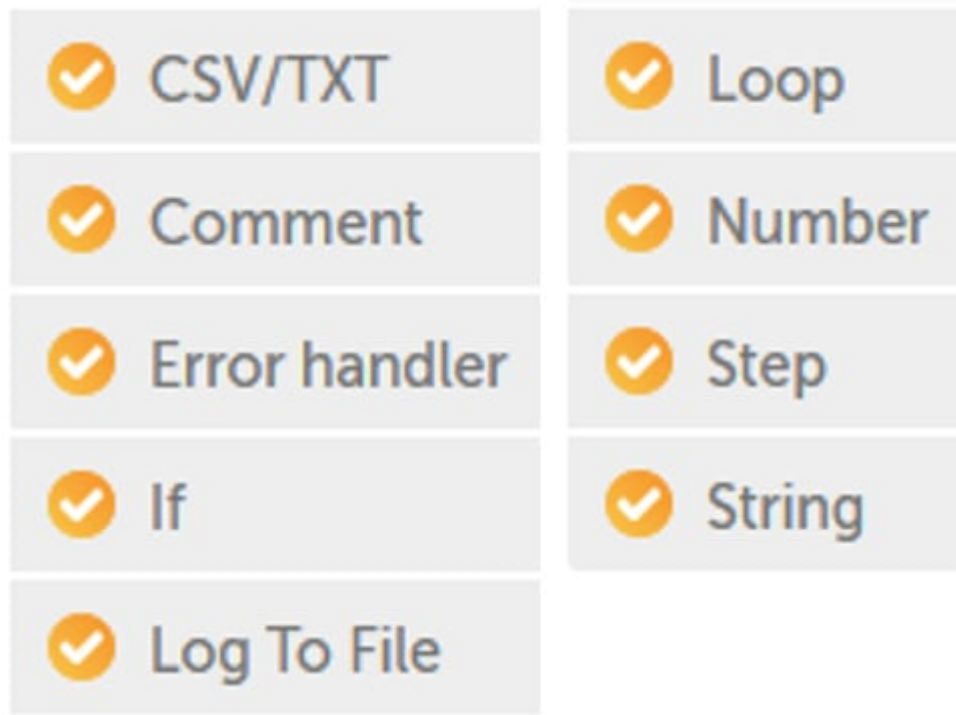


Lab 18: Managing Errors

In this lab, we will be using the following packages:



There is a real-life scenario walk-through example in this lab. The walk-through will take you through each stage step by step, giving you valuable practical experience. The input file needed for the walk-through is included as part of the GitHub repository.

In this lab, we will cover the following:

- Error handling with Automation Anywhere
- Understanding **Try**, **Catch**, **Finally**, and **Throw** actions
- Building an error-handling routine

Technical requirements

In order to install the Automation Anywhere Bot agent, the following requirements are necessary:

- Google Chrome
- You must have completed registration with Automation Anywhere Community Edition
- You must have logged on successfully to Automation Anywhere Community Edition
- A successfully registered local device
- Successfully downloaded sample data from GitHub

Error handling with Automation Anywhere

Automation Anywhere comes with an **Error handler** package. This package has four actions, which are designed to help build a robust error-handling routine:

Error handler

- △ Try
- △ Catch
- △ Finally
- △ Throw

Building an error-handling routine

You are probably keen to see the **Error handler** package in action. You will be guided through a step-by-step walk-through on building a fully functional bot. You will then introduce an error by editing the input file and creating an invalid record. This will result in the bot failing and stopping its processing midway as it encounters the invalid record. The walk-through will then take you through the process of adding an error handler routine.

This walk-through works with the file `Chapter18_Products.csv`. This file has a list of products within each business segment, and the contents look as shown in the following screenshot:

	A	B	C
1	Segment	Product	Price
2	Enterprise	Amarilla	125
3	Enterprise	Carretera	50
4	Enterprise	Montana	100
5	Enterprise	Paseo	15
6	Enterprise	Velo	350
7	Enterprise	VTT	40
8	Government	Amarilla	125

For this scenario, the bot will perform the following tasks:

