

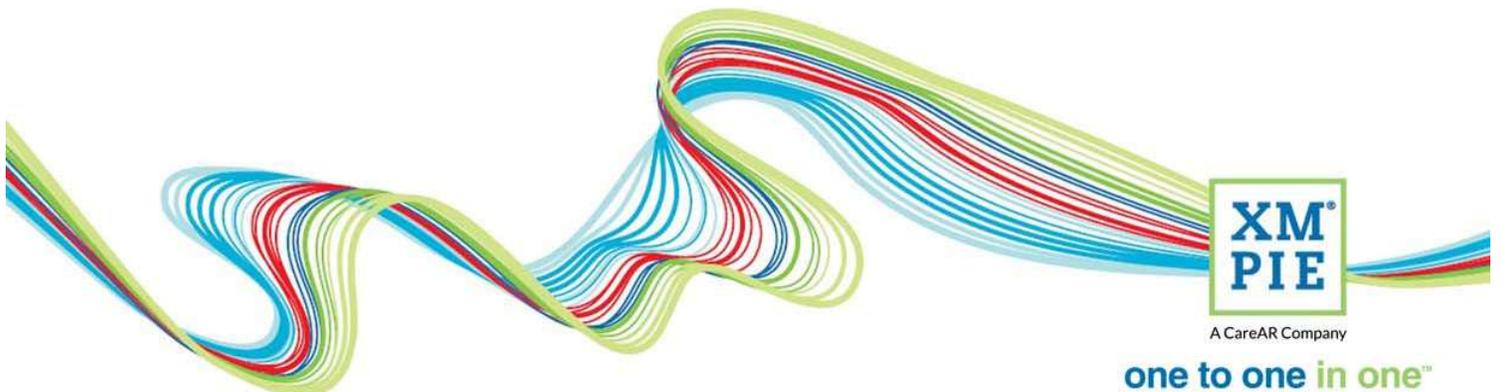
# uCreate Print Training

Transcript for: Connecting to data sources

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Software version: v26.1

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one to one in one™

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JP Patent 4406364B and pending patents.

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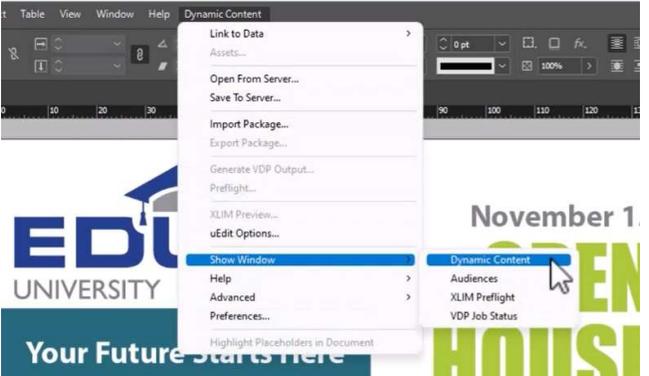
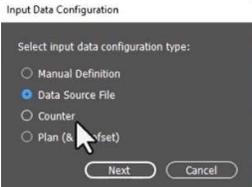
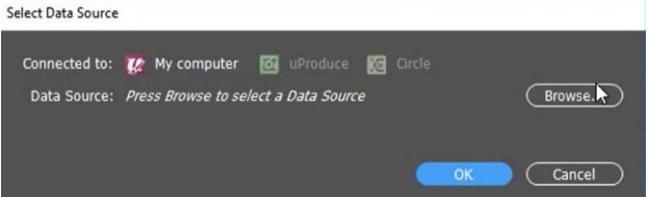
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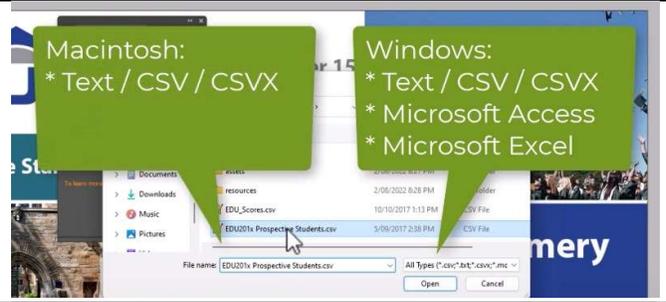
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<h2>Voice over script</h2>	<h2>Thumbnail</h2>
<p>Hi! Welcome to XMPie uCreate Print training.</p>	
<p>In this module we demonstrate how to connect uCreate Print with your data sources so you can start to create your VDP or variable data print templates.</p>	<h3>Connecting to data sources</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Different connection types</li> <li>▪ Types of data source you can connect with</li> <li>▪ Text file encoding, working with other languages</li> <li>▪ Viewing the data in the Dynamic Content panel</li> <li>▪ Counter and Plan data source connections</li> </ul>
<p>To start, open InDesign, and create a new document, or open the document that you want to change to a VDP template.</p> <p>Locate the Dynamic Content panel. If it is not visible, select it from the Dynamic Content menu, Show Window group.</p>	
<p>Click the button on the panel to start.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>Click Browse... and select your data source file.</p>	

