How to Import Data from Multiple Excel files to SQL using SSIS & Visual Studio

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By Justin Song, Senior BI Analyst

I was asked to import data to SQL from multiple (15) Excel files, and each Excel file contained historical data with more than 200,000 rows.

I could do it with 15 data flows and Excel connections in SSIS, but I didn't want to do it that way because I wanted to find a more efficient way than creating 15 data flows and Excel connections. I'm too lazy to create all those data flows and Excel connections! That would take a lot of time. So I Googled it.

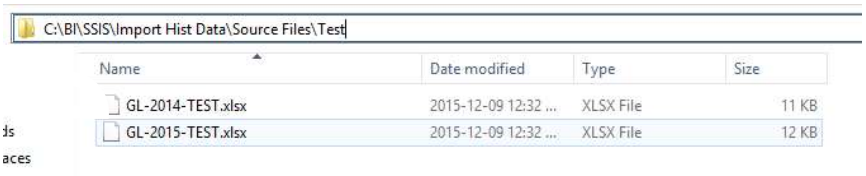
I found many articles, but each article was slightly different and used a different approach to handle the situation.

I followed steps in several articles and Youtube videos, but I had no luck. Every time something went wrong or I was missing something. I scratched my head.

After a while, I found a way to make it work and I'd like to share it with everyone to save your time.

Here are my step by step instructions to create a SSIS package for importing data from multiple Excel files to SQL with only one data flow and one Excel connection.

For example, I have two Excel files at C:\BI\SSIS\Import Hist Data\Source Files\Test

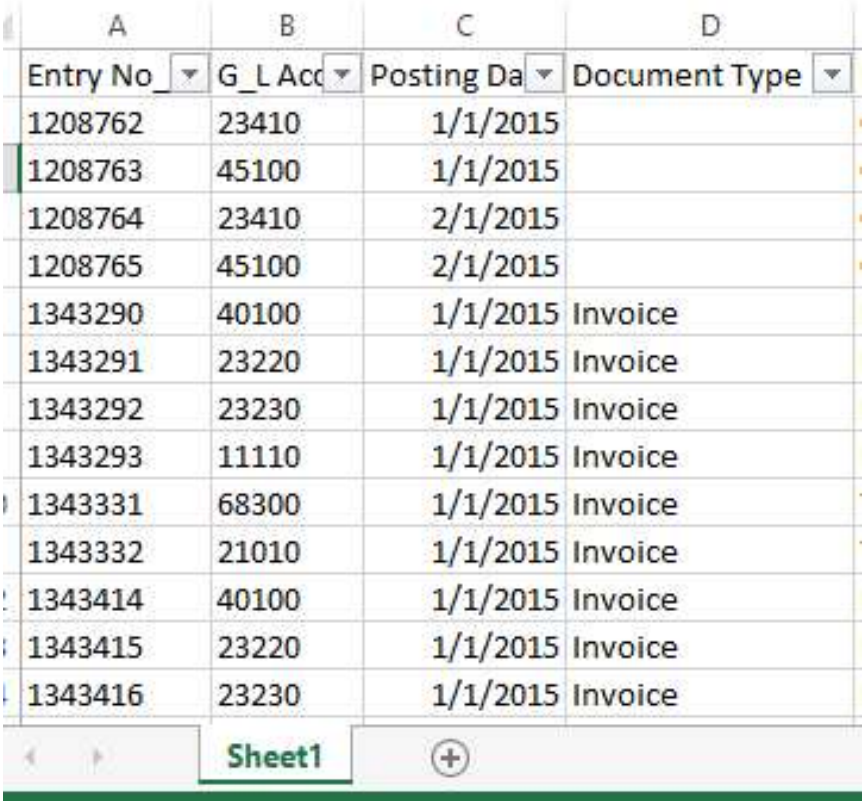


Very Important Note

Ensure that each Excel file has the same schema.

