



FlyBase bulk data files

Survey Questions Feb 2019



Introduction

FlyBase provides many (>100) downloadable bulk files, each containing defined subsets of data in different formats. These files are accessed via the 'Downloads' menu of the main navigation bar on any FlyBase page and can be obtained via a [FlyBase-styled webpage interface](#) (left panel in figure below) or standard [ftp site interface](#) (right panel). Details of the contents and format of each file are provided in [this document](#), which is available via the 'Overview' link under the 'Downloads' menu on the navigation bar or by clicking the 'Help' button at the top of the webpage interface. Please take a few minutes to browse these pages before completing the survey.



This survey is designed to discover how researchers use FlyBase bulk data files and how we can improve their accessibility and utility.

Note: The Safari browser doesn't support browsing of FTP site directories - please use an alternative browser when completing this survey.



* 1. Which of the following best describes your role/expertise?

- Lab researcher
- Bioinformatician/developer
- Bit of both
- Other

*** 2. Do you use the bulk data files provided by FlyBase?**

- Yes - frequently (every FlyBase release)
- Yes - occasionally (more than once/year)
- Yes - infrequently (once/year or less)
- No - I don't need to access FlyBase data in bulk
- No - I've wanted to, but wasn't aware of/couldn't find these files
- No - I use alternative methods/sites to access FlyBase data in bulk. Please specify:



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*** 3. How do you usually access the file(s)? (Check as many as applicable)**

- Manual download via the [FlyBase-styled webpage interface](#)
- Manual download via the [ftp site interface](#)
- Command line/scripted access via the ftp site



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*** 4. We are considering retiring the [FlyBase-styled webpage interface](#), leaving the [ftp site interface](#) as the sole method to browse and access bulk files via a web browser. How would this affect you?**

- No impact/opinion
- Minor inconvenience - I can use the ftp interface instead
- Major inconvenience - I rely on the webpage interface

Reasons/additional comments:

*** 5. Which of the following bulk file types do you use, or would use now that you are aware of them? (Check as many as applicable)**

- Precomputed data files (e.g. synonyms, genetic interactions, gene summaries, orthologs)
- Genomic sequence files (FASTA, GFF, GTF)
- Ontology files (e.g. Gene Ontology, fly anatomy)
- Map conversion tables (e.g. cytogenetic map <-> genomic coordinates)
- Database dumps for individual data types (Chado XML)
- Entire FlyBase database (PSQL)
- None

*** 6. Are there additional bulk files, or changes to the content/file format of the current files, that would benefit your work?**

- No
- Yes (please specify)

*** 7. Do you have any suggestions to improve the [documentation](#) about the bulk files?**

- No
- Yes (please specify)

*** 8. Have you used 'Precomputed files' as a data source in our [Batch Download](#) tool, allowing bulk retrieval of data from these files for a specified set of genes/transcripts (etc)?**

- Yes
- No, this functionality isn't useful to me
- No, I wasn't aware of this functionality but it looks useful
- I don't use Batch Download

