



Attribute Alchemy

Advanced Attribute and
List Handling



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Start Your Journey

Please request a virtual machine:

HTTP: <http://fme.ly/UC22Training>

User: Administrator

Pass: FMEearnings#1



Agenda

We're going to cover two broad topics:

- Part I: Advanced Attribute Manipulation
 - Date/Time in FME
 - Finding Patterns with Regex
 - Comparing Adjacent Features
 - Name / Value Pairs
 - The Hidden String Functions
 - Bulk Transformers
- Part II: FME List Attributes
 - What are List Attributes
 - Creating List Attributes
 - Working with List Attributes
 - A little bit of Python

Training Resources

- Virtual machine
- Training Data
 - C:\FMEData-2022\Resources\FMEUC22\Advanced Attribute and List Handling
- These slides (as PDF)
- Tutorial: [Getting Started with List Attributes](#)
 - Creating Lists Using Transformers
 - Transformers for Working with List Attributes



Part I: Advanced Attribute Manipulation

Dates & Times in FME

Dates and Times are Complicated Formatting?

- `<d v="2016-12-13T00:00:00"/>` (*Excel*)
- `YYMMDD, HHMMSS, UTC`
- `Jun 2016`
- `'on Saturday, Jan 9th 2016, 01:00 am' & '+0530'`
- `2016-12-07 12:20:07.785403-05`
- `YYYY-MM-DD hh:mm:ss[.nnnnnnnn]` (*SQL Server 'datetime2' value*)
- **`YYYYMMDDHHMMSS.SS` (*FME*)**

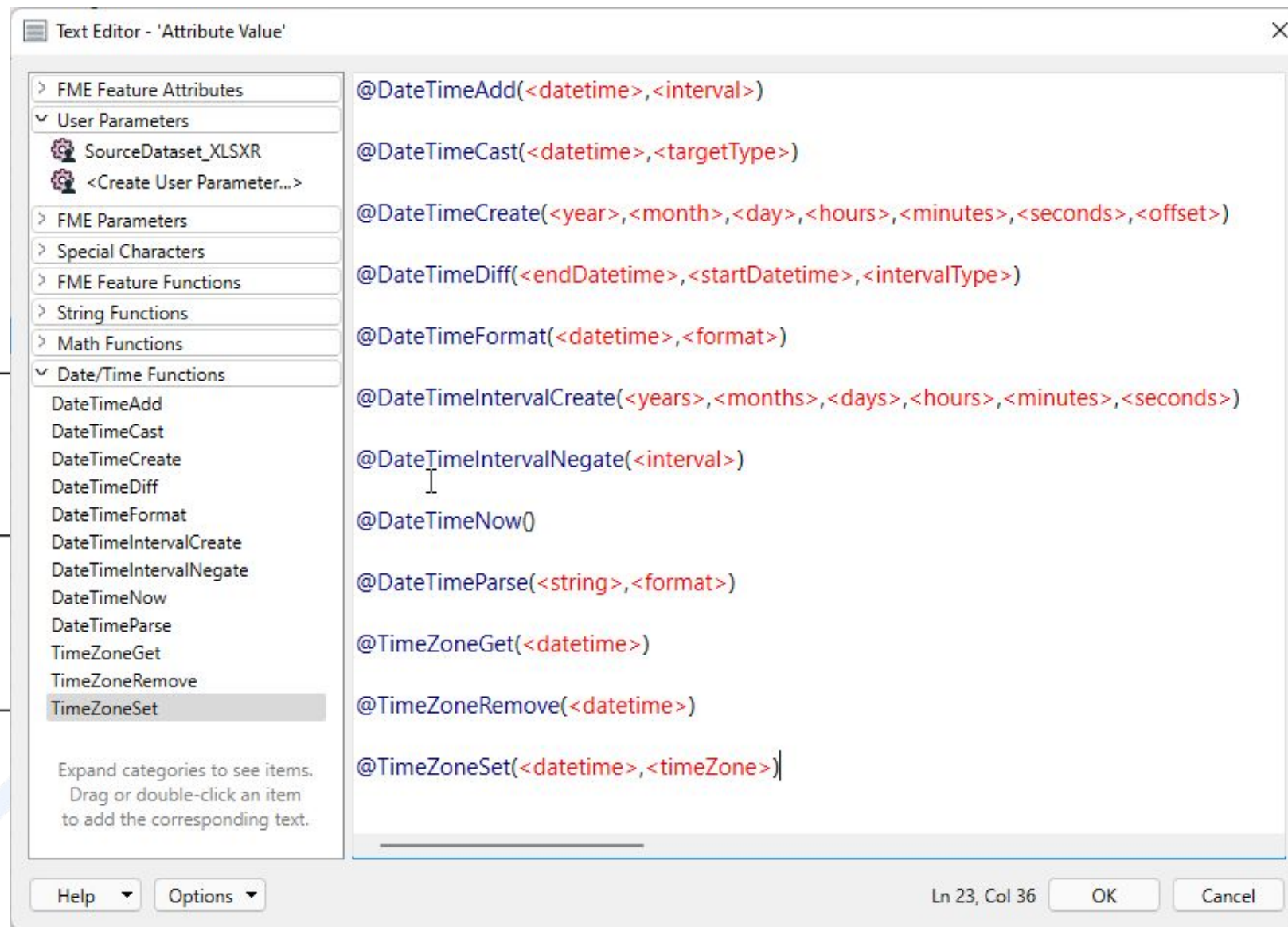
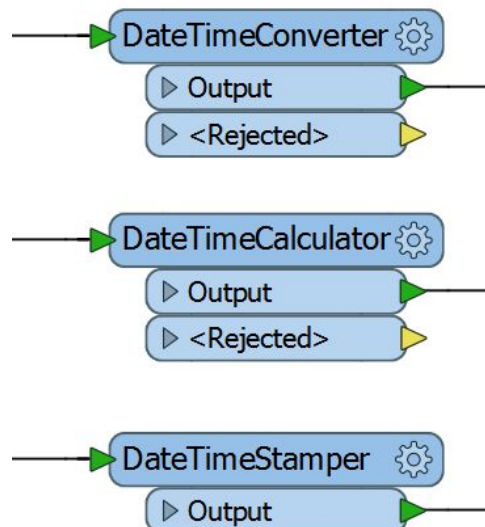
Calculations?