For example,

1. Number of columns
2. Name of column headings
3. Name of tabs

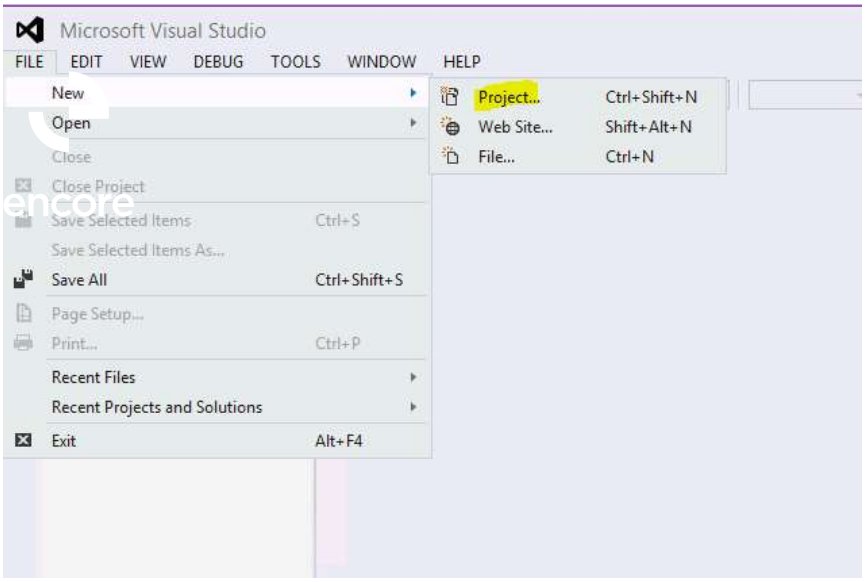


	A	B	C	D
	Entry No_	G_L Acc	Posting Da	Document Type
	1208762	23410	1/1/2015	
	1208763	45100	1/1/2015	
	1208764	23410	2/1/2015	
	1208765	45100	2/1/2015	
	1343290	40100	1/1/2015	Invoice
	1343291	23220	1/1/2015	Invoice
	1343292	23230	1/1/2015	Invoice
	1343293	11110	1/1/2015	Invoice
	1343331	68300	1/1/2015	Invoice
	1343332	21010	1/1/2015	Invoice
	1343414	40100	1/1/2015	Invoice
	1343415	23220	1/1/2015	Invoice
	1343416	23230	1/1/2015	Invoice

