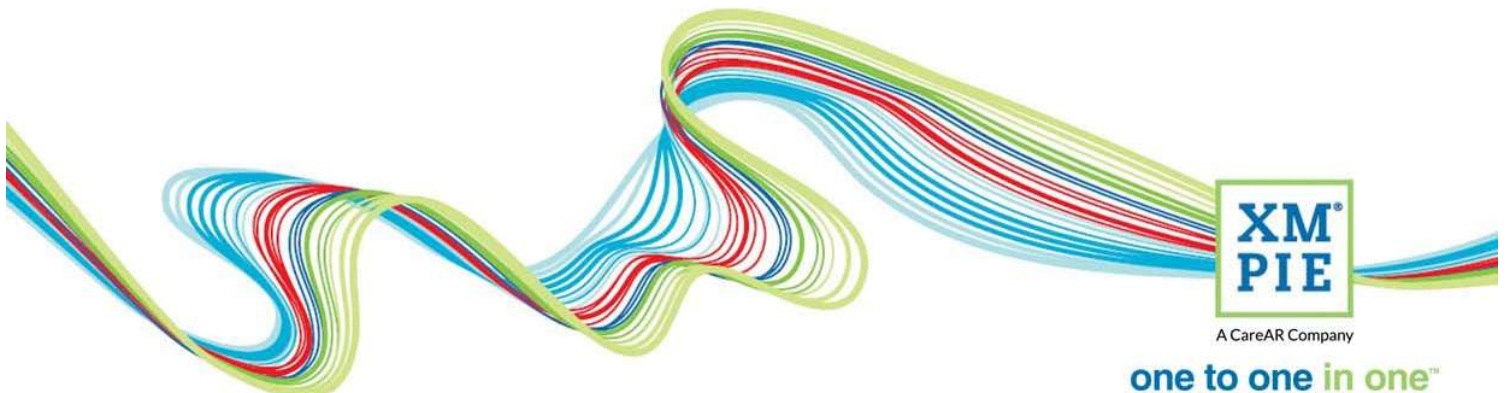# uCreate Print Training

Transcript for: Connecting to data sources

Document version: v2

Software version: v11.3

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XM PIE

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Notices

Voice over script	Thumbnail
Hi! Welcome to XMPie uCreate Print training.	
In this module we demonstrate how to connect uCreate Print with your data sources so you can start to create your VDP or variable data print templates.	
To start, open InDesign, and create a new document, or open the document that you want to change to a VDP template. Locate the Dynamic Content panel. If it is not visible, select it from the Dynamic Content menu, Show Window group.	
From the Dynamic Content menu, select Link to Data… and select the type of connection you want. For most jobs, you will select to connect to a Data Source... At the end of this video, I will come back and explain more about these other options.	
Click Browse... and select your data source file.	

