Import Basics

Trifacta® can import data from a variety of flat file formats and other distributed sources.

> ⓘ **NOTE: Trifacta** does not modify a source. Instead, a set of metadata is associated with the raw data, which enables transformation of the source. On export, a new version of the data is written to one or more specified output destinations.

For more information on the formats supported for input, see *Supported File Formats*.

Basic steps:

1. When data is imported, a reference to it is stored by the platform as an **imported dataset**. The source data is not modified.
2. In the application, you modify the recipe associated with a dataset to transform the imported data.

Steps:

> ⓘ **NOTE:** Any user with a valid user account can import data from a local file.

1. Login.
2. In the menubar, click **Datasets**. Click **Import Data**.

3. To add a dataset:

    a. Select the connectionwhere your source is located. For this basic workflow, select **Upload** to upload a file from your local desktop. You can select multiple files to upload. For this example, select only one file.
    b. Navigate and select the file or files for your source. Click **Open**.
    c. To queue the dataset for uploading, click the Plus icon next to its name.

4. To begin working with a dataset, you must first add it into a **flow**, which is a container for datasets. Click the Add Dataset to a Flow checkbox and enter the name for a new flow.

> ✅ **Tip:** If you have selected a single file, you can begin wrangling it immediately. Click **Import and Wrangle**. The flow is created for you, and your dataset is added to it.

5. Click **Import & Add to Flow**.
6. After the flow has been created, open the flow and select the dataset to begin transforming it. See *Transform Basics*.