

hledger imports for beginners

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Plain text accounting

- ▶ small recap: what is plain text accounting?
 - ▶ plain text file
 - ▶ double-entry accounting
 - ▶ tooling to create reports

Automating the import

- ▶ Manual imports offer a lot of flexibility
 - ▶ they also take a lot of time
 - ▶ handling backlogs becomes slow
 - ▶ especially with a lot of repetitive transactions
- ▶ luckily, (h)ledger has to option to import from csv files
 - ▶ fast import of backlog
- ▶ ledger: convert
- ▶ hledger: import

CSV files (or why I dislike Belgian banks)

- ▶ csv need some processing (most of the time)
 - ▶ sources use different (non-standard) formats
 - ▶ some work in cents, others in euros
 - ▶ time formats are incorrect or can't be parsed by `hledger`
 - ▶ ...
- ▶ 1 transaction per row
- ▶ all transaction must have the same amount of columns
- ▶ must contain an amount and date
 - ▶ other fields can be set in the rules file or read from the csv file as well

hledger rule file

- ▶ rule files describe to hledger how to read the csv file
- ▶ rule files are tied to the structure of the csv
- ▶ some basic keywords:
 - ▶ `skip n`: skips the first `n` lines
 - ▶ `fields ...`: comma separate field identifier (for classifying columns in the csv)
 - ▶ `currency`: can be set in the file, are identified from the csv file
 - ▶ `accountx`: account `#x` that takes part in the transaction
 - ▶ `amountx`: amount of funds transferred matching the `x` account
 - ▶ `description`: description of the transaction
 - ▶ `comment`: comment that will be added to the transaction

hledger rule file

```
skip 1
fields date, description, amount

# specify the date field's format
# - not needed here since date is Y/M/D
# date-format %-d/%-m/%Y
# date-format %-m/%-d/%Y
# date-format %Y-%h-%d

currency $
account1 assets:bank:checking

if (TO|FROM) SAVINGS
    account2 assets:bank:savings
```

example: Zeus tab

- ▶ The processed csv file
 - ▶ amount is divided by 100 (cents -> euros)

```
"amount","creditor","debtor","id","issuer", ...  
20,"theycy","Zeus",3933,"iepoev","GELD via b ...  
0.75,"Zeus","theycy",3992,"Tap","1 Ice Tea", ...  
0.7,"Zeus","theycy",4026,"Tap","1 Cola","201 ...  
0.75,"Zeus","theycy",4033,"Tap","1 Ice Tea", ...  
0.75,"Zeus","theycy",4057,"Tap","1 Ice Tea", ...  
2.35,"Zeus","theycy",4062,"Tap","1 Cola and ...  
6,"Zeus","theycy",4150,"theycy","Chinees 18/1 ...  
0.75,"Zeus","theycy",4152,"Tap","1 Ice Tea", ...  
0.75,"Zeus","theycy",4153,"Tap","1 Ice Tea", ...  
30,"theycy","Zeus",4162,"iepoev","GELD banco ...  
2.04,"basho","theycy",4174,"theycy","Desparad ...
```

example: Zeus tab

```
skip 1
fields am, creditor, debtor,,, msg, date
date-format %FT%T.000%Ez
# equivalent of date-format
# %Y-%m-%dT%H:%M:%S.000+02:00
account1 assets:be:zeus:tab
account2 expenses:voedsel
description %debtor to %creditor: %msg
amount1 -%am EUR
amount2 %am EUR

if %creditor they
    amount1 %am EUR
    account2 income:zeus:tab
    amount2 -%am EUR
```


Demo time!