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The types of data that you can connect with will depend on your computer platform. On Windows, uCreate Print can connect with text, CSV, Microsoft Access or Microsoft Excel data sources. On Macintosh, uCreate Print can connect with text and CSV data sources.	
Text and CSV data files should be saved with Unicode encoding on Windows, or UTF-16 encoding on Macintosh. If text files are not saved with the correct encoding, you may experience problems with accented and other special characters.	
Even Japanese, Chinese and Korean character sets are supported correctly in uCreate Print if the TXT or CSV is saved with Unicode or UTF-16 encoding.	
If the file you select is TXT or CSV data, you will be asked what character is separating the data fields.	
If the file you select is Excel or Access, you will also be asked to select the spreadsheet tab or database table that you want to use.	
Click OK to close the confirmation.	
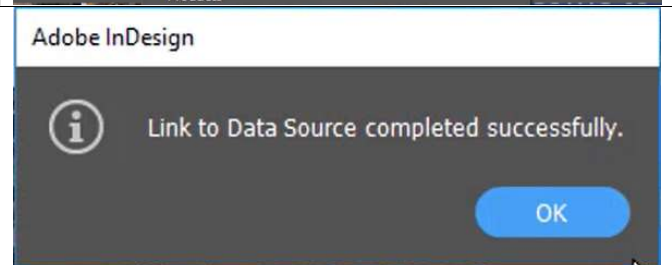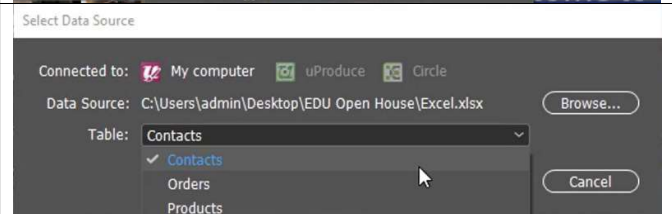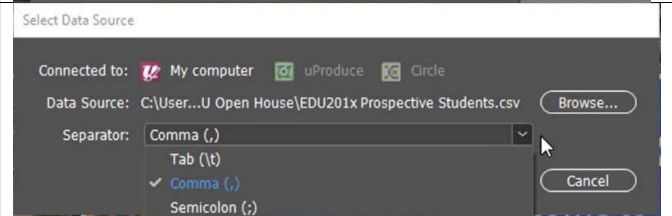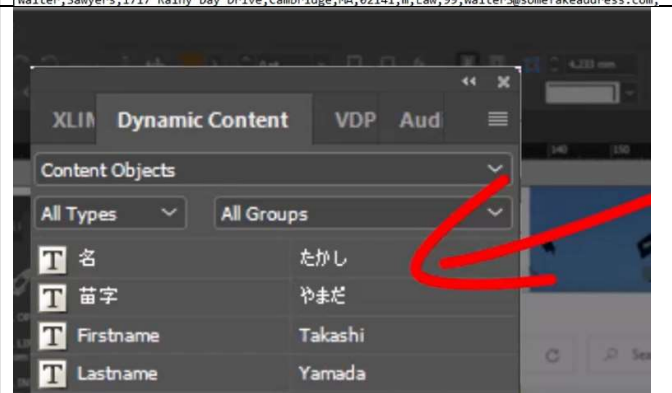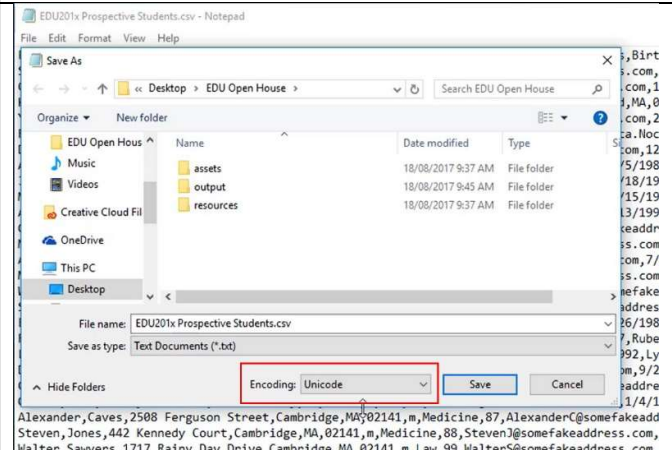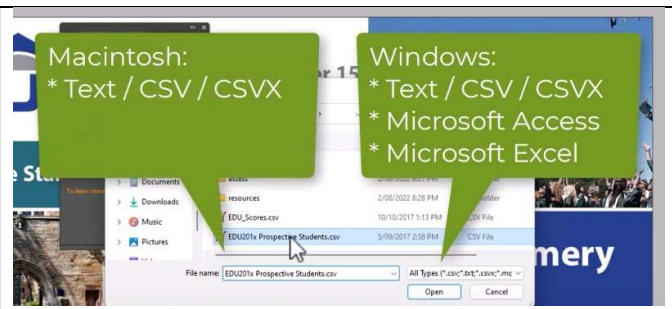
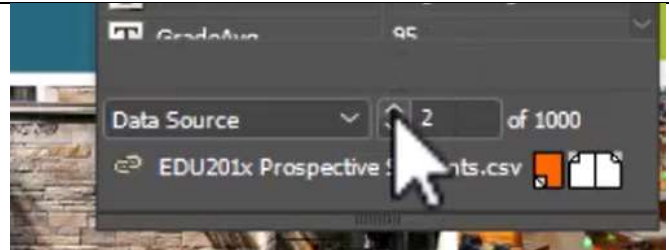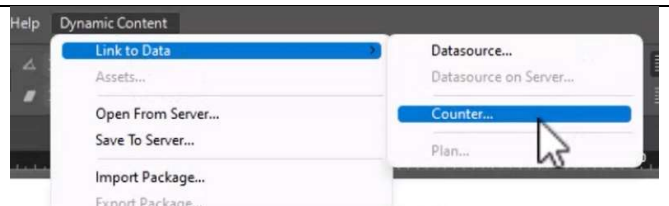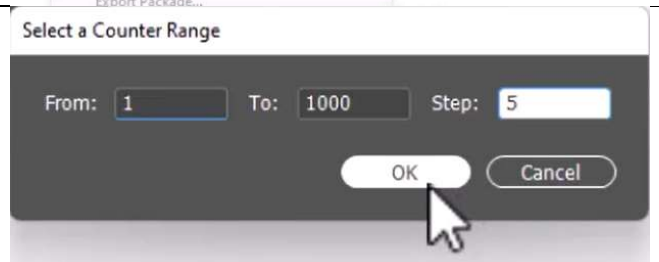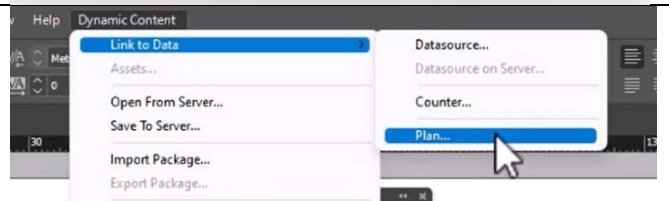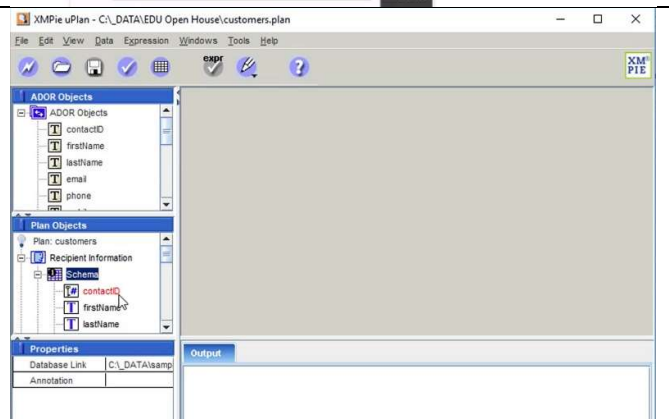|	
Your data source fields or columns are now listed in the Dynamic Content panel ready to be placed into the document, or to create new content objects based on data values. In some cases, it is helpful to see the data values in the panel. To do this, select preferences from the Dynamic Content menu, and check the option to Show Data Column.	