9. Please give any additional comments about the provision of or access to bulk data files at FlyBase below.

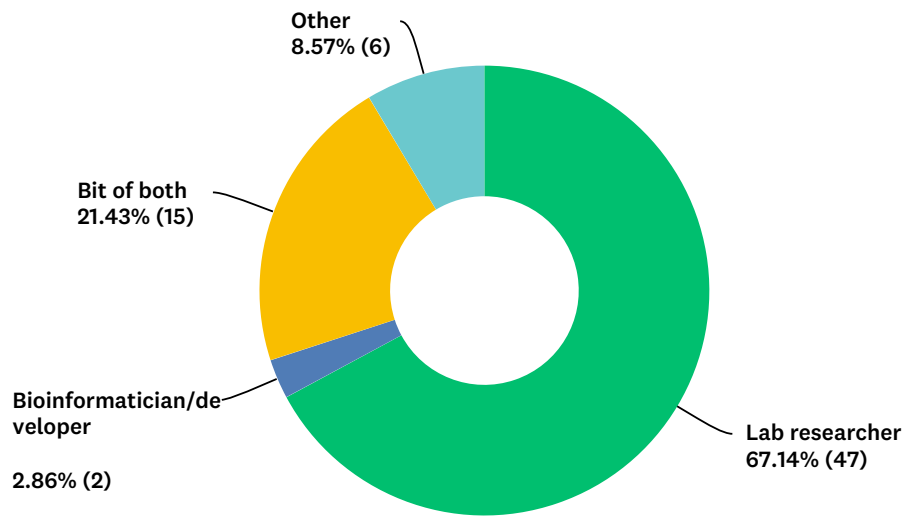


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Survey Answers Feb 2019

Q1 Which of the following best describes your role/expertise?

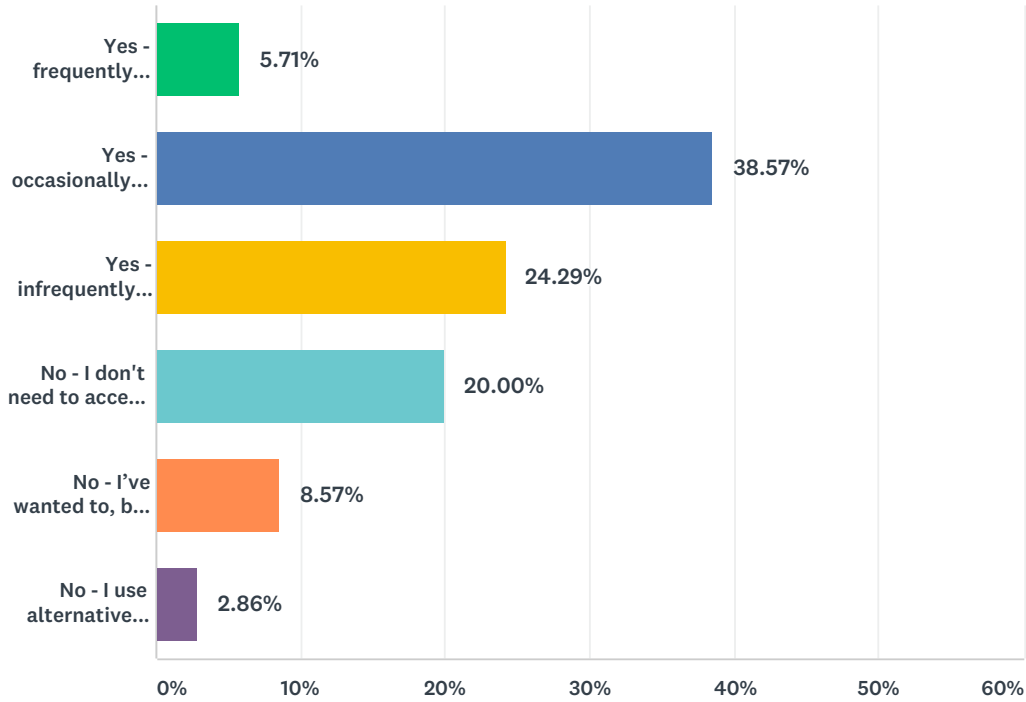
Answered: 70 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Lab researcher	67.14%	47
Bioinformatician/developer	2.86%	2
Bit of both	21.43%	15
Other	8.57%	6
TOTAL		70

Q2 Do you use the bulk data files provided by FlyBase?