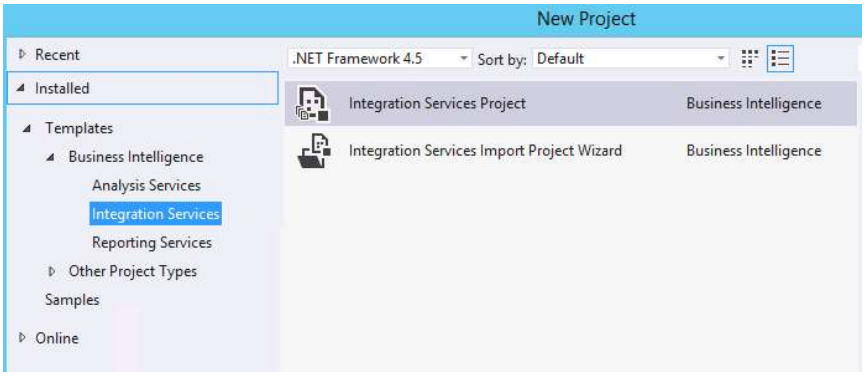
Sheet1

How to Import Multiple Excel files to SQL

1. Open Visual Studio
2. Create a new project

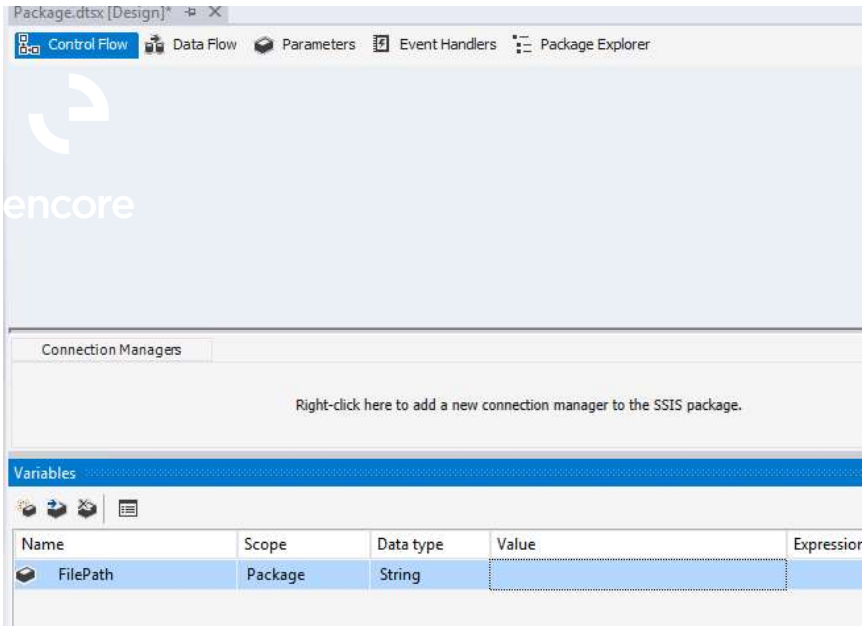


3. Select Integration Services Project

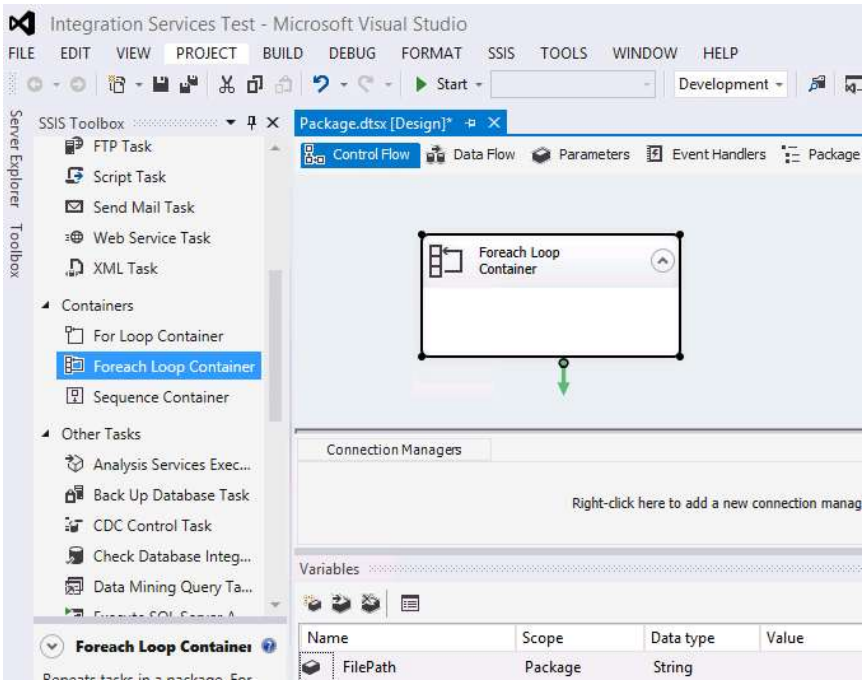


4. Create a Variable

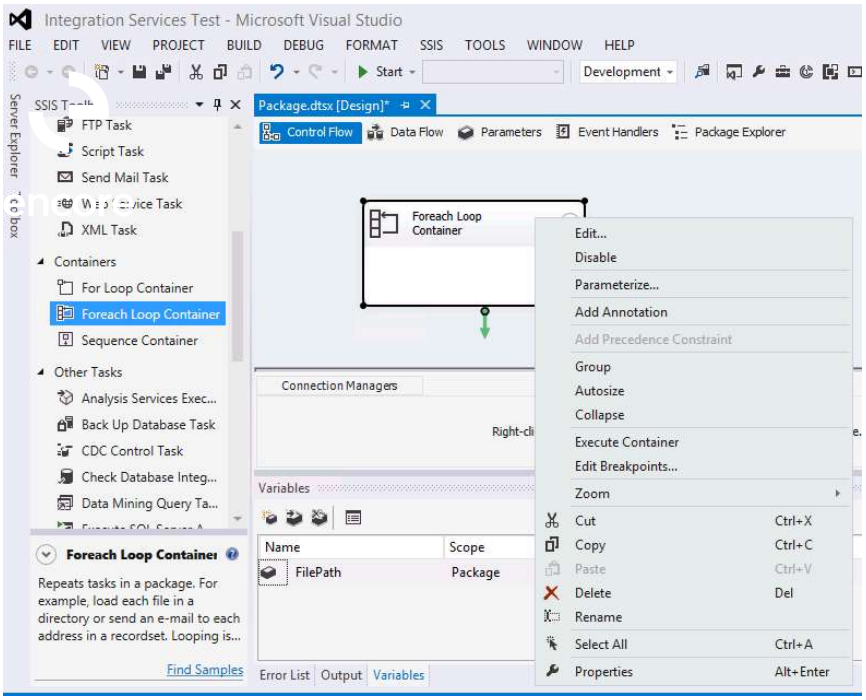
- Name: FilePath
- Data type: String
- Value: blank



