# Importing and Merging Data from Archives

NOTE: Merging data in can be done but depending on the archive data, you may end up with all the transactions but with an odd starting balance in order to reflect the correct final balance. This is a result of the way in which MS Money archived files. So, you will end up being able to see the entire history of the account but the starting balance may not be zero.

1. Open MS Money and export the current data for each account as well as any archived data for each account.
2. After exporting, check each associated file to ensure that it has the same Account name:
   1. The account name is found in the “Opening Balance” entry – the first entry in the export. The value with the “L” flag is the definitive account name. The name of the export file is not considered.
   2. The account name is used during import to determine whether it is a new account or archived transactions for an existing account.
   3. If the account name has changed over time, update the account name in the Opening Balance record to match the name of the account name found in the Opening Balance record of the “current” data export.
3. Analyze the archive data to determine which should be and which should not be imported:
   1. Any archive with other than a zero Opening Balance should likely be imported.
   2. If an archive includes entries with a starting date **prior** to the starting date of the current data, it should be considered for importing.
   3. If an archive only includes entries that are **included** in a more recent archive, don’t import it; only import the more recent archive.
4. Import the current data.
5. Import each appropriate archive, working backwards in time.

Example:

An account has current data and archives with dates of:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Data | Current | 2012 | 2010 | 2007 | 2006 |
| Start date | 1/2/2013 | 1/3/2011 | 11/10/2010 | 11/10/2010 | 11/10/2010 |
| Last date | 2/25/2020 | 3/4/2020 | 3/4/2020 | 3/10/2020 | 3/10/2020 |
| Opening Balance | $ -707.04 | $ -4,251.45 | $0 | $0 | $0 |

The most recent archive with a zero Opening Balance is 2010. Based upon the dates, the data in the 2006 and 2007 archives are included in the 2010 archive. The 2012 archive and Current data all have starting dates later than the 2010. So, import the Current data, then the 2012, then the 2010. Do not import the data for the 2007 or 2006 exports.