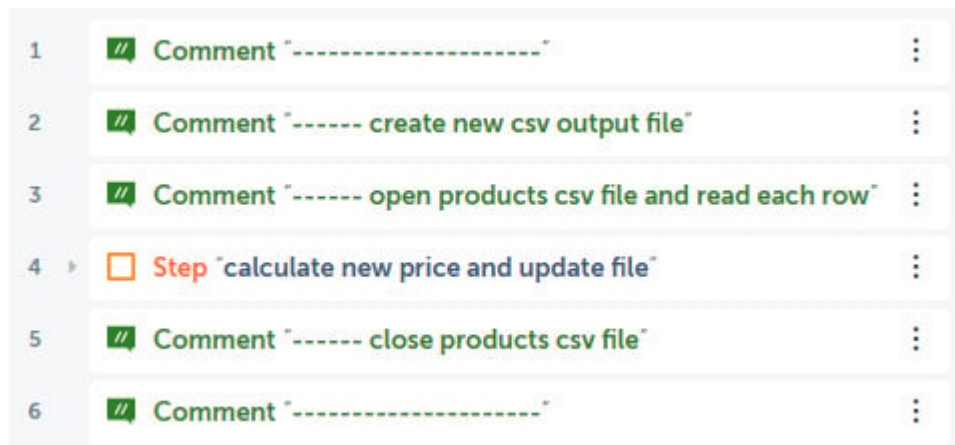
1. Read every record from the CSV file `Chapter18_Products.csv`.
2. Apply a 10% discount to the price.
3. Create a new CSV file with updated prices called `Chapter18_UpdatedProducts.csv`.

This should be a relatively simple bot. From the tasks, we can identify a few variables that will be needed. We will need four variables:

- One `Record` type variable to read the product record
- One `String` type variable to assign the discounted price to be written to the new file
- Two `Number` type variables -- one for the current price and the other for the calculated discounted price

We can start the walk-through by building the outline using steps and comments and creating the variables we will need:

1. Log into **Control Room**.
2. Create a new bot and call it `Chapter18 - Error Handling` in the `\Bot\` folder.
3. Add a new **Comment** action as `"-----"` on line **1** and click on **Save**.
4. Add a new **Comment** action below line **1**, `"----- create new csv output file"`, and click on **Save**.
5. Add a new **Comment** action below line **2**, `"----- open products csv file and read each row"`, and click on **Save**.
6. Add a **Step** just below line **3**, set the **Title** property as `calculate new price and update file`, and click on **Save**.
7. Add a new **Comment** action below line **4**, `"----- close products csv file"`, ensuring it is not within the **Step** on line **4** and click on **Save**.
8. Add a new **Comment** action below line **5**, `"-----"`, and click on **Save**. The initial development interface should look like this:



9. Create two `Number` type variables called `numPrice` and `numNewPrice`.
10. Create a `String` type variable called `strNewPrice`.
11. Create a `Record` type variable called `recProduct`. The variables should look as shown in the following screenshot:

```
# numNewPrice :
# numPrice :
📄 recProduct :
” strNewPrice :
```

12. To create our new output CSV file, we will use the **Log to file** action. Starting with creating the file headers, drag the **Log to file** action just below line 2.
13. Set the following properties for the **Log to file** action on line 3:

File path: C:\Hands-On-RPA-with-AA-Sample-Data\Chapter18_UpdatedProducts.csv

Enter text to log: Segment,Product,Price

Append timestamp: *Unchecked*

When logging: **Overwrite existing log file**

Encoding: **ANSI** (default value)

The properties should look as shown in the following screenshot:

Log to file

Logs any text into a file

File path

C:\Hands-On-RPA-with-AA-Sample-Data\Chapter18_UpdatedProducts.csv [x] **Browse...**

Enter text to log

Segment,Product,Price [x]

☐ Append timestamp

When logging

☐ Append to existing log file

☒ Overwrite existing log file

Encoding

ANSI ▼

14. Click on **Save**.
15. To create the session with our *products* CSV file, drag the **CSV/TXT: Open** action just below line 4.
16. Set the following properties for the **CSV/TXT: Open** action on line 5:

Session name: csv_Session

File path: Desktop file - C:\Hands-On-RPA-with-AA-Sample-Data\Chapter18_Products.csv

Contains header: *Checked*

Delimiter: **Comma**

The properties should look as shown in the following screenshot:

CSV/TXT: Open

Opens a CSV/TXT file

Session name

csv_Session

File path

Control Room file

Desktop file

Variable

C:\Hands-On-RPA-with-AA-Sample-Data\Chapter18_Products.csv

Browse...