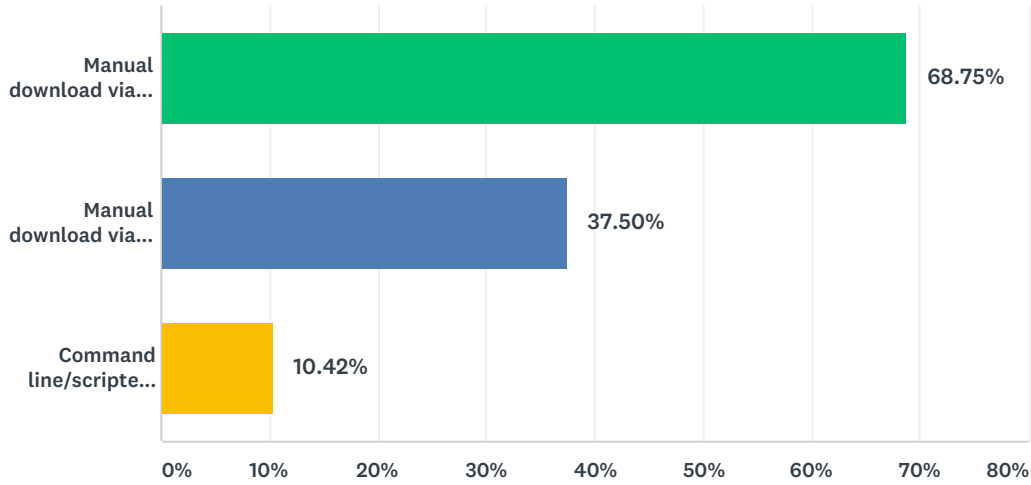
Answered: 70 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes - frequently (every FlyBase release)	5.71%	4
Yes - occasionally (more than once/year)	38.57%	27
Yes - infrequently (once/year or less)	24.29%	17
No - I don't need to access FlyBase data in bulk	20.00%	14
No - I've wanted to, but wasn't aware of/couldn't find these files	8.57%	6
No - I use alternative methods/sites to access FlyBase data in bulk. Please specify:	2.86%	2
TOTAL		70

Q3 How do you usually access the file(s)? (Check as many as applicable)

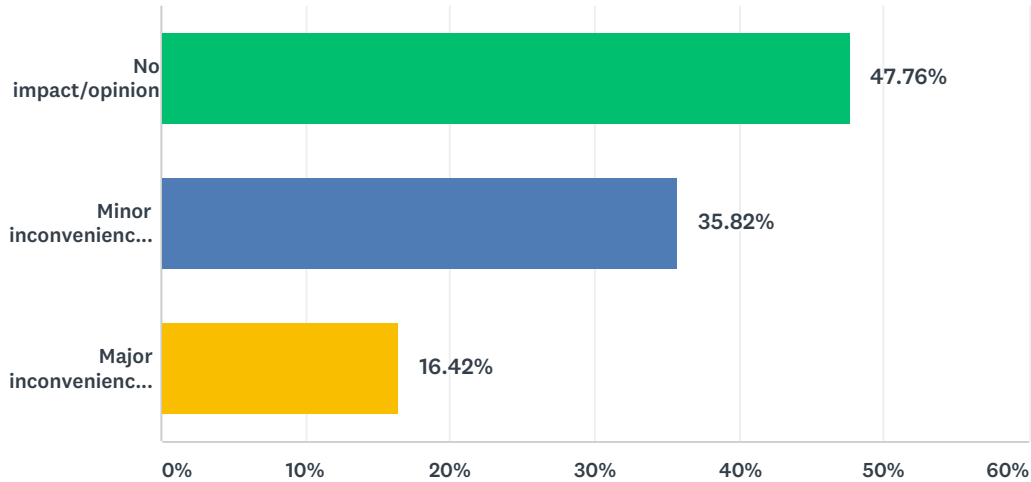
Answered: 48 Skipped: 22



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Manual download via the FlyBase-styled webpage interface	68.75%	33
Manual download via the ftp site interface	37.50%	18
Command line/scripted access via the ftp site	10.42%	5
Total Respondents: 48		

Q4 We are considering retiring the FlyBase-styled webpage interface, leaving the ftp site interface as the sole method to browse and access bulk files via a web browser. How would this affect you?

