Which import or export tool do I need?

One table from the task to the tool, for every import and export tool of Exponential 6.0.15, with round trips and where each one is found.

Source file: `doc/eng-us/help/import-export-tools.md` Last changed 2026-11-06
https://doc.exponential.earth/exphelp/viewer/help/import-export-tools.md

Exponential has several import and export tools, each made for a different job. This page takes you from what you want to do to the tool that does it. You do not need to know the tools' names first.

The administration shows you only the tools that are switched on in your installation and that your role lets you use. So a tool in this table may be missing from your menus: then it is not active here, or ask your administrator.

Find the tool by task

I want to…	Tool	Direction	Works on	Formats	Where
Bring rows from a spreadsheet, CSV, XML or JSON file in as content items, once or on a schedule, with a dry run first	**Imports (7x SQLI Import)**	import	a folder, a class	CSV, TSV, XLSX, ODS, XML, JSON, NDJSON, RSS, Atom and many more (see its **Catalogue**)	**Imports** tab, or **Import/Export > Import into this folder…** on a folder
Bring content in from another system: a REST API, a database, a WordPress export, a shop	**Imports (7x SQLI Import)**	import	a folder, a class	REST APIs, SQL and NoSQL databases, WordPress WXR, Drupal, Joomla, Shopify, WooCommerce …	**Imports > Catalogue**, **New import** on the card of the format
Fill a module's own table (a data table) from a file instead of making content items	**Imports (7x SQLI Import)**	import	data tables	every format of Imports	**Imports > New import**, step Processing: **Rows of a data table**
Let another system (a shop, a CRM) start an import when its data is ready	**Imports (7x SQLI Import)**	import	a folder, a class, data tables	the import's own format, sent in the call	the import's step Schedule: **Started by another system (webhook or API)**
Download the items of one class, a folder or the whole site as a spreadsheet file	**Export (xrowextract)**	export	site, folder, class	CSV, XML, JSON, ZIP archive	**Export** tab, or **Import/Export > Export…** on an item

I want to…	Tool	Direction	Works on	Formats	Where
Change many items in a spreadsheet and load the changes back	**Export (xrowextract)** and its import	both	folder, class	CSV, XML, JSON	export, edit the file, then **Export > Import** (or **Re-import this file** in the export's history)
Copy a folder with its classes to another Exponential installation, once	**Packages**	both	site, folder, item, class	ezpkg	**Import/Export > This item and its subtree as package…**, **Setup > Packages**
Keep a folder in step on another Exponential site, again and again	**Syndication**	both	folder, item	(between sites)	**Syndication** tab, **Import/Export > Copy to another site…**
Move class definitions, an extension or a design to another installation	**Packages**	both	class, site	ezpkg	**Setup > Packages > Create**, the class page's **Export classes as a package…**
Show news from another website on this one	**RSS import**	import	a folder	RSS, Atom	**Setup > RSS**
Offer a folder as a feed for others to subscribe to	**RSS export**	export	a folder	RSS, Atom, OPML	**Setup > RSS**
Download what a form collected (contact form, survey)	**Collected information** or **Collected information export (CIE)**	export	form submissions	CSV (CIE: also SYLK and other character sets, scheduled)	**Setup > Collected information**, **CIE** tab
Add subscribers to a newsletter list from a file, or download a list	**Newsletter subscribers**	both	subscribers	CSV	**Newsletter** tab, the list's import and export
Turn a Word or OpenDocument file into an item, or download an item as a document	**Word and OpenDocument**	both	an item	DOCX, DOC, ODT	**Import/Export > Import a Word or OpenDocument file…** on a folder
Print a folder or send it as a document	**PDF export**	export	a folder	PDF	**Setup > PDF export**
Hand the audit trail to an auditor	**Audit export**	export	audit records	CSV, JSON lines, JSON	**Audit > Export**

I want to…	Tool	Direction	Works on	Formats	Where
Keep the old addresses of a site working after a move: many redirects, aliases and wildcards from a file, undone as one, and written out again for the web server	**URL maps**	both	URL translator, URL wildcards, redirects	CSV, XLSX, ODS, JSON, Apache and nginx rules	**Setup > URL translator** (or **URL wildcards**) **> Import** and **Export**; Migrating URLs
Create or upgrade a module's table on another database, browse its rows, or set up a connection to an external database	**Data tables**	both	data tables, classes	SQL, .dba	**Setup > Data tables**
Keep a data table and content of one class in step, once, on a schedule or live, in either direction	**Data tables** (synchronisations)	both	data tables, a class and a folder	(between a table and content)	**Setup > Data tables > Synchronisations**, or the group **Data tables** of the Imports catalogue

Round trips: what reads what

Some exports can be imported again. These pairs are made to work together:

You export with	You import with	Notes
Export (xrowextract) CSV, XML, JSON	Export (xrowextract) **Import**	The export's manifest file carries the columns, so the import maps them for you. **Re-import this file** on the export's history page opens the import with the file.
Export (xrowextract) CSV	Imports (7x SQLI Import)	Imports has a preset for xrowextract files: the columns are mapped to the fields of the same class.
Collected information export (CIE) CSV	Imports (7x SQLI Import)	With the CIE preset, form submissions become content items (for example to publish testimonials).
Packages (ezpkg)	Packages	Upload the file in **Setup > Packages** on the other installation and install it.
RSS export	RSS import, Imports	One site's feed is another site's import.
Imports: mapping and results	Imports	An import's mapping can be downloaded and loaded into another installation; its results can be downloaded as CSV.
Imports: the fields of an import	Data tables (module table wizard)	**More > New data table from its fields** on an import opens the wizard with the import's columns; the import can then fill the new table.
Data tables	Content, and back	A synchronisation copies a table into content or content into a table, or keeps both in step with a conflict rule.

Example: change products in a spreadsheet and load them back

1. In the **Export** tab, export the class *Folder* of the products folder as CSV. The file has a column with each item's remote ID, and a column per attribute.
2. Open the file in a spreadsheet, correct the names of three products, save it as CSV (UTF-8).
3. Either load it with Export's own **Import**, or, to see a dry run first, open **Imports > New import**, choose the format *Export (xrowextract) file* and upload the file. Upload the export's `<file>.manifest.json` with it and the mapping is exact; without it, set the option *Class* to *Folder*, and the columns named after its attributes are mapped.
4. In the preview step, the dry run lists the three products as **Updated**, with the old and the new name; the others are **Unchanged**. **Save and run** publishes only the three changed items, as new versions.

Because the remote ID column finds the same items again, nothing is created twice. If the result is not what you wanted, **Undo this run** on the run page brings back the previous versions (Imports and runs).

Which one when two seem to fit

- **Once or again and again?** For a one-off copy to another installation, use **Packages**. To keep two Exponential sites in step, use **Syndication**. To fetch the same file or feed on a schedule, use **Imports** (schedules) or **Export** (schedules and destinations).
- **Your own data or someone else's?** Files you exported from Exponential go back in best with the tool that made them (Export's import, Packages). A file from another system (a shop, a CRM, a spreadsheet someone made) goes in with **Imports**, which lets you map its columns to your class's fields and see a preview first.
- **Content or records?** Content items (articles, products, pages) are exported by **Export** and **Packages**. Records that are not content items (form submissions, subscribers, audit records) have their own export where they are kept.

Where to find the tools in the administration

- On every tool's main page, a **Looking for…?** box names the other tools and the ones that read its files. The label **Works with this tool** marks the tools whose files this one reads, or that read its files:



The box Looking for another import or export? at the end of the Imports dashboard: Export (xrowextract), RSS export, Collected information export (CIE) and Data tables marked Works with this tool, then Packages, Syndication, Documents, RSS import, Collected information, Newsletter subscribers, Audit export and PDF export, and a link to Which import or export tool do I need?

- On an item, the **Import/Export** button lists what you can do with that item: export it, import into it (on a folder you may add items to) and copy it to another site.
- On a class page, **Import and export** lists the tools that work on the items of that class.
- The **Setup** menu and the left menu of each tool have an **Import and export** list of all tools you may use.
- The search in the header suggests matching tools when you search for a task such as "import csv" or "copy to another site".
- The **?** help menu on a tool's page links back to this page.

Where your runs are listed

Every run of Imports, Export, CIE and the synchronisations of Data tables is recorded in one run history: who ran it, when, how long it took, how many records it handled and how it ended. The run list and the **Statistics** page of Imports have a **Tool** filter: choose Imports, Export, CIE, Data tables or all import and export tools. A run of Export or CIE links to its own page (the job with its file). Each tool's own pages keep their lists and have a link **All import and export runs**.

You see your own runs, and every user's runs of a tool when your role allows it (for Export, the "all jobs" policy). Long exports run in the background on the job queue, or on the content jobs when the queue is not set up; you can leave the page and come back.

Read more about Imports

How to make an import, try it with a dry run, run it, undo it and schedule it: 7x SQLI Import: start here. Its own manual, with a worked example for every format, is in the help under Extensions (`/exphelp/viewer/ext/sqliimport/index.md`); its page on the other tools is `/exphelp/viewer/ext/sqliimport/transfer.md`.

For developers

The tools are listed by the transfer registry of the kernel: each tool declares itself in `kernelservices.ini`, and every list and link above reads it. See The transfer registry. How a tool runs in the background and records its runs: Transfer runs.

Exponential Copyright © 1998-2026 Exponential Foundation and 7x
Permission is granted to copy, distribute and/or modify this document under the terms of the GNU Free Documentation License, Version 1.3 or any later version published by the Free Software Foundation; with no Invariant Sections, no Front-Cover Texts, and no Back-Cover Texts. A copy of the license is included in the section entitled "GNU Free Documentation License".
This documentation is free documentation, licensed under the GNU Free Documentation License 1.3 or later:
https://www.gnu.org/licenses/fdl-1.3.html.