5. Drag and drop Foreach Loop Container to the Control Flow

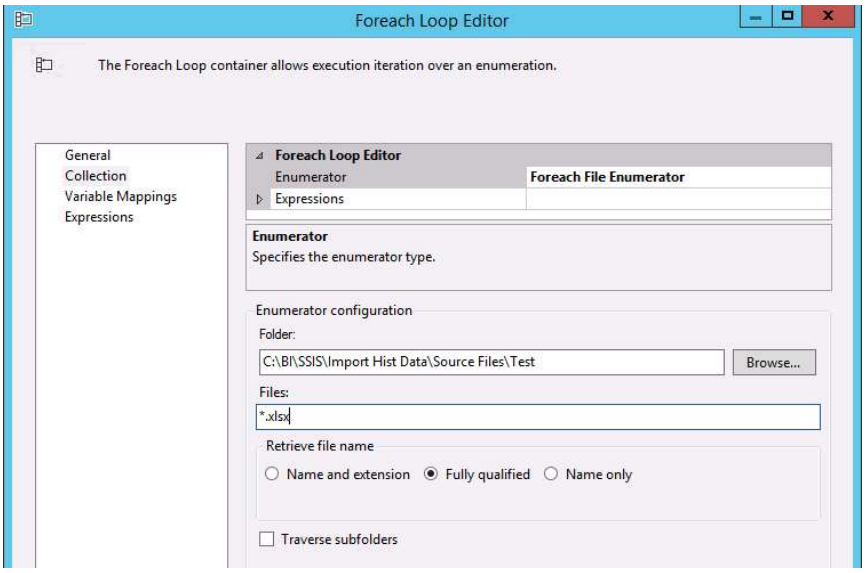


6. Right click on the Foreach Loop Container then click Edit

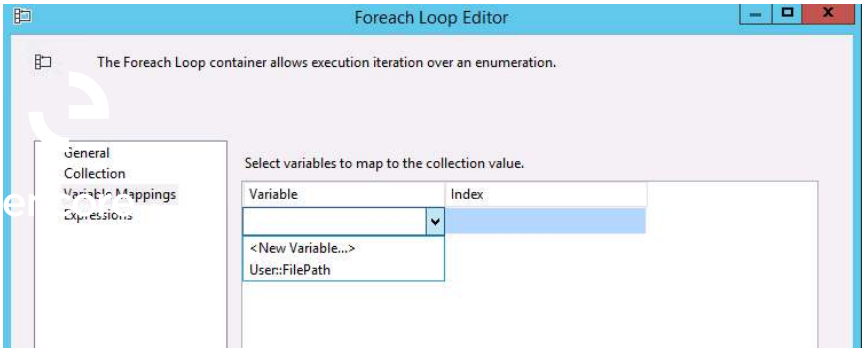


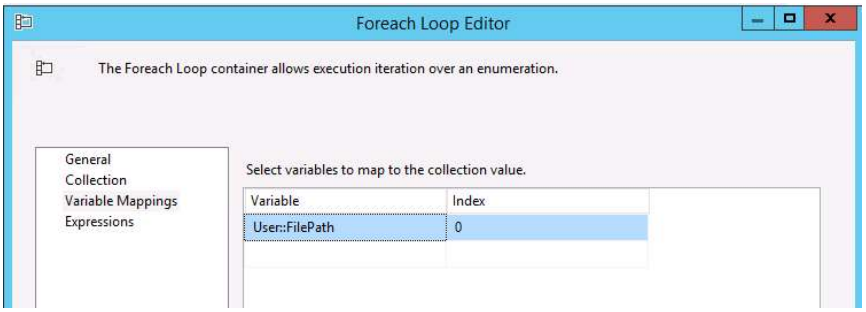
7. Go to Collection > Enter the folder path > Enter the file extension

Make sure that Enumerator is “Foreach File Enumerator” and Retrieve file name is set to “Fully qualified”

