

## VorteXML Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: What exactly are report files?

**A:** Report files are really nothing more than a stream of characters held in temporary storage on their way to a printer. On midrange and mainframe systems the storage area is typically called the “print queue”. These files are can then be obtained in ASCII or ANSI format.

### Q: How do I get hold of report files?

**A:** On most midrange and mainframe systems, files can be copied out of the print queue to a system file, then transferred to a PC using file transfer software in conjunction with terminal emulation hardware and software. If you are unfamiliar with this process, ask your PC manager or IT manager to show you how. If your software runs in Windows and can print to the Generic Text print driver, then it can print to a text file and VorteXML can read that text file. Many applications also support printing to file natively, so check this first. The best output option to use would be fixed length text, if available. Sample files are provided with the product, so you may be able to provide one of these to the IT department, to assist them in identifying the type of output you need. Generally, your resource for hard copy of reports will also be able to provide you with the report in ASCII or ANSI format.

### Q: Can I make changes to my input file in VorteXML?

**A:** No, VorteXML will let you parse data and create a table. In the table you have access to over 40 database functions that will allow you to modify your data in many ways. Utilizing these database functions you can create “Filters” and “Calculated Fields” that, for example, allow you to join fields, multiply and divide columns, create random numbers, split fields, such as, a full name field into its 5 parts and a similar function that splits an address block into its logical fields.

### Q: My report doesn't appear to be displaying properly on the screen. What might be causing this to happen?

**A:** It may be that the attempt to convert your file to ASCII was not completely successful. Your file may still contain unused print control characters, or leading control characters. Simply, select “Options” from the main menu and then select “input” from the drop down menu. From the “Input options dialog” look for the section at the bottom labeled, “Report translation area”. In this area there are 4 options:

- Ignore form feeds
- Ignore leading control characters
- Ignore unused print control characters
- Force page break at a certain line

While it is not a bad idea to experiment with all these settings, the ones that will likely address your problem are numbers 2 and 3. It may also be that you have a report with extended characters, such as those found in German or French. If this is the case, adjust the input options character set to the correct type, ANSI or ASCII.

### **Q: My date fields came in blank - why?**

**A:** The date format in the Input Options dialog box does not match the date format in the report. Find out what format the dates in the report are, then select Options, Input and change the Date Translation to match the format in the report.

### **Q: Are schema supported?**

**A:** Yes, XSD and XDR Schema are supported. Only the full XML Schema Recommendation spec is supported, schema using 'pre-release' namespaces are not supported. You must download and install the current version of MSXML4.0 from Microsoft to enable XSD Schema support at: <http://www.microsoft.com/xml>

### **Q: How do I know what version of MSXML I have installed?**

**A:** There are detection utilities available on the web to find out what version of MSXML you have installed. An official tool from Microsoft is listed under KB article Q278674. We recommend using the XMLVersionText tool, rather than XMLVersion, as the XMLVersion tool has numerous dependencies, which may not exist on many machines. There are also other simpler web page-based detection utilities available on the web.

### **Q: I have an XSL style sheet I want to associate with my exported XML. Can specify it within the product?**

**A:** Yes, you can specify an XSL or CSS style sheet. You can also specify processing instructions to be used in the document. If you wish to place a reference to a style sheet within the XML, which is not accessible to your system, then you can specify the style sheet as a processing instruction and VortexXML will not attempt to display the XML with the style sheet applied, within its browser window.

### **Q: I have defined an extraction template and when I go to the table tab to review the data I've extracted, nothing happens?**

**A:** Make sure that the template you want to view the extracted data from is highlighted in the tree pane on the left hand side.

### **Q: Why does it take longer to browse the XML than it does to export?**

**A:** When you browse the XML, the display is provided by an Internet Explorer (tm) window. By default, IE applies an XSL style sheet to the raw XML to give you the raw XML to a file. If speed is your concern, export without using the browse on large files.

### **Q: Can I use VortexXML to generate RSS?**

**A:** Yes you can, just get hold of the RSS dtd for the version of RSS you want to output and you can map and output as with any other XML format. Please bear in mind some versions of the DTDs that are downloadable from the web are not valid, so you may have to edit them yourself or obtain a good source. There are also conflicting versions of RSS with the same version, for example RSS 0.91 was released both by Netscape and by Userland and are incompatible formats. You can also use variants such as O'Reilly's Meerkat, for which a DTD is also available and Atom, although no official DTD or Schema is available at time of writing.

### **Q: When creating my XML document, VortexXML is only producing one XML file, when I am expecting to have many XML files generated from my input data. What am I doing wrong?**

**A:** You need to set a repetition other than 'Once per parent element' on the root element in the output tree. For example, if you have a template called Customer and you want an XML file per Customer, then you would set the repetition of the root element to 'For occurrences of template Customer'

### **Q: I have just updated an attribute name in the element tree and have refreshed the XML using a right click, but nothing has changed, why?**

**A:** The right click menu in the browse view of VortexXML is controlled by Internet Explorer. To regenerate the XML and see the new changes you have made, use the refresh XML command on the Output menu instead.

### **Q: I am trying to use a schema, which imports fine, but when I try and validate, I get an error that says: "Attribute '{http://www.w3.org/2001/XMLSchema-instance}schemaLocation' has an invalid value according to the DTD/Schema".**

**A:** Many schemas are structured in subsets, which are referenced by relative paths. For example, the schema set may have the XSD in <path>\BigSchema\Schemas and require any instance documents to be validated in <path>BigSchema\XML. In order to do this, set the Output Folder to <path>\BigSchema\XML and in the validation, set the path to..\Schemas\TheSchema.xsd. When you are exporting XML, don't forget to omit a subfolder.

### **Q: I want to convert EDI files to XML. How do I do this?**

**A:** EDI files may require preparation for use with VortexXML, please contact technical support for further information.

### **Q: I am using VortexXML for a variety of conversions, but I need to automate the process. How do I do it?**

**A:** We have a server version of VortexXML, which should fulfill any automation needs.