

# 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.

**Tip:** When you login for the first time, you can immediately import a dataset to begin transforming it.

2. In the menubar, click **Library**. 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 your dataset, click **Continue**. The flow is created for you, and your dataset is automatically added to it.
5. You can begin working immediately 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)