- FME Date / Time functions
 - `Date2-Date1` = How many days?



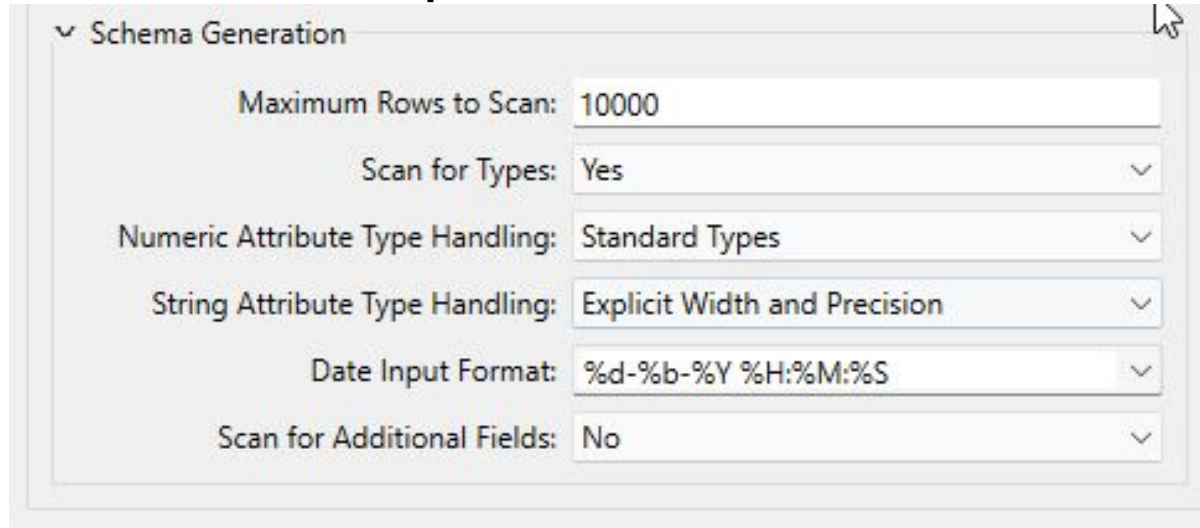
Date Time Tools

Transformers & Functions



Date Time in CSV

CSV Reader can parse dates:



... to create the FME formatted date and a date/time data type

Why might it be better to sort out the dates in the CSV reader rather than, say, DateTimeConverter?

