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

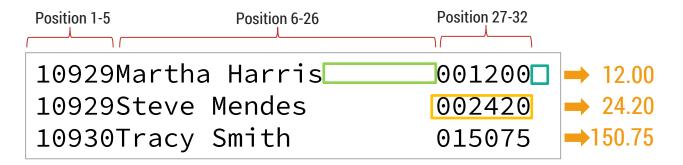
```
"OrderNo" ""OrderDate" | "CustomerName" "10928" | "8/23/2020" | "Martha Harris" "10929" | "8/24/2020" | "Steve Mendes" "10930" | "8/24/2020" | "Smith, Tracy"
```

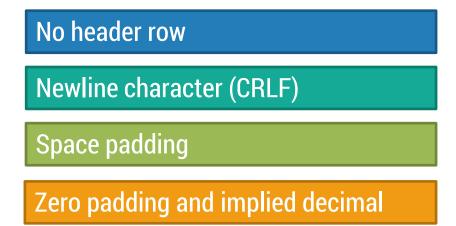
Pipe delimiter

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





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 yyyymmdd format

Two "detail" records for order 10928

An additional order header with one detail