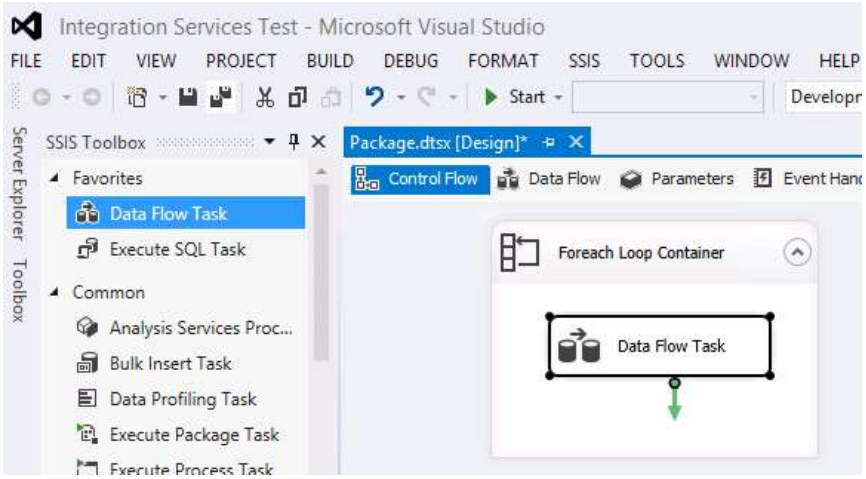


8. Go to Variable Mappings > Select the User:FilePath variable > Click OK to close the editor



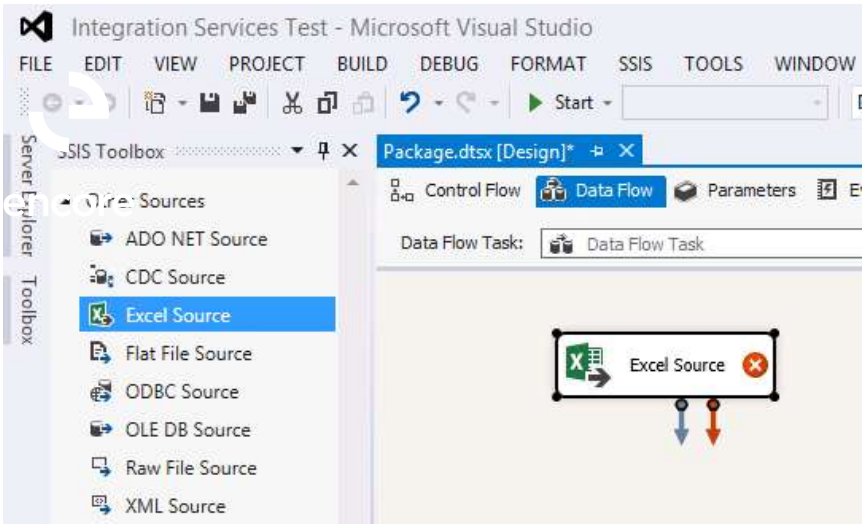


9. Drag and drop the Data Flow Task in the container

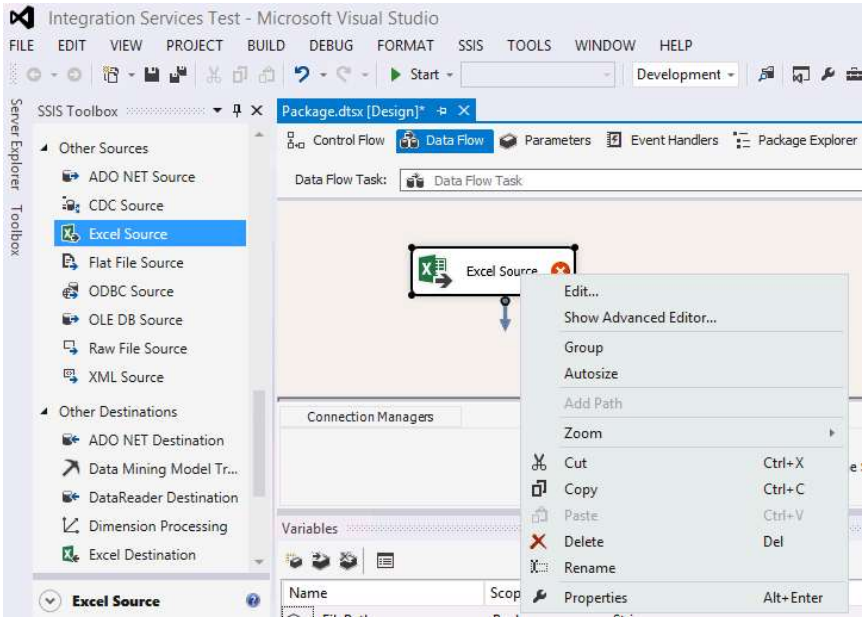


10. Double click the Data Flow Task

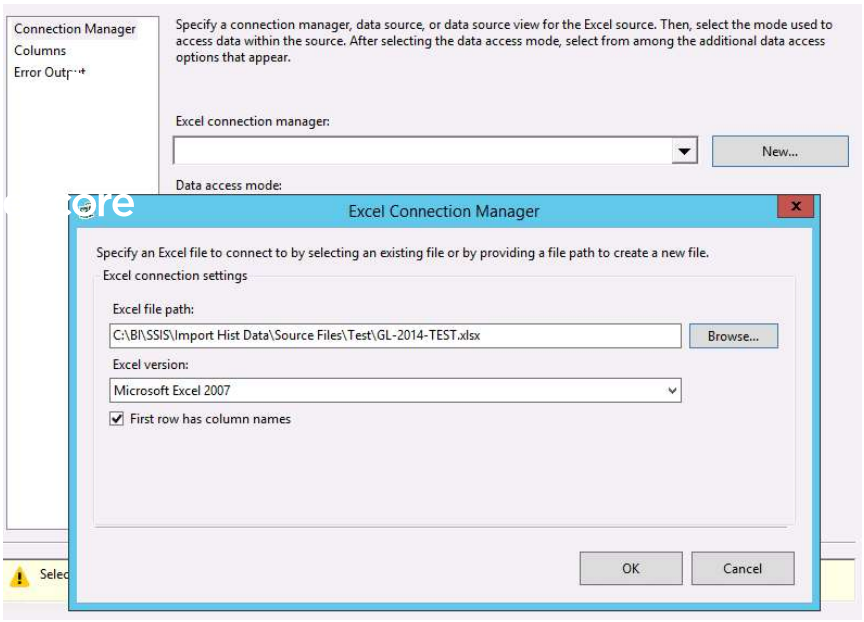
11. Drag and drop Excel Source in the data flow