Gotcha: FME won't recognise the FME date time in a SQL query - use the **native** date time format, i.e.: "2021-12-01"

POP TEST

Date & Time

Finding patterns: regex

Most regex patterns have been solved by [someone!](#)

Problem: extract the first three letters:

Code `ABD3705337067`

Regular Expression: `([A-Z]{3})([0-9]+)`

Use the FME Regex editor

Replacement text: `\1` - replaces with the sub-expression

regex is great - but there are many FME string function alternatives if you're not familiar with regex...

String Functions:

Attribute	String Function
alpha	<code>@Left(@Value(Code),3)</code>
beta	<code>@Substring(@Value(Code),3,-1)</code>

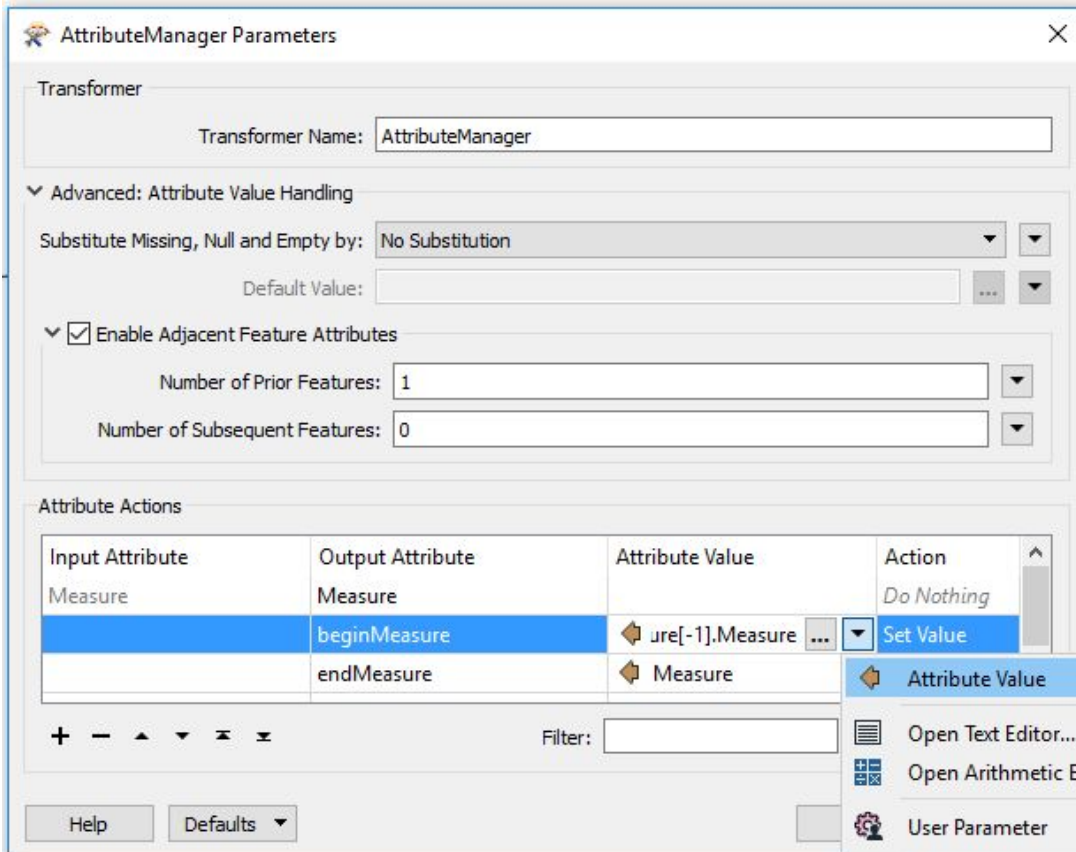
Fun regex learning website: <https://regexr.com/>



Past, Present & Future Attributes

Adjacent Attributes

- Great for sequenced or ordered data



The screenshot shows the 'AttributeManager Parameters' dialog box. The 'Transformer Name' is 'AttributeManager'. Under 'Advanced: Attribute Value Handling', 'Substitute Missing, Null and Empty by:' is set to 'No Substitution'. The 'Enable Adjacent Feature Attributes' checkbox is checked. 'Number of Prior Features' is set to 1, and 'Number of Subsequent Features' is set to 0. The 'Attribute Actions' table is as follows:

Input Attribute	Output Attribute	Attribute Value	Action
Measure	Measure		Do Nothing
	beginMeasure	feature[-1].Measure	Set Value
	endMeasure	Measure	

A red arrow points from the 'feature[-1].Measure' value in the 'beginMeasure' row to a callout box. The callout box contains the following text:

feature[-1].Measure
Measure
feature[+1].Measure

Below the callout box, a context menu is open, showing the 'Attribute Value' option selected. The 'Measure' option is highlighted in the submenu.