The controls at the bottom of the panel allow you to scroll through the data records, or to go to a specific record. You are now ready to start placing the content objects into the document, or to edit and add new content objects as shown in later videos in this training course.	
Now to return to the other data connection options... A counter is an automated data source containing a sequence of numbers.	
This is useful for jobs like tickets where a sequential number is the only data that is needed, but the counter can also be used for other types of projects.	
Depending on your license, you may be able to link to a plan file that has been created with uPlan.	
The plan file contains information about the data structure, the content objects that can be placed into the InDesign document and the business rules or logic used by the content objects. If your company has purchased PersonalEffect, and you have a larger team with both designers and programmers, the tasks for creating the data connection and defining the logic might be done by the technical team and the completed plan passed to the design team and selected here.	
Usually, when working with a plan file, you will also use a proof set to see some sample content objects in the document design. If you don't have a proofset, the design will only show the name of the content object as a placeholder value.	
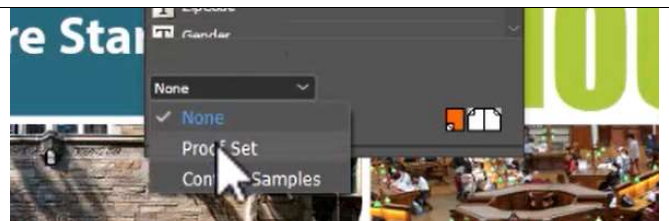
The last option is also available for customers with the XMPie uProduce server and allows you to connect with server-based data sources. This option will only be available when you have selected to open or save the document to your XMPie server.