



6.7 User Guide

How to open a CSV file

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Introduction

This guide provides guidance on how to open a csv formatted data file and save the data into a Blue Prism collection stage for later use in your process.

How to open a CSV file?

CSV stands for Comma Separated Values. It is simple, standard format for storing ASCII data. As the name implies data elements (fields) are separated via a comma character. A comma indicates the end of a data element and the start of another data element.

Here is a sample of CSV

Customer Acct Number,Product Code,Quantity,Unit Price,Priority Order

76012589,ABC-125,3,2.16,True

45051458,ABC-127,6,0.45,False

50023512,ABC-121,2,3.2,False

20087425,ABC-126,1,4.5,True

10084215,ABC-123,22,0.19,True

This CSV contains header information in line 1, indicating what the following data is and the column the data should be associated with.

Since CSV is so common Blue Prism Studio comes with a Visual Business Object (VBO), the **Utility – File Management VBO** to open and extract CSV data.

If you do not see the **Utility – File Management VBO** within your Studio -> Objects -> Default folder check with your Blue Prism Administrator. Or if you have access rights you may download it and other VBOs for free from the Blue Prism Customer Portal at: <https://portal.blueprism.com/products/developer-jumpstart>

Utility-File Management VBO

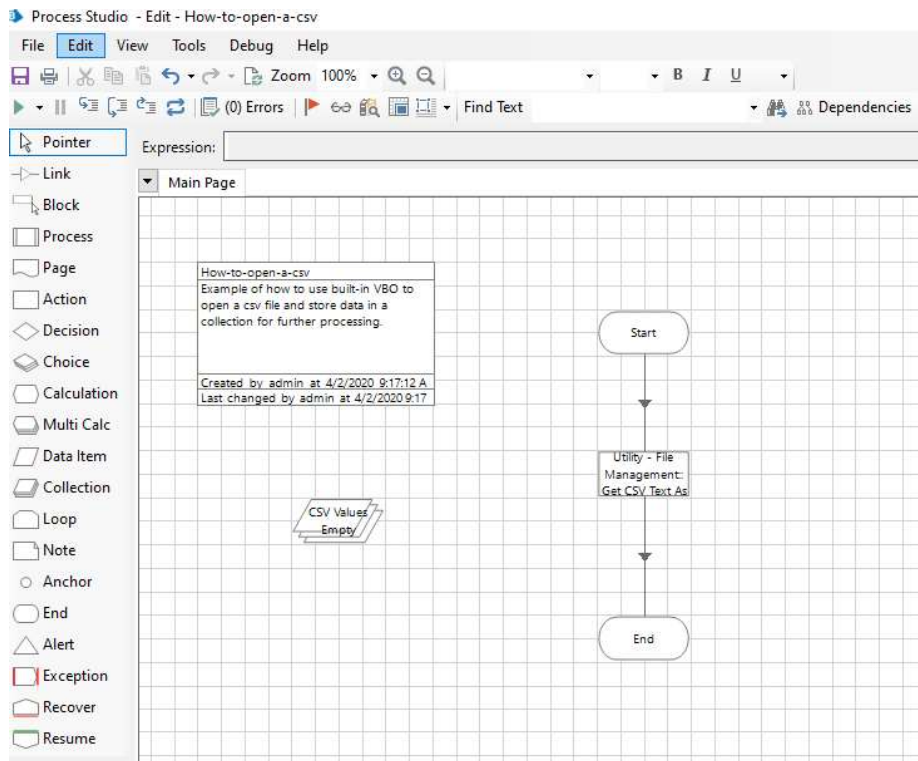
Detailed information the Utility-File Management VBO is available within the local help pages. For this guide we are going to focus on one Action within the File Management VBO, “**Get CSV Text As Collection**”.

Get CSV Text As Collection

Turns a comma separated values file into a collection

Parameter	Direction	Data Type	Description
CSV File Path	In	Text	The full path to the CSV file
First Line Is Header	In	Flag	Set True if you want to treat the first line as a header
CSV Values	Out	Collection	The collection populated with the values of the CSV file

With just one Action stage you can tell your Digital Worker to look for a CSV file, open it, and store any data found in a collection item.



Example Input Parameter Configuration

Name	Data Type	Value
CSV File Path	Text	"c:\temp\Orders.csv"
First Line Is Header	Flag	True

Example Output Parameter Configuration

The screenshot shows the 'Action Properties' dialog box. The 'Name' field is 'Utility - File Management::Get CSV Text As Collection'. The 'Business Object' is 'Utility - File Management' and the 'Action' is 'Get CSV Text As Collection'. Under the 'Outputs' tab, a table lists the output parameter:

Name	Data Type	Store In
CSV Values	Collection	CSV Values

On the right, the 'Group' section has 'Page' and 'Data Type' checked. Below it is a tree view for 'Main Page' with categories like Binaries, Collections, Dates, etc. At the bottom, 'Stage logging' is set to 'Errors only' and 'Warning threshold' is 'System Default'.

Example process run showing CSV data extracted into a Collection stage.

The screenshot shows a process flow diagram on the left with a 'Start' node, a stage 'Utility - File Management: Get CSV Text As', and an 'End' node. A callout box provides instructions on how to open a CSV file. The 'Collection Properties' dialog box is open over the stage, displaying the following data:

Fields	Initial Values	Current Values
Customer Acct Number (Number)		
Product Code (Text)		
Quantity (Number)		
Unit Price (Number)		
Priority Order (Text)		

The 'Rows' section contains the following data:

76012589	ABC-125	3	2.16	True
45051458	ABC-127	6	0.45	False
50023512	ABC-121	2	3.2	False
20087425	ABC-126	1	4.5	True
10084215	ABC-123	22	0.19	True

At the bottom of the dialog, 'Reset to Initial Value whenever this page runs' and 'Hide from other pages in the process' are checked.

Resources

- Customer Portal, <https://portal.blueprism.com/>, guides, documentation, product downloads and more.
- The **Utility – File Management VBO** may be downloaded from: <https://portal.blueprism.com/products/developer-jumpstart>
- Communities, <https://community.blueprism.com/>, various communities including learning focused.
- Blue Prism University, <https://www.blueprism.com/university/>, free training content.
- Digital Exchange (DX), <https://digitalexchange.blueprism.com/dx/>, app store for your Blue Prism bots.
- Free Azure Trial, <https://digitalexchange.blueprism.com/dx/entry/3439/solution/blue-prism-on-azure-marketplace>
- Blue Prism YouTube channel, <https://www.youtube.com/user/BluePrismLtd/featured>, demo and product information videos.