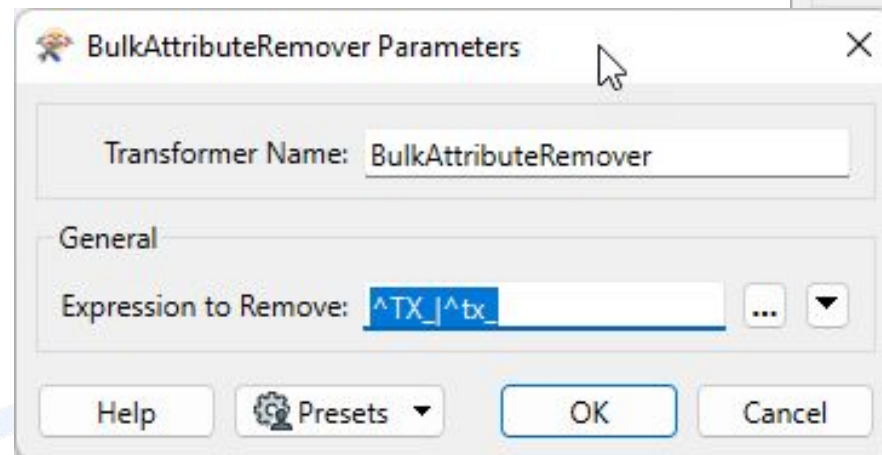
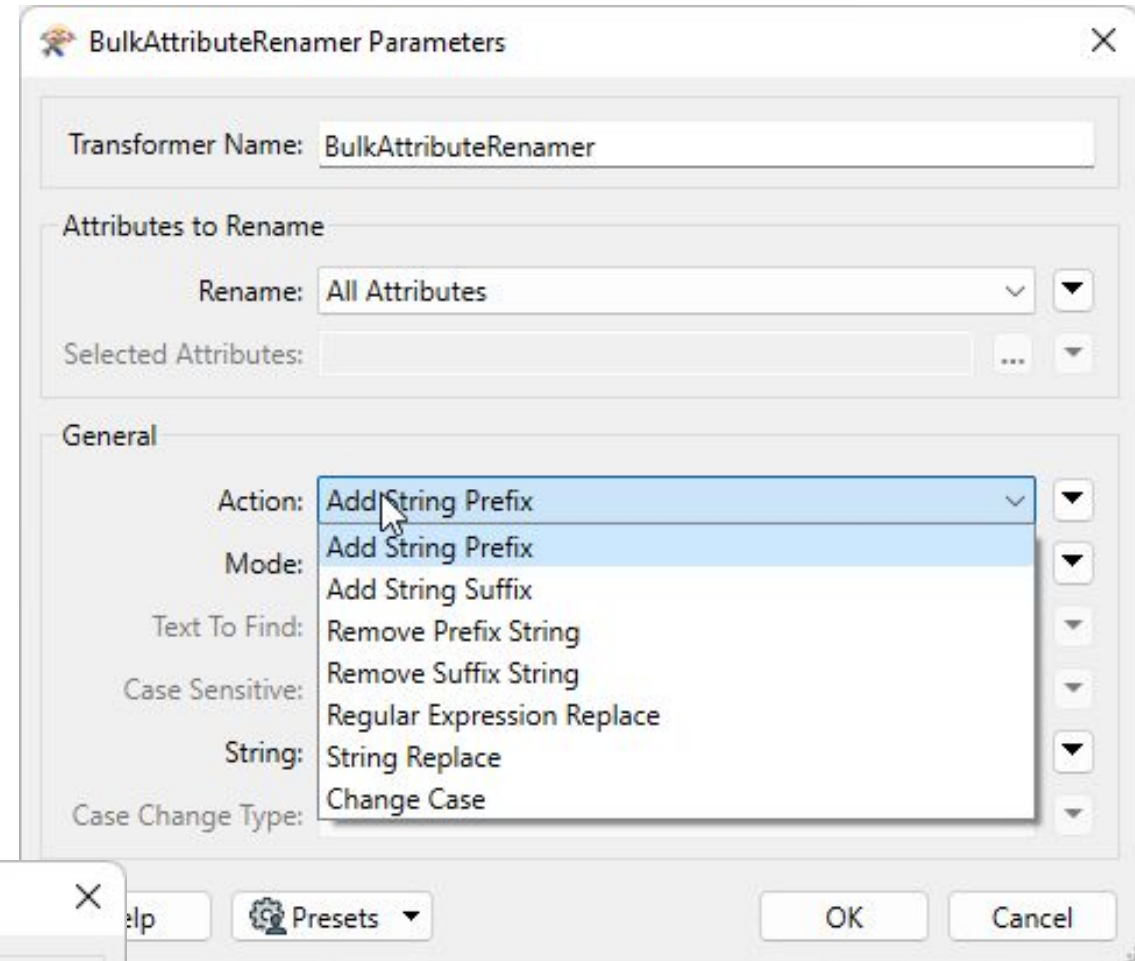
Where to find it:
AttributeManager
AttributeCreator



