

Data Dictionary Compare: REDCap External Module Documentation

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1. Overview

What is an External Module?

External Modules (EMs) are individual packages of software that can be downloaded and installed by a REDCap administrator. Modules can extend REDCap's current functionality, and can also provide customizations and enhancements for REDCap's existing behavior and appearance at the system level or project level.

As a user with Project Setup/Design privileges in this project, you can modify the configuration (if applicable) of any enabled module. **Note:** Only REDCap administrators can enable or disable modules.

DISCLAIMER: Please be aware that External Modules are not part of the REDCap software but instead are add-on packages that, in most cases, have been created by software developers at other REDCap institutions. Be aware that the entire risk as to the quality and performance of the module as it is used in your REDCap project is borne by you and your local REDCap administrator. If you experience any issues with a module, your REDCap administrator should contact the author of that particular module.

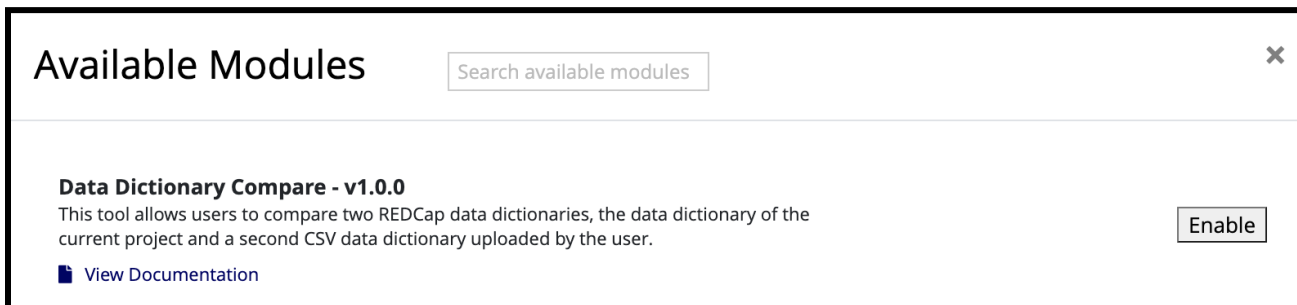
What is the Data Dictionary Compare Module?

With this tool, users can compare two REDCap data dictionary files, one from their current project and one from a CSV file they upload.

2. Module Setup and Configuration

Activating the Data Dictionary Compare Module

In the left panel in REDCap, select “Manage” in the External Modules section. Select “Add a Module” and search for the Data Dictionary Compare External Module. If it is available on your REDCap server, click “Enable” to activate the external module on your project.

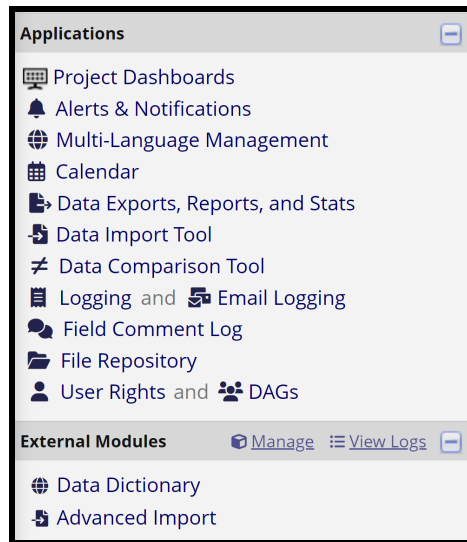


3. How to use the Data Dictionary Compare Module

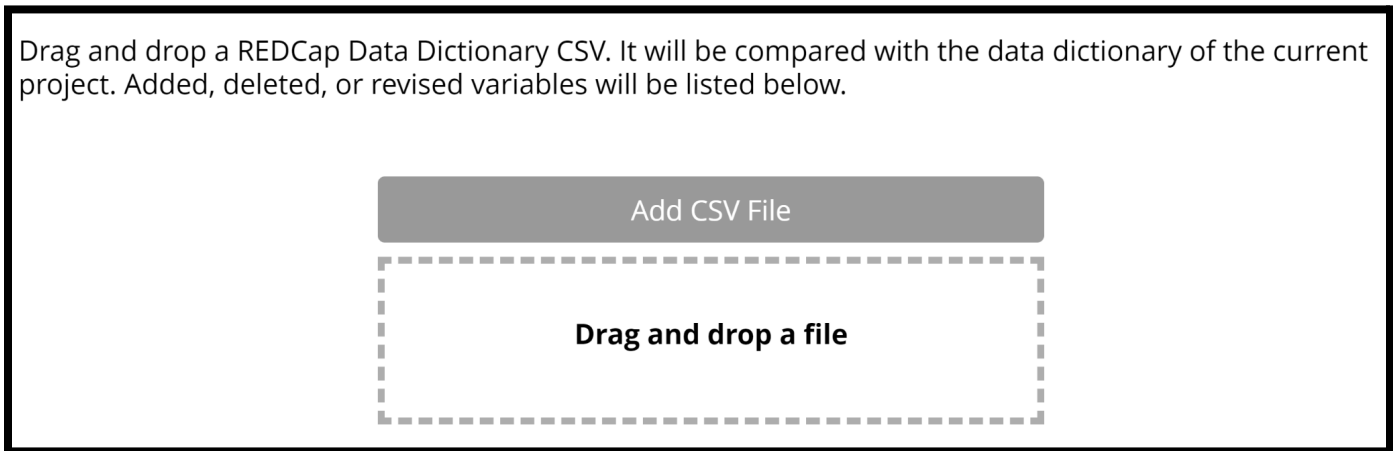
Open the file folder on your computer where you have saved the CSV file for the new data dictionary which you would like to compare to the open REDCap project's data dictionary.