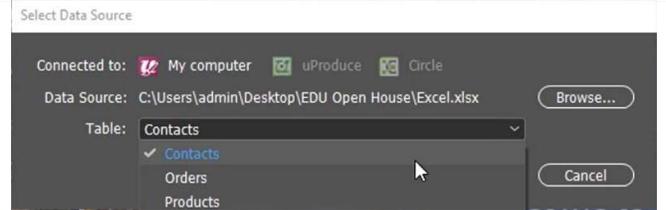
The types of data that you can connect with will depend on your computer platform.

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.

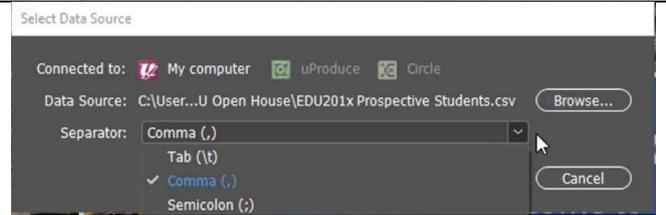


If the file you select is Excel or Access, you will be asked to select the spreadsheet tab or database table that you want to use.

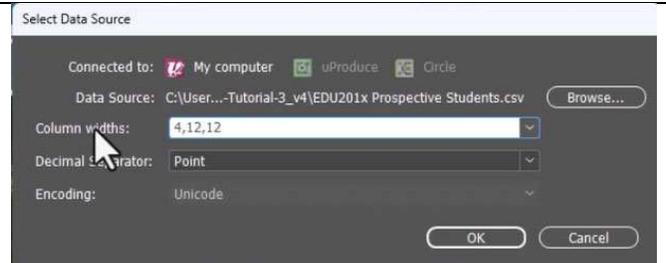


If the file you select is TXT or CSV data, you will be asked what character is separating the data columns.

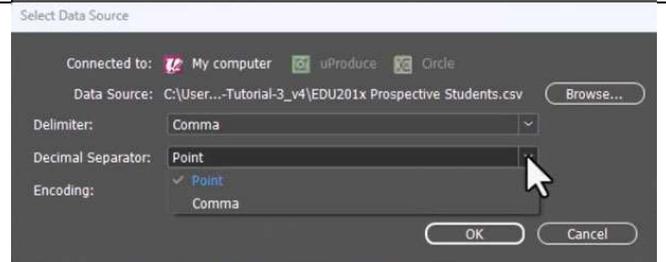
If the character you need is not listed in the dropdown, you can simply type the required character.



If you are using fixed width data files where there is no column separator and each column has a set number of characters, you need to enter a comma separated list of the column widths.

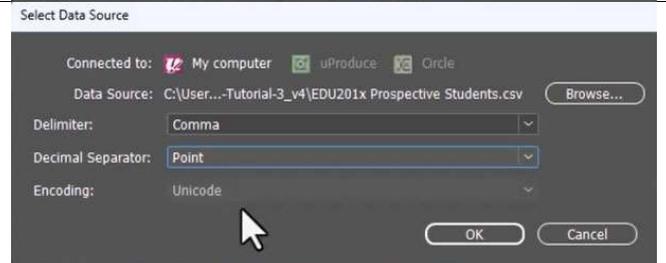


For countries where decimal numbers use a comma instead of a point for the decimal separator, this can be changed here.