Required extensions: ".csv", ".txt", ".tsv"

☒ Contains header

Delimiter

☒ Comma

17. Click on **Save**.

18. To close the session that we have just created, drag the **CSV/TXT: Close** action just below line 7.

19. Set the following property for the **CSV/TXT: Close** action on line 8:

Session name: csv_Session

The property should look as shown in the following screenshot:

CSV/TXT: Close

Closes CSV/TXT session

Session name

csv_Session

Click on ****Save****. The development interface for this section should look like this:

![Figure 18.9 -- Development interface] (./images/Figure_18.9_B15646.jpg)

20. Next, we can add the **Loop** to read each record from the *products* file. Drag the **Loop** action just below line 6, ensuring it is within the **Step** on line 6.

21. Set the following properties for the **Loop** action on line 7:

Loop Type: Iterator

Iterator: For each row in CSV/TXT

Session name: csv_Session

Assign the current row to variable: recProduct - Record

The properties should look as shown in the following screenshot:

The screenshot shows the configuration for a 'Loop' action. The 'Loop Type' is set to 'Iterator'. The 'Iterator' dropdown is set to 'For each row in CSV/TXT'. Below this, the 'Session name' is set to 'csv_Session'. The 'Assign the current row to this variable' dropdown is set to 'recProduct - Record'.

Loop

Repeats the actions in a loop until a break

Loop Type

☒ Iterator

Iterator

For each row in CSV/TXT

Iterator for each row in CSV/TXT

Session name

csv_Session

Assign the current row to this variable

recProduct - Record

22. Click on **Save**.

23. `current price` is the third column in the CSV *products* file. This would give it an index value of **2**. To assign this value to our variable, add the **String: To number** action just below line **7**, ensuring it is within the **Loop** on line **7**.

24. Set the following properties for the **String: To number** action on line **8**:

Enter the string: \$recProduct[2]\$

Assign the output to variable: numPrice - Number

The properties should look as shown in the following screenshot:

String: To number

Converts a string to a number

Enter the string

” \$recProduct[2]\$ (x)

String entered must be a valid number

Assign the output to variable

numPrice - Number ▼ (x) +

25. Click on **Save**.

26. The discounted price can now be calculated. To calculate and assign the new price to our variable `numNewPrice`, add the **Number: Assign** action just below line 8, ensuring it is within the **Loop** on line 7.

27. Set the following properties for the **Number: Assign** action on line 9:

Select the source string variable/ value: `$numPrice$ * 0.9`

Select the destination number variable: `numNewPrice - Number`

The properties should look as shown in the following screenshot:

Number: Assign

Assigns user specified number to number variable

Select the source string variable/ value

\$numPrice\$ * 0.9 (x)

Specify value to assign to number

Select the destination number variable

numNewPrice - Number ▼ (x) +

28. Click on **Save**.

29. As the new price will be saved to a file, it needs to be converted to a `String`. To do this, add the **Number: To string** action just below line 9, ensuring it is within the **Loop** on line 7.

30. Set the following properties for the **Number: To string** action on line 10:

Enter a number: `$numNewPrice$`

Enter number of digits after decimal: 2

Assign the output to variable: strNewPrice - String

The properties should look as shown in the following screenshot:

Number: To string

Converts a user specified number to a string

Enter a number

\$numNewPrice\$

(x)

Specify number to convert to string e.g. 35

Enter number of digits after decimal (number format)

2

(x)

e.g for number 35.265, enter the number of digits after decimal as 3

Assign the output to variable

strNewPrice - String

▼ (x) 4

31. Click on **Save**.

32. The last part is to append the record with the discounted price to the output CSV file. To do this, drag the **Log to file** action just below line 10, ensuring it is within the **Loop** on line 7.

33. Set the following properties for the **Log to file** action on line 11:

File path: C:\Hands-On-RPA-with-AA-Sample-Data\Chapter18_UpdatedProducts.csv

Enter text to log: \$recProduct[0]\$, \$recProduct[1]\$, \$strNewPrice\$

Append timestamp: *Unchecked*

When logging: Append to existing log file

Encoding: ANSI (default value)

The properties should look as shown in the following screenshot:

Log to file

Logs any text into a file

File path

C:\Hands-On-RPA-with-AA-Sample-Data\Chapter18_UpdatedProducts.csv

Browse...