Bulk-up

Manipulate Attribute Names

- BulkAttributeRenamer
 - Prefix, Suffix
 - Case Change
 - Regex
- BulkAttributeRemover
 - Regex for attribute cleanup



AttributeManager

AttributeManager can reorder attributes

The image displays two side-by-side screenshots of the FME AttributeManager transformer's 'Advanced: Attribute Value Handling' tab. The left screenshot shows the initial state where the 'Input Attribute' and 'Output Attribute' columns are identical. A green arrow points to the 'licensee' row. The right screenshot shows the result of reordering: the 'Input Attribute' column remains the same, but the 'Output Attribute' column has been rearranged. An orange arrow points from the 'recordid' row in the input to the 'recordid' row in the output, and another orange arrow points from the 'licensee' row in the input to the 'licensee' row in the output. To the right of the transformers, a 'CellTowers' dataset is shown with a list of attributes: recordid, account, licenceno, licensee, location, prov, old_account, old_licno, service, transmit_freq, receive_freq, transmit_lower, transmit_upper, transmit_bw, latitude, longitude, site_elev, stuct_ht, and bw_emission.

Transformer Name: AttributeManager

Advanced: Attribute Value Handling

Attribute Actions

Input Attribute	Output Attribute	Attribute Value
recordid	recordid	<Enter value (optional)>
new_account	new_account	<Enter value (optional)>
new_licno	new_licno	<Enter value (optional)>
old_account	old_account	<Enter value (optional)>
old_licno	old_licno	<Enter value (optional)>
licensee	licensee	<Enter value (optional)>
service	service	<Enter value (optional)>
transmit_freq	transmit_freq	<Enter value (optional)>

Transformer Name: AttributeManager

Advanced: Attribute Value Handling

Attribute Actions

Input Attribute	Output Attribute	Attribute Value
recordid	recordid	<Enter value (optional)>
new_account	account	<Enter value (optional)>
new_licno	licenceno	<Enter value (optional)>
licensee	licensee	<Enter value (optional)>
location	location	<Enter value (optional)>
prov	prov	<Enter value (optional)>
old_account	old_account	<Enter value (optional)>
old_licno	old_licno	<Enter value (optional)>

