**csv**

A comma-separated values (CSV) file is a delimited text file that uses a comma to separate values.

Each line of the file is a data record (a line = a record = a row).

Each record consists of one or more fields (a field = a columns), separated by commas.

The use of the comma as a field separator is the source of the name for this file format. A CSV file typically stores tabular data (numbers and text) in plain text, in which case each line will have the same number of fields. (Each row has the same number of columns.)

commas in the data or embedded line breaks must be handled specially. Some implementations disallow such content while others surround the field with quotation marks, which yet again creates the need for escaping these if they are present in the data.