Enter text to log

\$recProduct[0]\$, \$recProduct[1]\$, \$strNewPrice\$

☐ Append timestamp

When logging

☒ Append to existing log file

☐ Overwrite existing log file

Encoding

ANSI

34. Click on **Save**. The development interface for this section should look like this:

The screenshot shows a sequence of steps in an RPA development interface:

- Step 6: **Step "calculate new price and update file"**
- Step 7: **Loop** for each row in csv/txt
- Step 8: **String: To number** Convert string \$recProduct[2]\$ to a number and assign it to...
- Step 9: **Number: Assign** "\$numPrice\$ * 0.9" to \$numNewPrice\$
- Step 10: **Number: To string** convert \$numNewPrice\$ to a string datatype and assign o...
- Step 11: **Log to file** "\$recProduct[0]\$, \$recPro..." to "C:\Hands-On-RPA-with-AA-Sam...
- Step 12: **Comment** "----- close products csv file"

That's great work! You have now built the bot. This bot is should be working with no issues. Go ahead and run the bot. A file called `Chapter18_UpdatedProducts.csv` should be generated. This file will have the same records as the input file but with the new discounted price.

	A	B	C
1	Segment	Product	Price
2	Enterprise	Amarilla	112.5
3	Enterprise	Carretera	45
4	Enterprise	Montana	90
5	Enterprise	Paseo	13.5
6	Enterprise	Velo	315
7	Enterprise	VTT	36
8	Government	Amarilla	112.5

This is all good -- your bot will always work as long as the input file has no issues. But what will happen if the input file has an issue? How will your bot behave?

Modifying the input file and introducing an error

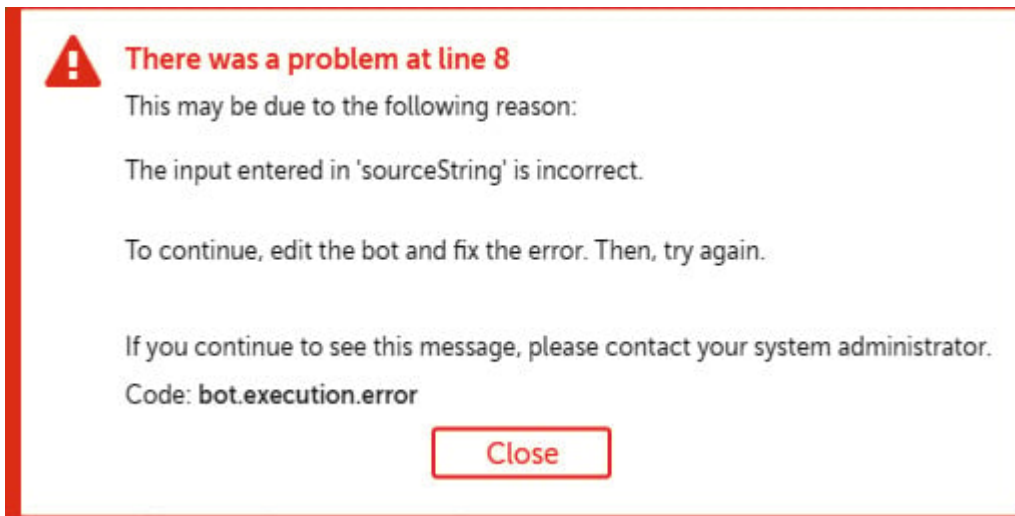
Let's have a look at what happens when we modify the input file and introduce an error:

1. Open the input file, `Chapter18_Products.csv`, in Notepad and delete the value `15` for the fourth record as shown here:

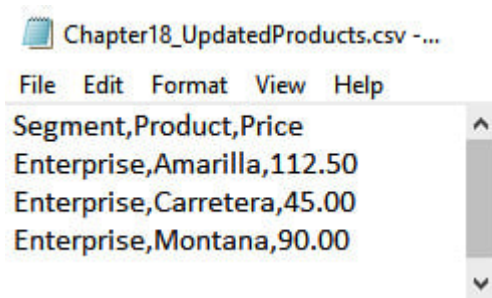
Original	Updated
<div> Chapter18_Products.csv - Notepad <div> File Edit Format View Help <div> Segment,Product,Price Enterprise,Amarilla,125 Enterprise,Carretera,50 Enterprise,Montana,100 Enterprise,Paseo,15 Enterprise,Velo,350 Enterprise,VTT,40 Government,Amarilla,125 Government,Carretera,50 Government,Montana,100 </div> </div> </div>	<div> Chapter18_Products.csv - Notepad <div> File Edit Format View Help <div> Segment,Product,Price Enterprise,Amarilla,125 Enterprise,Carretera,50 Enterprise,Montana,100 Enterprise,Paseo, Enterprise,Velo,350 Enterprise,VTT,40 Government,Amarilla,125 Government,Carretera,50 Government,Montana,100 </div> </div> </div>

2. Save and close the file.

The bot hasn't been modified in any way, only the input file has. This reflects a real-life scenario where your bot is dependent on some source data. Try running the bot again with the updated input file. While processing, the bot will fail. You will get the following message from Automation Anywhere:



The message refers to line **8**. This is when the bot assigns the price to the variable `numPrice`. Having this value as `null` has caused the bot to fail. Also in the message box, you will also notice that the bot stopped processing at the point of failure. The output file will only have three records in it. As soon as the bot encountered the error, it stopped.

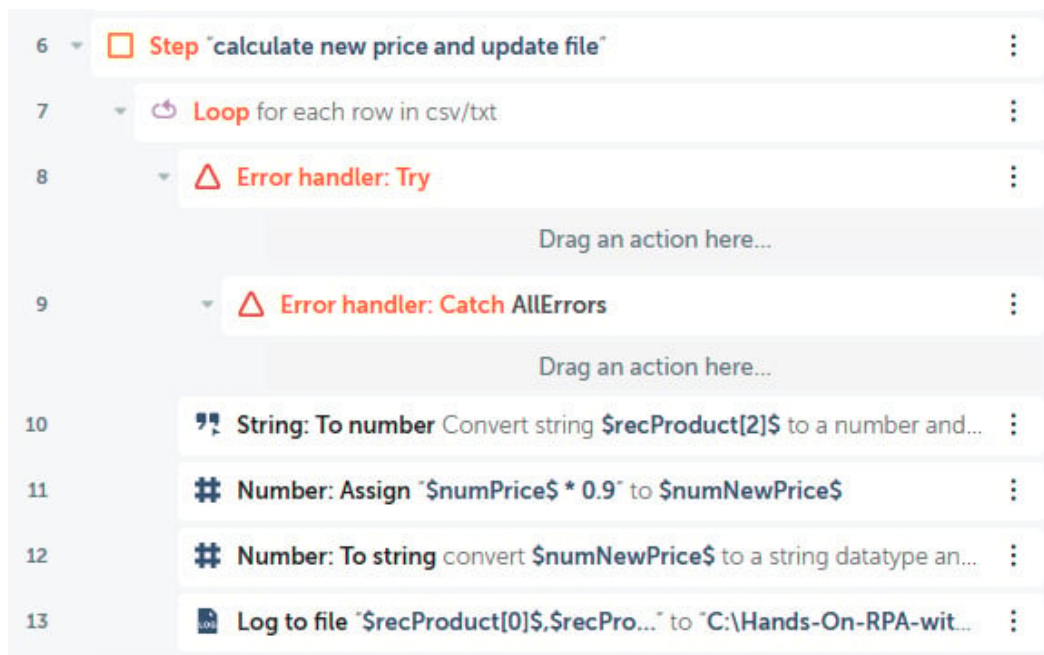


Ideally, we would like our bot to log the error details in a file instead of a message box. Then it would be great if the bot continued with the rest of the records instead of just stopping. We will now continue with the walk-through.