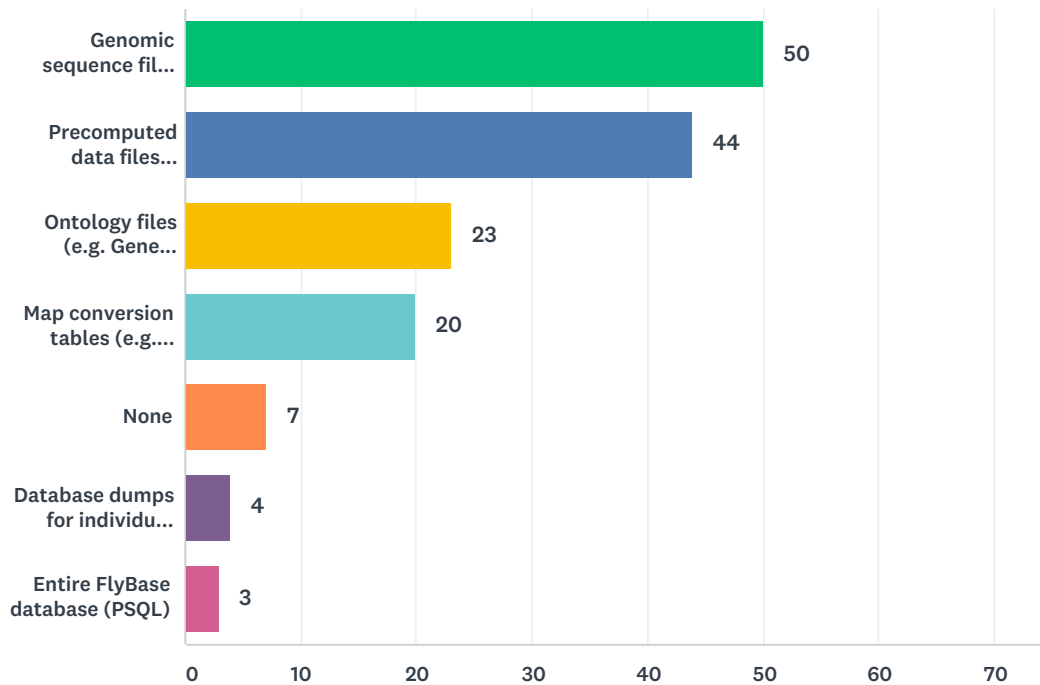
Answered: 67 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No impact/opinion	47.76%	32
Minor inconvenience - I can use the ftp interface instead	35.82%	24
Major inconvenience - I rely on the webpage interface	16.42%	11
TOTAL		67

Q5 Which of the following bulk file types do you use, or would use now that you are aware of them? (Check as many as applicable)

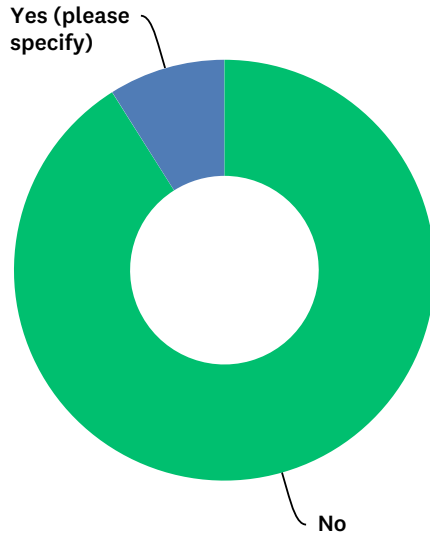
Answered: 67 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Genomic sequence files (FASTA, GFF, GTF)	74.63%	50
Precomputed data files (e.g. synonyms, genetic interactions, gene summaries, orthologs)	65.67%	44
Ontology files (e.g. Gene Ontology, fly anatomy)	34.33%	23
Map conversion tables (e.g. cytogenetic map <-> genomic coordinates)	29.85%	20
None	10.45%	7
Database dumps for individual data types (Chado XML)	5.97%	4
Entire FlyBase database (PSQL)	4.48%	3
Total Respondents: 67		

Q6 Are there additional bulk files, or changes to the content/file format of the current files, that would benefit your work?

