. At the top left there is a heading (tiny font) "My DNA." Hove your mouse over this and select "Family Finder." Click on "Family Finder" (not any of the links that appear to the right.) Click on "Download raw data." You need to download BOTH autosomal and X data. Use the links on the right at the bottom (Build 36). The other data will not work at Gedmatch. Remember where these two files are saved. Once both files are downloaded, proceed to "Upload to GedMatch" below.

To upload your raw data file to GedMatch.com:

At www.GedMatch.com. Create an account if you have not already done so. Log in. At the top right there is a box with links for uploading raw data from each of the three companies. Click on the appropriate link (whichever company you tested with) and fill in the next page, providing an alias if you would like. You must say "Yes" to the sharing option or your data will not be available to others for matching. Browse to locate the raw data file you downloaded from the company Web site. Click the "Upload" button. The next step takes a while, maybe 5-10 minutes. You must stay on the Web page until you see the word "Finished" at the bottom of the page. For data from Family Tree DNA you must upload the two files separately, autosomal and X—two uploads.

When the upload is complete, you can navigate back to the home page. You should see your name or alias at the bottom left. It will have 2 red asterisks in front of it. As long as they are there, you will not be able to do a 1-to-many comparison (you against the entire database). In a couple of days or maybe a week, the asterisks will disappear. Meanwhile, you can run 1-to-1 comparisons but you have to have the kit number of the person at GedMatch that you want to compare to (e.g., a known cousin or sibling). If you don't have that, just wait until you can run a one-to-many. All of this will be made clear at the workshop. See you then! If you run into problems with the downloads, email me at auntlizzie@snet.net .

Note: GedMatch is a free Web site. They are getting overwhelmed because autosomal DNA is becoming such a popular activity. It is best to upload to the site early in the morning Eastern time before the rest of the country wakes up. I recently heard of someone who had trouble even registering an account. Be patient and leave plenty of time. Also, donate to them! It is a great resource that requires lots of computers and servers.