Confirm®

Confirm Task Processor - Import Anything
Version v17.20a.AM
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Confirm Task Processor

The Confirm Task Processor is an individual component within the Confirm release package and is installed as a Windows service through its installer. It supports processing of the Agents that are available within the ‘Scheduled Tasks’ screen.

In this section

Import Anything Agent  6
Import Anything Agent

This Agent provides an automated method of importing several different types of record into the Confirm database, in a variety of file formats. The records that can be imported include Features, Inventory, Jobs, Defects, and Traffic Count Surveys. The full list of supported record types and the associated Module requirements can be found in the specification.

The Agent can be used to set up a folder where users can drop files to be imported, or to configure an interface for external systems to load data into Confirm.

This is achieved by configuring a number of Import Transformations to be run by the Agent. Each of these polls a particular folder for any file waiting to be imported, transforms the file to the Agent’s preferred format, validates the content and, if there are no errors, saves the results to the database.

The same functionality is available interactively using the ‘Import Data’ option on the Confirm menu.

Operation

When the Agent is triggered, it processes all defined Import Transformations with the ‘Generic Import’ Process Type.

Each Import Transformation has a specified Input Directory, and a File Name Mask (*.*) by default) used as a filter so the Agent does not attempt to import inappropriate files. The Agent will identify all files in the Input Directory matching the specified mask, and will attempt to import each one in turn. The files are processed in date created order, from the oldest to the most recent.

Before being imported, the file may be transformed to the format Import Anything expects. The transformation to be carried out is determined by the ‘File Pre-processing Format’ specified on the Import Transformation record, as follows:

- (None) – the file is already in Import Anything format as defined in the specification.
- XML – the file is an XML file and a Stylesheet will be used to transform it to Import Anything format.
- Others – the file is in a delimited text format which will be pre-processed to XML and then a Stylesheet applied.

Once transformed, data will be loaded into memory from the file and then validation will be applied depending on the type of data being loaded. This includes ensuring required Modules are present, all mandatory fields have been supplied, referenced lookup values exist, duplicates are not being created, etc.

If the validation is successful, data will be saved to the database and the import file moved to a ‘Read’ subfolder within the Input Directory. In the event of any warning messages being generated (for example, descriptive data being truncated to fit a field) a corresponding .err file will be created in the same location.

If the validation is not successful, the import file will be moved to an ‘Invalid’ subfolder within the Input Directory. A corresponding .err file will be created in the same location detailing the reasons for failure. Note that the Agent generally handles errors at file level, so any error detected within a file will result in the entire file being rejected.

Import Data Utility

The Import Data Utility within the Confirm Client can also be used to import files and provides the same functionality as the Agent.
Specification
The Specification section for this agent provides more details on file format and structure.

Configuration
This section details how to configure the Import Anything Agent.

1. Ensure that the agent is scheduled as a Task in the Scheduled Tasks screen within the Confirm client.
2. Setup an Import Transformation via the Import Transformation screen. Set the 'Process Type' field to 'Generic Import'.
3. Create the directory structure on the Confirm Task Processor server for imported files. The import folder should match the folder specified in the import transformation and will need an 'Invalid' and 'Read' directory created under it.
4. Ensure the Task Processor is configured and running