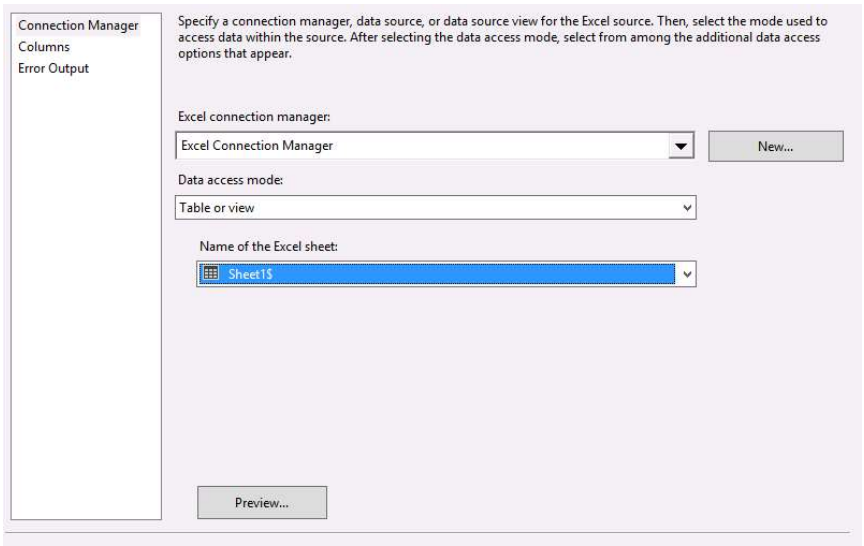
12. Right click > Edit



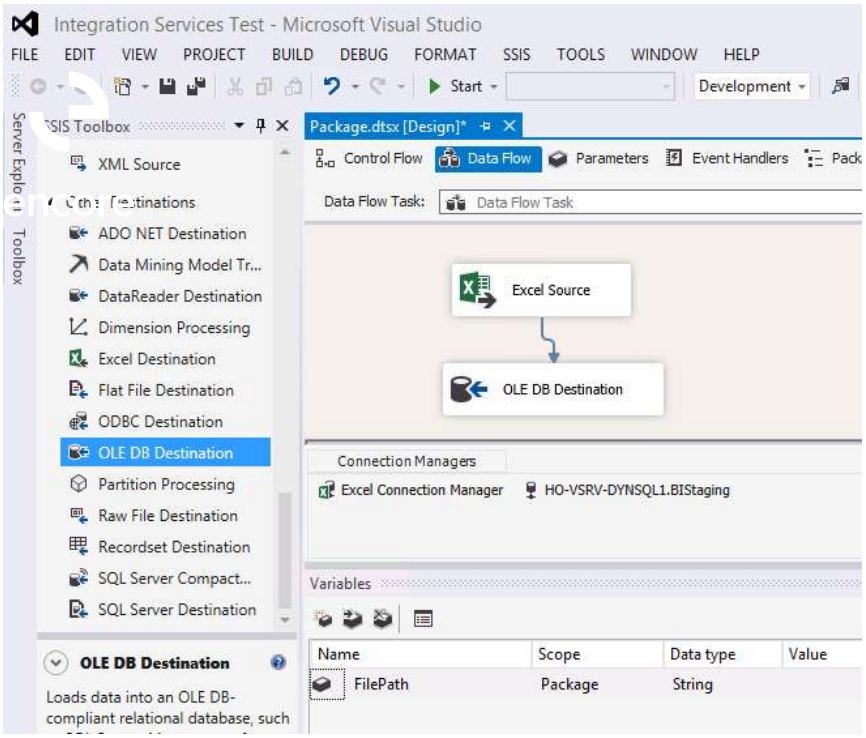
13. Click New > Enter one of your Excel file path > click OK



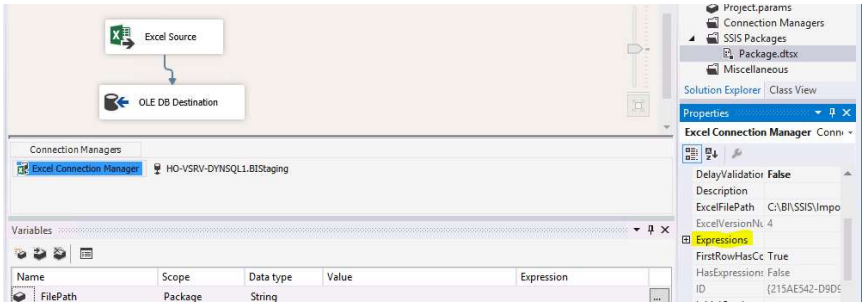
14. Select Name of the Excel sheet and click OK



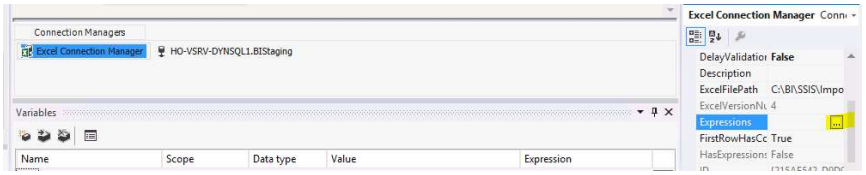
15. Drag and drop the OLE DB Destination > Enter your SQL server information and select the target table



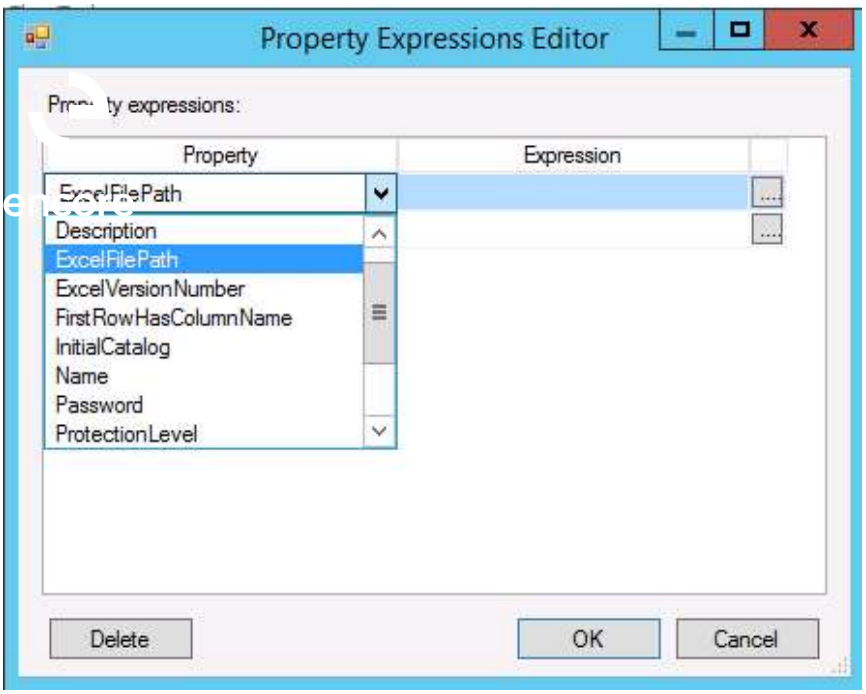
16. Very important! Select the Excel Connection Manager > Click expand button for Expression



