

EDIDEV KNOWLEDGE LETTER
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<http://www.edidev.com>

Error code 12378

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Some of you may have already come across this error message:

[DESCRIPTION:Terminator characters present in data. Release indicator not specified][CODE:12378]

If you have not, you will surely come across it in the future.

So why does this error occur? This error happens when a character in your data is similar to a character used as a terminator in your EDI file, and that you have not specified a release indicator. It usually happens to X12 users because in the X12 standard, release indicators are not used.

A release indicator is a character that precedes a data character that is the same to a terminator (separator) for the purpose of symbolizing the character it precedes to be data, and not a terminator.

For example, if you have defined your terminators to be...

```
oEdiDoc.SegmentTerminator = "~";  
oEdiDoc.ElementTerminator = "*";  
oEdiDoc.CompositeTerminator = ">";
```

... and your data is the following text...

```
"**** Fragile ****"
```

...You will get the error message because the asterisks in the text conflicts with the element terminator character, which is also an asterisk.

In UN/EDIFACT, to resolve this problem simply define a release indicator character (for this example I've used the question mark).

```
oEdiDoc.ReleaseIndicator = "?";
```

With a release indicator specified, you won't get the error but your EDI output for the above data will now become...

KN20181101.txt

"*?*?*?*?* Fragile ?*?*?*?*"

This is fine in UN/EDIFACT because release indicators are supported, therefore the above data will be parsed and translated correctly by a UN/EDIFACT translator to be a single text data "**** Fragile ****".

However, an X12 translator will parse the above output data (if it passes the validation process) as nine separate data (seven being question marks, and one being " Fragile ?") because each asterisk will still be considered as an element terminator. But had you not specified a release indicator, the FREDI component will give the error message "[DESCRIPTION:Terminator characters present in data. Release indicator not specified][CODE:12378]" before the EDI file gets generated.

In X12, the steps to take to resolve this error would be:

1. First, modify your program to specify a release indicator. (You would remove this later in Step 5.)
2. Then generate the EDI file.
3. Open the EDI file with a text editor and search for the release indicator character to locate the offending data.
4. After identifying the data element, modify your program so that it removes the conflicting character from the data before the data is assigned to the data element.
5. Then remove the line in your program that specified the release indicator (because X12 does not use release indicators).
6. Generate the EDI file again.

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