1. Drag and drop the REDCap Data Dictionary CSV into the space indicated.
2. Or, you can select a CSV file from your computer to compare by clicking on “Add CSV File”
3. It will be compared with the data dictionary of the current project.
4. Added, deleted, or revised variables will be listed as shown below.

Once the Data Dictionary Compare External Module is activated, it will be listed under the External Modules as the “Data Dictionary”



When you click on the "Data Dictionary" link under the External Module Manager, you will be taken to the following screen:



4. Interpreting the Data Dictionary Compare Module Results

The Data Dictionary Compare Module matches variables in the two data dictionaries according to **variable name** and compares the other elements associated with that variable. If two variables have a different variable name but are otherwise identical in the two data dictionaries, the Data Dictionary Compare Module will identify one added and one removed variable, not a single variable whose variable name has been changed.

The following fields are included in the comparison process:

- Field Label
- Field Type
- Validation
- Choices
- Calculations
- Field Notes
- Section Header
- Branching Logic
- Field Annotation
- Required Field (Y/N)

- Identifier? (Y/N)
- Min/Max values
- Text validation type / Show slider number

Above the results table for the Data Dictionary Compare Module, you will see the status symbol key shown below.



- The “**Changed**” symbol indicates that an edit has been made to the data in the associated field of the data dictionary.
- The “**Added**” symbol indicates that an addition has been made to the data in the associated field of the data dictionary.
- The “**Removed**” symbol indicates that data has been removed from the associated field of the data dictionary.
- The “**Old Value**” symbol indicates the original value in the event of a data dictionary change.

In addition, hovering your cursor over any symbol in the status column will display the name of the symbol.

The Data Dictionary Compare EM Report Grid

With the Data Dictionary Compare EM Report Grid (shown below), you can compare the data dictionary within an open project with the data dictionary in your uploaded CSV file.

Rows added: 1

Rows changed: 3

Rows removed: 1

Changed

Added

Removed

Old Value

Status	Variable / Field Name	<div>Field Label</div> <div>Field Note</div> <div></div>	Field Attributes (Field Type, Validation, Choices, Calculations, etc.)
	home_number_recentactivity	<div>Recent Activity</div> <div>Recent Activity entries</div>	text (integer, Min:30, Max: 30) Required @DEFAULT="10"
	vote_grid	<div>Section Header : Hub Voting/Review Dashboard Settings</div> <div>How do you want the Review Grid/Voting Grid to be displayed on the Request Dashboard?</div>	<div>dropdown radio Required</div> <div> <div>1</div> <div>Show full grid with one column per research group (recommended for consortia with 1 to 8 voting research groups)</div> </div> <div> <div>2</div> <div>Only show voting status from a single research group (user's assigned group)</div> </div> <div> <div>0</div> <div>Only show status of user's research group (private mode)</div> </div>
	vote_grid2		
	home_number_quicklinks	Quicklinks	text (integer, Min:0, Max: 30), Required Field Annotation: @DEFAULT="10"

Above we can see that four changes have been made to the data dictionary in the uploaded CSV file compared to the data dictionary that is currently in the project:

1. The field label for the “home_number_recentyactivity” variable has been renamed to “Recent Activity” This is indicated in yellow highlight and with a “**Change**” symbol under status in the first column.
2. The field type has been changed from radio to drop down for the “vote_grid” variable. This is also indicated with the “**Change**” symbol under status and highlighted in yellow.
3. Next, the variable “vote_grid2” has been added. This is indicated with the “**Add**” status symbol and highlighted in green.
4. Lastly, the row with “home_number_quicklinks” has been completely removed from the data dictionary of the uploaded CSV file. It is indicated with the “**Removed**” symbol under the status column and highlighted in red.