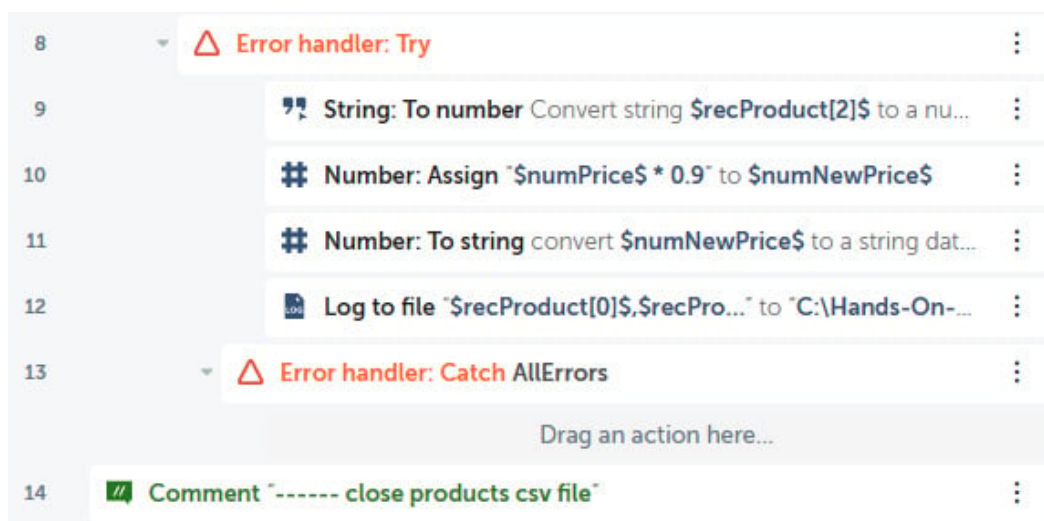
In this walk-through, you will add an error handler that will manage the new error that we have introduced. To manage the error, we will need some additional variables. A `Number` type variable is needed to store the error line number. As this will also be added to a log file, a `String` type will also be required for the line number. Another `String` type variable will also be needed to store the error description.

We can start the walk-through by creating the variables we will need as follows:

1. Log into **Control Room**.
2. Create a `Number` type variable called `numErrLine`.
3. Create two `String` type variables called `strErrLine` and `strErrDesc`.
4. Lines **8** to **11** are when the bot is processing each record. This is what we want in our **Try** action for the error handler. Add the **Error handler: Try** action just below line **7**, ensuring it is with the **Loop** on line **7**, and click on **Save**. The development interface should look as shown in the following screenshot:



5. To add our processing lines within the **Error handler: Try** block, select lines **10 to 13** and drag them to just under line **8**, so they are within the **Error handler: Try** action on line **8**, and click on **Save**. The development interface should look as shown in the following screenshot:



6. The error block has now been created. We need to instruct the bot on what to do if an error occurs from within the error block. To do this, set the following properties for the **Error handler: Catch** action on line **13**:

Exception: AllErrors

Assign exception message to: strErrDesc - String

Assign line number to: numErrLine - Number

The properties should look as shown in the following screenshot:

Error handler: Catch

Run a sequence of commands if the commands in Try fail with an exception.

Exception

AllErrors

Indicates a generic bot exception when a bot is run
Code: AA-BotException-111-111

Assign exception message to (optional)

strErrDesc - String

(x)
+

Assign line number to (optional)

numErrLine - Number

(x)
+

7. Click on **Save**.

8. All the actions within the **Error handler: Catch** block will be executed when an error occurs. We want the bot to output the error to a log file. The `numErrLine` variable will need to be converted to a `String` type variable for the log file. To convert this, add the **Number: To string** action just below line **13**, ensuring it is within the **Error handler: Catch** action on line **13**.

9. Set the following properties for the **Number: To string** action on line **14**:

Enter a number: `$numErrLine$`

Enter number of digits after decimal: `0`

Assign the output to variable: `strErrLine - String`

The properties should look as shown in the following screenshot:

Number: To string

Converts a user specified number to a string

Enter a number

(x)

Specify number to convert to string e.g. 35

Enter number of digits after decimal (number format)

(x)

e.g for number 35.265, enter the number of digits after decimal as 3

Assign the output to variable

(x)

10. Click on **Save**.
11. The last part is to append the invalid record to a log file. To do this, drag the **Log to file** action just below line 14, ensuring it is within the **Error handler: Catch** action on line 13.
12. Set the following properties for the **Log to file** action on line 15:

File path: C:\Hands-On-RPA-with-AA-Sample-Data\Chapter18_ErrorLog.csv

Enter text to log: Desc: \$strErrDesc\$, Line: \$strErrLine\$, (Record: \$recProduct[0]\$, \$recProduct[1]\$, \$recProduct[2]\$)

Append timestamp: *Checked*

When logging: Append to existing log file

The properties should look as shown in the following screenshot:

Log to file

Logs any text into a file

File path

C:\Hands-On-RPA-with-AA-Sample-Data\Chapter18_ErrorLog.csv

(x)

Browse...