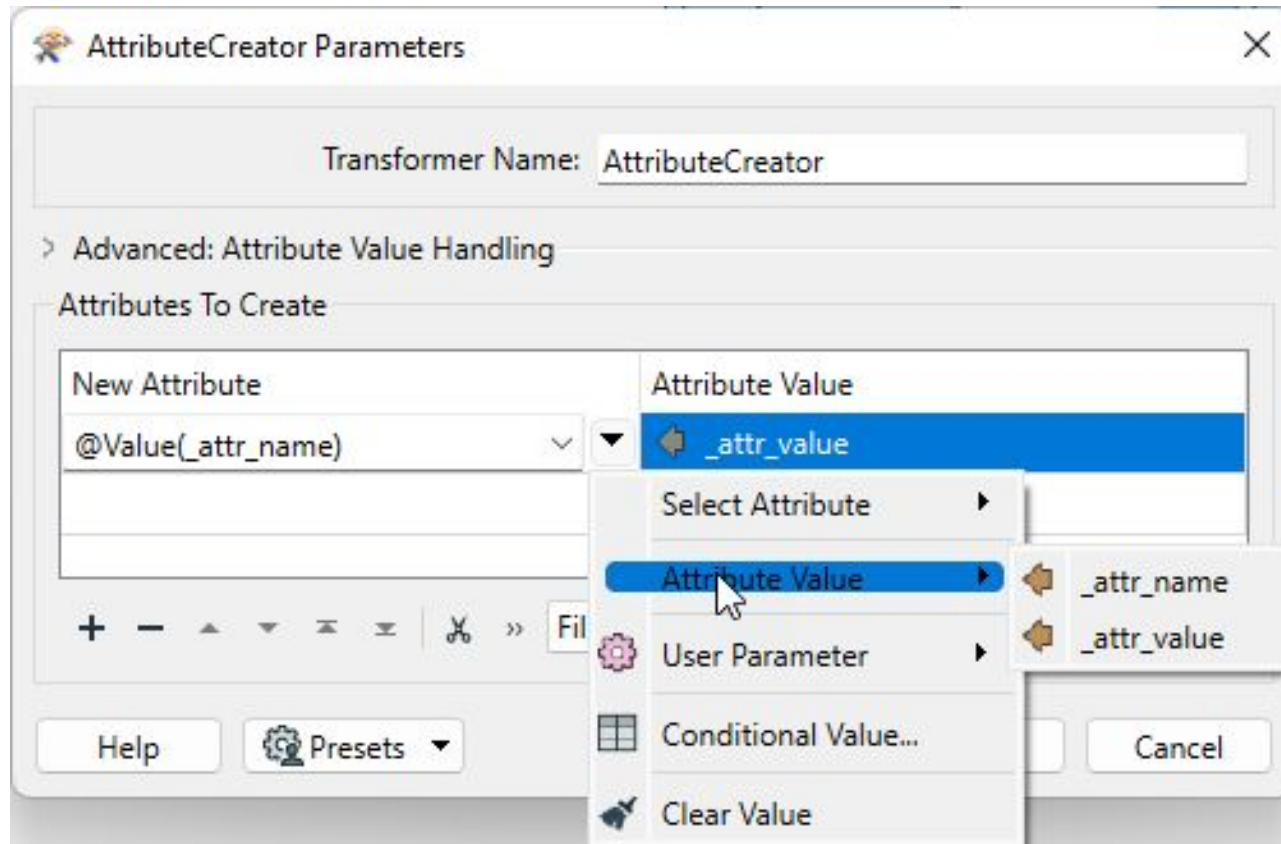
CellTowers

- recordid
- account
- licenceno
- licensee
- location
- prov
- old_account
- old_licno
- service
- transmit_freq
- receive_freq
- transmit_lower
- transmit_upper
- transmit_bw
- latitude
- longitude
- site_elev
- stuct_ht
- bw_emission

Attribute Value

The **value** of an attribute has the **name** of the attribute you want to reference...

```
attribute_name = UserName
```



- often used after AttributeExploder



A person wearing a red backpack and dark clothing stands on the peak of a rugged, rocky mountain. Their arms are raised in a 'V' shape, signifying triumph or accomplishment. The background consists of vast, hazy mountain ranges under a soft, golden light, suggesting a sunrise or sunset. The overall mood is one of achievement and overcoming challenges.

EXERCISE

Attribute Handling

Continue along the road of learning

Learning Resources:

- Trailhead: [Transform Attributes](#)
- World Tour: [Time Machines & Attribute Alchemy](#)
- Performance: [Comparative Performance Test](#)
- Tutorial: [Advanced Attribute and List Handling](#)



Part II: List Attributes

List Attributes

List attributes allow an attribute to have more than one value.

- `FRUITS = "Apple, Orange, Pear"`

vs. simple list:

- `Fruits{0} = Apple`
`Fruits{1} = Orange`
`Fruits{2} = Pear`

OR complex list:

- `Fruits{0}.name = Apple`
- `Fruits{0}.scientificName = Malus domestica`
- `Fruits{1}.name = Orange`
- `Fruits{1}.scientificName = Citrus X sinensis`

Tutorial: [Getting Started with List Attributes](#)



List Attributes

Tutorial: [Getting Started with List Attributes](#)

- [Creating Lists Using Transformers](#)
 - example workspace: **park_trees_final.fmw**
- [Transformers for Working with List Attributes](#)
 - example workspace: **ListTransformerExamples.fmw**

EXERCISE

List Handling

Continue along the road of learning

Learning Resources:

- Tutorial: [Getting Started with List Attributes](#)
- Trailhead: [Working with Multiple Data Models Using Lists](#)
- Documentation: [About List Attributes](#)
- FME UC 2017: [List Manipulation in FME](#)
by Joanna Hobbins, CAE
- Python: [Python List Tutorial](#)



Wrap up

Summary

We covered two broad topics:

- Advanced Attribute Manipulation
 - Date/Time in FME
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 - Bulk Transformers
- FME List Attributes
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Next Steps

- Review some of the resources we listed
- Continue to expand you FME knowledge with the Trailhead learning resource





Thank You!

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