| Search documentation | Search | **Appian** |

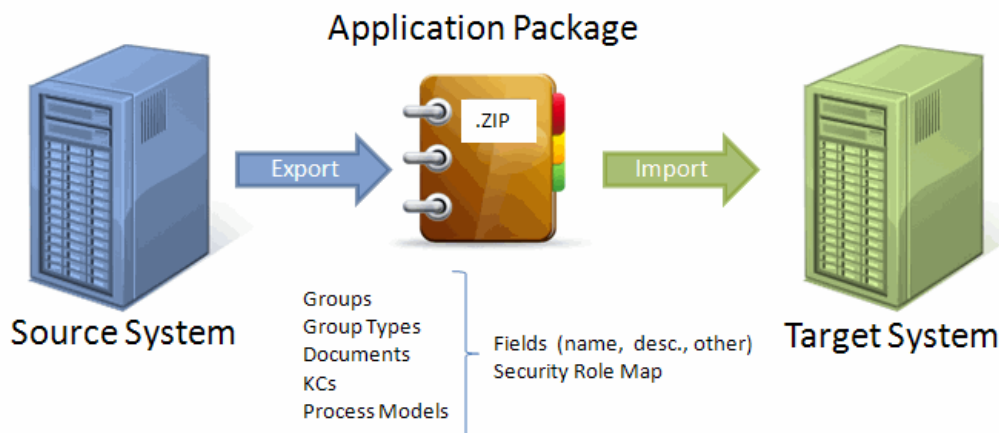# Importing and Exporting Applications

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Export / Import Process Overview

Appian applications are portable from one Appian environment to another, without requiring active connections between development and production servers. The applications that you create in Appian can be exported with all of their contents to a ZIP package, which is stored in Appian Document Management.

These exported applications can then be imported by other instances of Appian (if the application export was created using the same version of Appian, or an earlier version). An Appian application package includes item properties, security role maps, and information about related items for each object. Links between related items are preserved.

The following objects are supported for application export (and import) when included in an application object.

- Discussion Forums
- Documents and Document Structures (Community, Knowledge Center, Folder)
- Groups and Group Types
- Pages with Configured and Unconfigured Channels
- Configured Channels: Report, Web Content, Web Content with Process Details, Quick Task, Process Launcher, My Tasks, Web Page (Other channels are exported in an unconfigured state.)
- Process Models and Process Model Folders
- Rules, Constants, and Rules Folders
- Custom Data Types
- Data Stores
- Feeds
- Data Stores
- Actions

The following objects are not supported for application export (and import) and cannot be included in an application object.

- Users
- Discussion Threads
- Discussion Messages
- Page Categories
- Process Instances

Application Builder

Use the Application Builder to define and collect application components into a container (which we call an application). The container can be published t the Application Portal and exported to a zip archive.

- When migrating process applications from earlier versions of Appian, you can temporarily group all existing objects into a single global application.

Missing Dependencies

When an application component (such as a process model) relies on other objects (such as rules) that are not included in the application, the Check for missing dependencies tool in the Application Builder helps you identify and add these missing components.

- The export results alert also warns you of the missing dependencies and other issues that may impede deployment.

- In some cases the related object must be included in the export package in order to successfully export and import the application.
    - In other cases, the related object only needs to be present on the target system.
    - See Application Deployment Guidelines for additional details.
- One way to rapidly assemble your application components is to add the main pages (or dashboards) used, then scan the application for missing dependencies. This greatly simplifies the process of adding components to the application.

There are some components that you may need to include with an application, which cannot be automatically added. Some relationships between item also cannot be preserved through the export and import process. Relationships that cannot be included in the export archive tend to be relationships that we do not automatically discover when scanning the application. These items are described in the Application Deployment Guidelines help topic.

Exporting and Importing

The following topics describe how to export and import an application.

- Application Export
- Application Import

Application Deployment Checklist

1. Deploy any custom code.
2. Deploy any custom plugins.
3. Set up your datasources.
4. Update your database schema to match the data store entities expected by the application, if any. External databases are not automatically updated or created on import.
5. Create any users referenced by your applications.
6. Create a group named Application_*name*_Administrators on the source machine, and export it (in an application package) to the target machine prior to importing the main application – unless the group is already exported.
7. Add the application administrators group to all object role maps. Assign Administrator rights to this group.
8. Temporarily add the users (or user) who imports the application on the target machine to the application administrators group.
9. Check for missing dependencies.
10. Export your application.
11. (Optional) Inspect the exported package on the target machine.
12. Import your application.
13. Remove users from the Application_*name*_Administrators group, as needed.

Updating Existing Objects

See: Preparing Applications for Updates and Patches

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