Enter text to log

Desc: \$strErrDesc\$, Line: \$strErrLine\$, (Record: \$recProduct[0]\$, \$recProduct[1]\$, \$recProduct[2]\$(x)

☒ Append timestamp

When logging

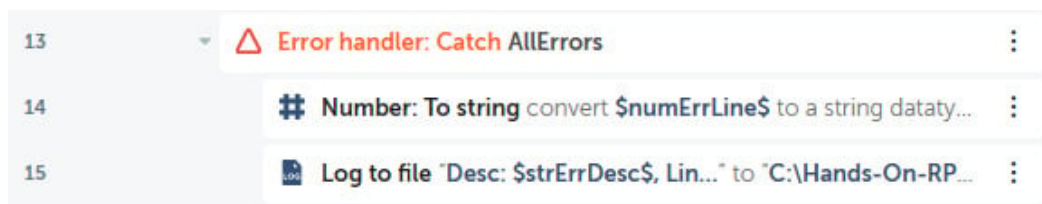
☒ Append to existing log file

☐ Overwrite existing log file

Encoding

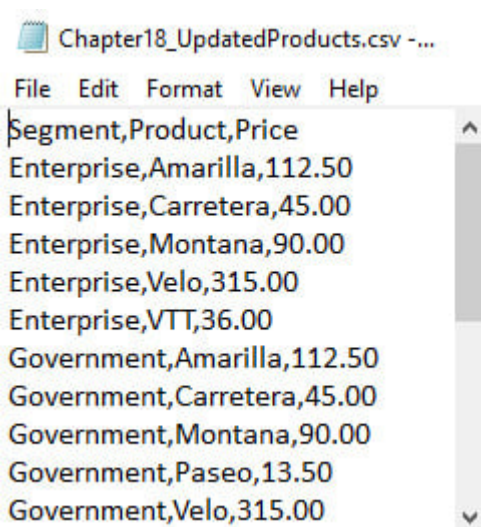
ANSI

13. Click on **Save**. The development interface for this section should look like this:

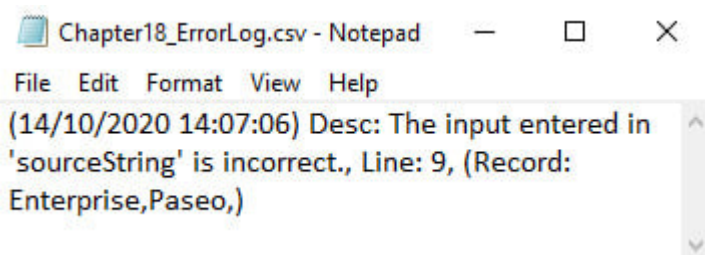


You have now added an error-handling routine within your bot. If an error occurs while the bot is processing lines **9** to **12**, which make up our **Try** block, it will move directly to the **Catch** block on line **13**. The **Catch** block will log the details in our error log file, which is created if one does not already exist. Following the error, the bot will continue processing the rest of the input file.

14. Now run the bot once more. You will notice it will perform the task without an error occurring. Once it is complete, you can examine the files generated. The output file `Chapter18_UpdatedProducts.csv` will have all the records with the discounted prices, with the exception of the record we modified. The invalid record will not be present in the output file:



There will also be an error log file generated, `Chapter18_ErrorLog.csv`. This file will have the details of the error and the invalid record:



Great work! You have successfully added an error-handling routine. You can rest assured that your bot is more resilient and can handle files that may have invalid data.

Summary

This lab has been all about building robust, resilient bots that can get up and continue even when they fall over. We have explored the **Error handler** package and the actions available. The walk-through provided the practical skills to actually build your own error-handling routine. Having a good error-handling routine is key to the success of your bots. No matter how great the functionality of your bot, one thing we cannot guarantee is the quality of any source inputs. A mechanism is needed to manage any anomalies in the best way possible. Using error management and some defensive coding is a step in the right direction.