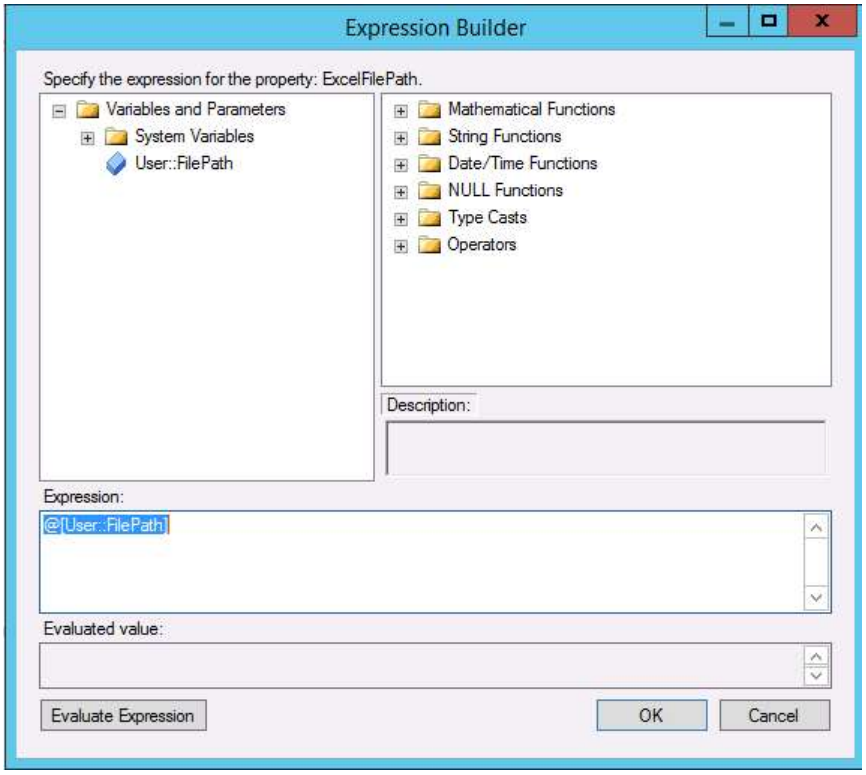
17. Click "…"



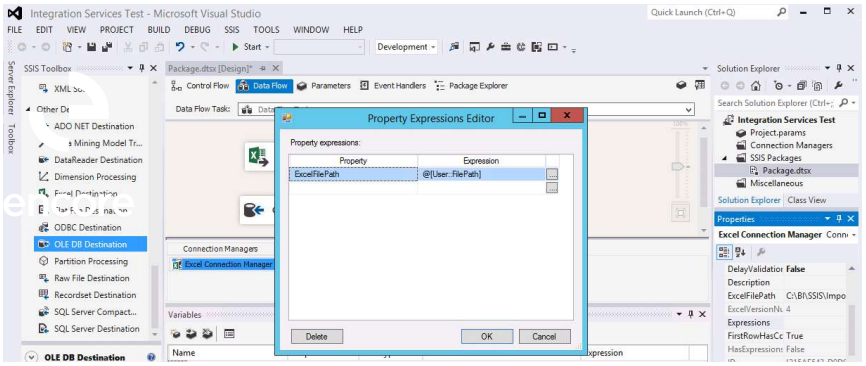
18. Select ExcelFilePath then Click "…" for Expression from its property