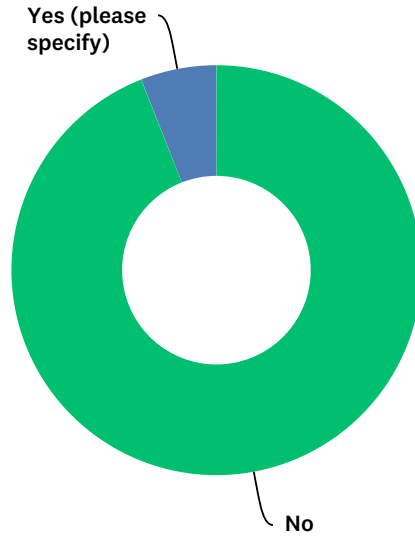
Answered: 67 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	91.04%	61
Yes (please specify)	8.96%	6
TOTAL		67

Q7 Do you have any suggestions to improve the documentation about the bulk files?

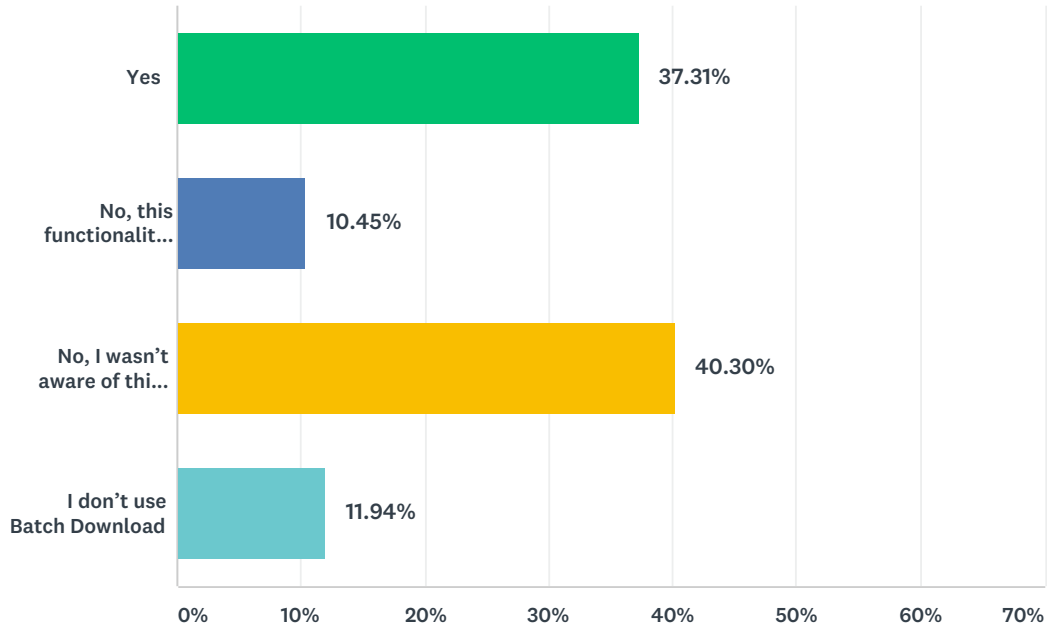
Answered: 67 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No	94.03%	63
Yes (please specify)	5.97%	4
TOTAL		67

Q8 Have you used 'Precomputed files' as a data source in our Batch Download tool, allowing bulk retrieval of data from these files for a specified set of genes/transcripts (etc)?

Answered: 67 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	37.31%	25
No, this functionality isn't useful to me	10.45%	7
No, I wasn't aware of this functionality but it looks useful	40.30%	27
I don't use Batch Download	11.94%	8
TOTAL		67

Q9 Please give any additional comments about the provision of or access to bulk data files at FlyBase below.

Answered: 8 Skipped: 62