

Enterprise Application Viewer (eav[®]) File Converter

Traditionally, organizations have been forced to retain and maintain legacy applications in order to retain critical historical data. There is often a good business reason behind this need to have access to legacy data, particularly in light of various policy-based requirements for data retention and to comply with industry regulations across different industries.

However, keeping obsolete systems alive in an effort to just view the data can put a real strain on cost and resource. These legacy applications steadily consume maintenance, staffing and data center costs, and in many cases can represent more than half of the IT budget.

Data archival during application decommissioning is a cost-effective and simple solution for keeping legacy data accessible for continuation of the business. A key challenge in data archiving off of a mainframe lies in the ability to set and convert mainframe files. In the past, organizations have been known to spend hundreds or thousands of hours setting up and converting mainframe files from EBCDIC to ASCII for storage off the mainframe.

There is a viable solution to this problem, however. Modern Systems' eav File Converter is a macro utility which allows customers to archive flat, sequential and GDG files in a fast and thorough manner. The user can select hundreds or thousands of mainframe files to archive. Modern Systems provides the macro tooling to quickly move the files from the mainframe without change.

How It Works

The migration syntax for up to 5,000 files can be generated almost instantly using the Modern Systems eav File Converter. On the mainframe, that data is formatted as EBCDIC and the data remains EBCDIC in its off-mainframe state. Modern Systems eav File Converter allows on-demand dynamic conversion from EBCDIC to ASCII for easy viewing of single records, and allows setup to associate copybooks to files so that entire files can be converted to ASCII with a single click. With the copybook association, any type of data (e.g. packed, binary, etc.) is correctly presented and converted on-demand whenever viewing of the record or file is required.

The True Cost of Not Converting Legacy Files

In many situations, organizations have been forced to make the decision to not convert and move their legacy files, deeming the task too laborious and difficult. In many cases the perception is that to convert and move the files is simply too costly to justify to the business. In these situations, organizations opt to leave critical data behind, which unfortunately exposes them to shareholders, auditors, and other stakeholders requesting details about the data. In situations where an organization might be called upon for electronic discovery initiatives, compliance requirements or an audit event, the price for not converting these files can be of upwards of millions of dollars.



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File type support

eav File Converter supports the following types of the files:

- Data files
- Copybook files
- Associations files
- Loader files

Data files

Data files are binary files with sequential or VSAM data structure. If data files are associated with copybook definitions, then File Converter can parse binary data for viewing, validation and conversion. Data file names can be without file extensions or can have any file extensions.

Copybook files

Copybooks are text files in the form of COBOL that contain definitions of one or more records. File Converter parses copybook files into sets of field objects, which are used for viewing, validating and converting data files. Copybook file names can be without file extensions or can have any file extensions.

Associations files

Associations files are XML files that associate data files with copybook files by linking file full names. Association files can be created by File Converter or manually. Each association file can contain references to multiple data files and each data file can be associated with multiple copybooks. Associations files also contain validation and conversion properties so that each association can be treated individually by File Converter.

Loader files

Loader files are XML files that serve loading converted data files to a SQL Server database. Loader files can be created by File Converter or manually. Each loader file can contain references to multiple data files and each data file can be associated with different server/database/table.

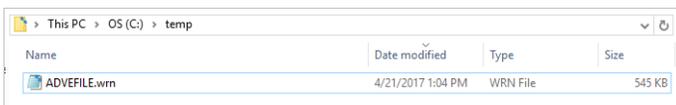
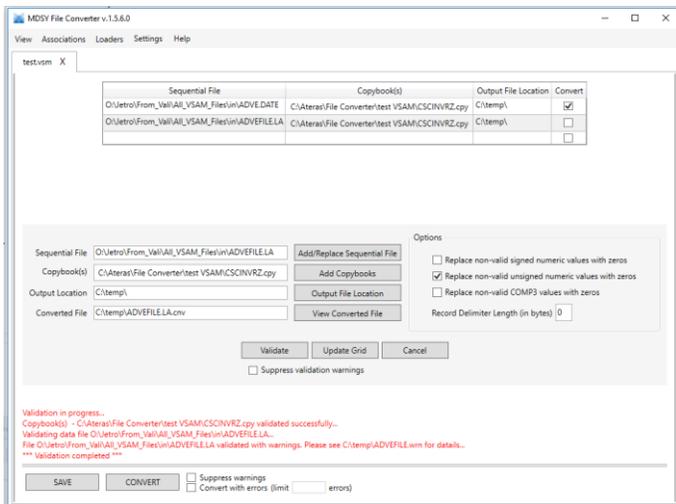


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Validation

eav File Converter can perform validation of the specified copybooks and data files. Validation of the copybooks verifies that syntax of the copybook definitions is correct. Validation of the data files verifies (to the best it can be done) that the structure of the data matches the associated copybook. Warnings and error files can be created during validation process and saved to the output directory.

The following represents the associations view with validation log messages with generated file warnings:



Conversion

eav File Converter provides conversion of the specified data files. The conversion changes encoding of non-numeric fields data from EBDIC to ASCII and produces the following output files:

- Log file (.log) – contains details regarding conversion errors and conversion summary information
- Converted data file (.cnv) – contains successfully and not successfully converted records.
- Error data file (.err) – contains records with critical conversion failures
- Warning file (.wrn) – contains details regarding conversion not critical failures

Uploading converted ASCII data files to the database

eav File Converter provides Loader option that helps to upload converted ASCII data files to the database. With the Loader option, the user specifies the destination of the converted file and the program inserts records from the file to the database.