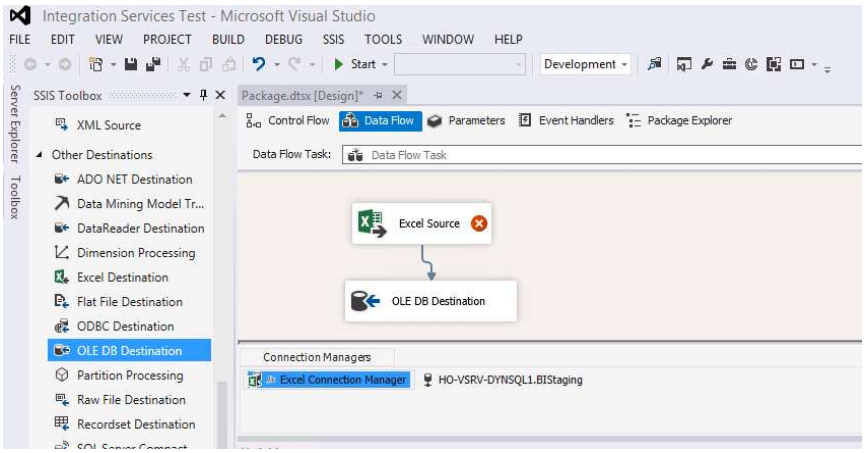


19. Drag and drop the “User::FilePath” Variable then click OK

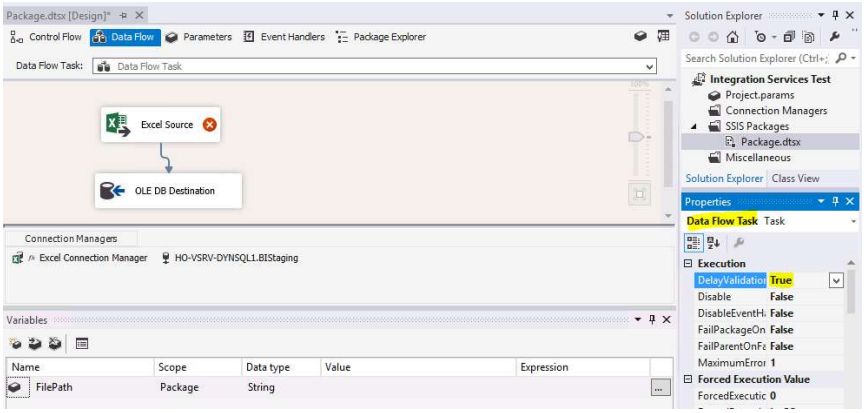


20. Click OK. You will see an error markwe on the Excel Source. Don’t worry.

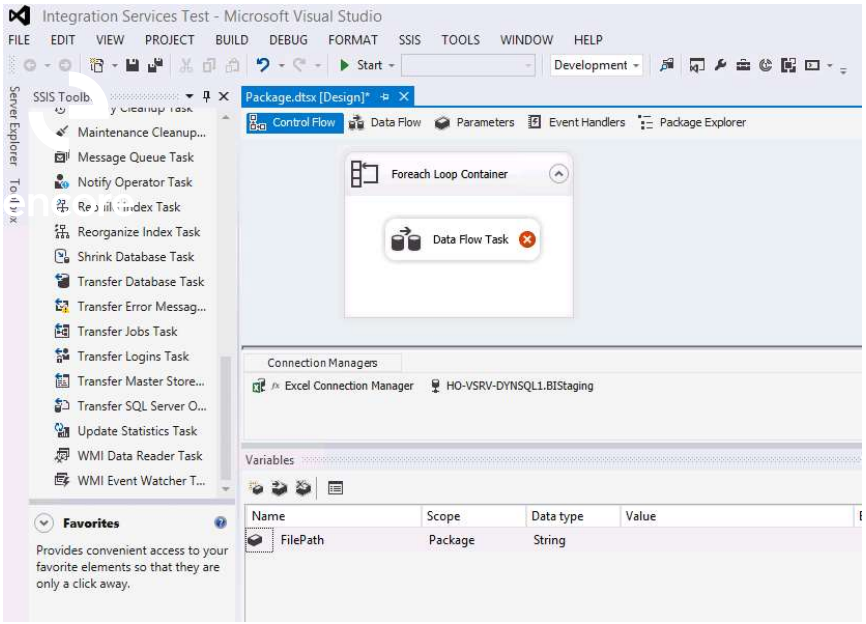


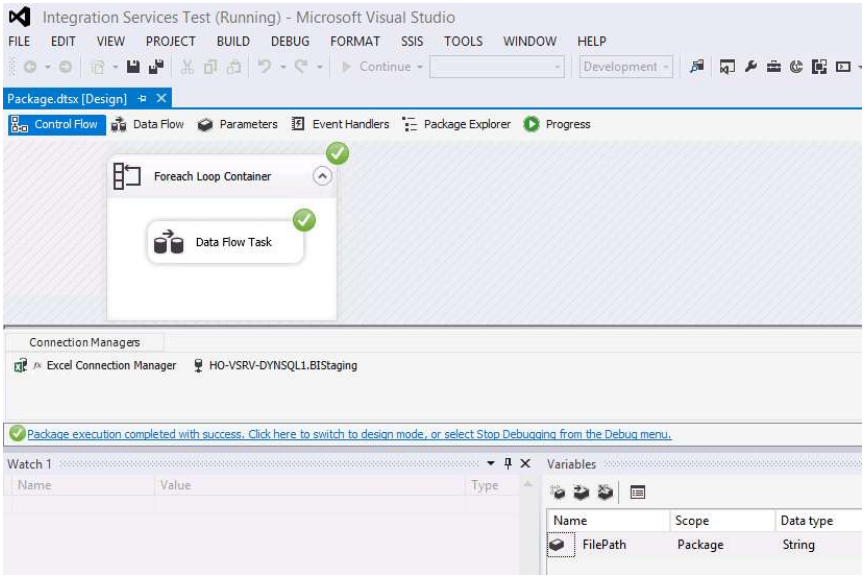


21. Change DelayValidation option to True for Data Flow Task property



22. Ignore the error mark from Data Flow Task then click Start





That's it. I hope that I saved you some time importing your multiple Excel files into SQL!

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Justin is a highly qualified Senior Business Intelligence and Data Analyst who holds numerous professional certifications in accounting, business intelligence, project management, data, development and a wide range of technologies.

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