



Text Files

Business To Business Integration



Text Files

Microsoft Excel

Probably the most common tool for working with Text files like CSV.



Database Systems

Text files are often used for bulk upload or download from databases .



Data Science

Text CSV files are the de facto standard for data scientists to exchange data sets



EDI Alternative

A simpler B2B format alternative to EDI, XML or JSON

Example CSV File

```
"OrderNo","OrderDate","CustomerName"  
"10928","8/23/2020","Martha Harris"  
"10929","8/24/2020","Steve Mendes"  
"10930","8/24/2020","Smith, Tracy"
```

Header row

Newline character (CRLF)

Comma delimiters

Records enclosed in double quotes

This comma ignored as a delimiter

Date Format Variety

Example	Format	Usage
03/02/2020	mm/dd/yyyy	US region
03/02/20	mm/dd/yy	US with 2-digit year
02/03/2020	dd/mm/yyyy	Europe region
2/3/2020	d/m/yyyy	Europe with without left zero
2020/03/20	yyyy/mm/dd	Asia region
2020-03-02	yyyy-mm-dd	Asia with dash instead of slash
2020-03-02T15:05:24	yyyy-mm-ddThh:mm:ss	ISO 8601 / JSON

Pipe Delimited File

```
"OrderNo"|"OrderDate"|"CustomerName"  
"10928"|"8/23/2020"|"Martha Harris"  
"10929"|"8/24/2020"|"Steve Mendes"  
"10930"|"8/24/2020"|"Smith, Tracy"
```

Pipe delimiter

Pipe Delimited – No double quotes

OrderNo	OrderDate	CustomerName
10928	8/23/2020	Martha Harris
10929	8/24/2020	Steve Mendes
10930	8/24/2020	Smith, Tracy

Example Fixed Width File

Position 1-5	Position 6-26	Position 27-32	
10929	Martha Harris	001200	→ 12.00
10929	Steve Mendes	002420	→ 24.20
10930	Tracy Smith	015075	→ 150.75

No header row

Newline character (CRLF)

Space padding

Zero padding and implied decimal

Hierarchical Data in a Delimited File

HDR	10928	20200820	Martha Harris	
DET	001	10-29282	Headphone	10
DET	002	10-10945	Adapter	100
HDR	10929	20200824	Steve Mendes	
DET	001	10-29282	Headphone	1

Indicates “header” record type

Date in yyymmdd format

Two “detail” records for order 10928

An additional order header with one detail