

# 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 source 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*.

For more information on distributed sources of datasets, see *Connection Types*.

## Steps:

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

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

1. Login to the application.
2. In the menubar, click **Datasets**. Click **Import Data**.
3. To add a dataset:
  - a. Select the connection where 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. Click **Import & Add to 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 is named based on the dataset name. Your dataset is automatically added to it.

5. After the flow has been created, you can begin working with the flow objects. See *Flow View Page*.
6. Select the dataset and click **Create New Recipe**.
7. Now, click **Edit Recipe** to begin working with the dataset in the Transformer page. See *Transform Basics*.

**Tip:** If you are interested, you can create a visual profile of your source data before you begin transforming. For more information, see *Profiling Basics*.

For more information, see *Import Tasks*.

## Example Dataset

You can download an example dataset from the following URL:

[http://trifacta-public-datasets.s3.amazonaws.com/demo-datasets/customers\\_sample\\_data.csv](http://trifacta-public-datasets.s3.amazonaws.com/demo-datasets/customers_sample_data.csv)

The above dataset is used as part of the on-boarding tour presented to new users.