

While Collect and Collect XL are very similar, there are differences between the two that can make one or the other more suitable for certain applications. The key difference is in their relationship to Excel®. Collect XL is very tightly integrated with the Excel® application. For anyone wanting to collect data into an Excel® spreadsheet it should be the product of choice. For other data destinations, the regular Collect product would offer the best solution.

The table below reviews some of the key differences between Collect and Collect XL.

Function	Collect	Collect XL
Data Destinations	4 data destinations – keyboard buffer (any other program), Monitor, QuickSheet, file	Directly to Excel®
Pre-Configured Instruments	None	Labtronics Device Library includes drivers for over 400 instruments
Cursor movement	Uses macros to control cursor movement within the destination application	Uses a starting cell position to calculate data destinations - easier to setup
Additional macros	User can create custom macros	Supports Date and Time macro
Multiple instruments	Only allows one instrument per spreadsheet	Supports concurrent data collection from multiple instruments into the same or multiple worksheets/ workbooks
Operating systems	Windows® 95, 98, NT, 2000	Windows® 98, NT, 2000
Compatibility with external applications	Compatible with any application that accepts keyboard input	Directly compatible with Excel® 97 & Excel® 2000
Parsing	Single line parser	Uses LimsLink style multi-line parser, allowing for more complex parsing
Instrument Commands	Instrument commands can be sent on a continuous or timed basis; timing can be set to change as the analysis progresses	Instrument commands can be sent on a continuous or timed basis; timing cannot change as the analysis progresses
Adding additional information to data	Can prompt user for information e.g. operator, batch ID	Information can be easily entered through Excel®
Auto-start Function	Can be configured to auto-start an Excel® worksheet and an instrument from the Collect command line	Instrument and worksheet are started by selecting a Collect XL method
Method Management	N/A	Able to Import and Export Method and Instrument Setups
Excel® Interface	Writes directly into the specified Excel® template	Writes into a spreadsheet <i>file</i> based on the defined master template
Data Sources	File, RS232	RS232
Multi-tasking	Cursor jumps back to the destination application	Cursor independent data collection allows for full multi-tasking

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