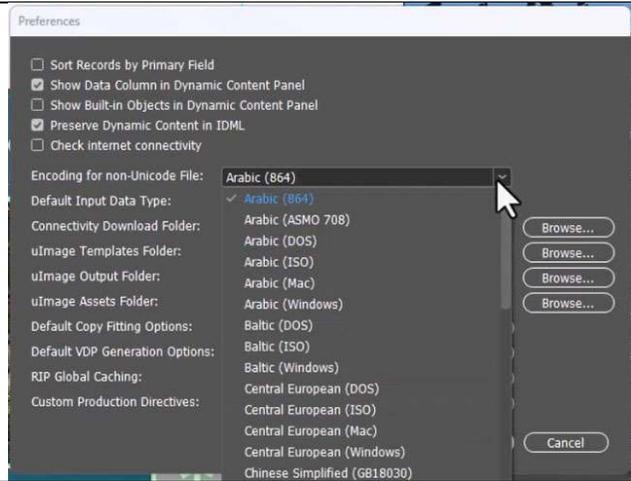
When you connect to a file-based data source, uCreate will use the file's BOM or Byte Order Mark to determine the file encoding.

If the information is in the file, then the encoding will be set automatically and greyed out.



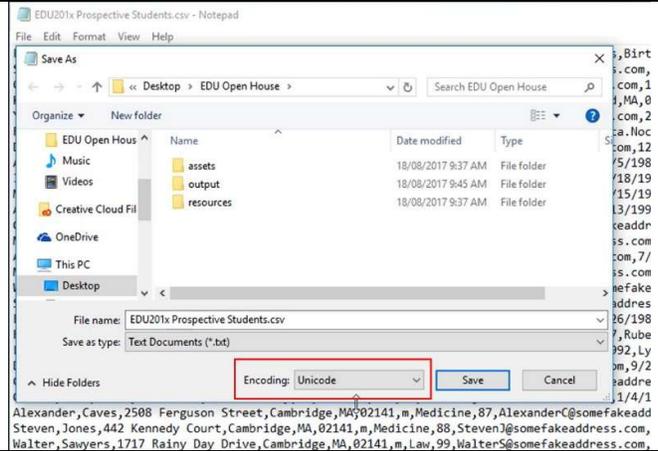
For data source files that don't include a BOM, you will need to select the correct encoding format.

If needed, there is a Preference that you can set to your usual encoding format so that you will only need to change the drop-down if you receive a file with encoding different to what you normally work with.

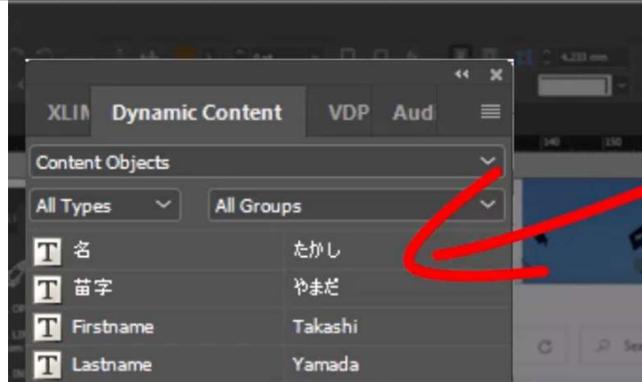


Encoding is most important when you work with data files that include foreign languages that use accented characters, double-byte or other unusual characters like emojis.

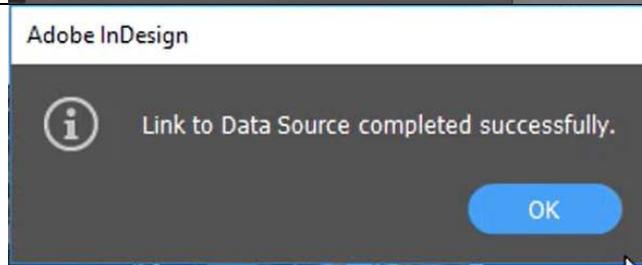
For the best results XMPie recommends that Text and CSV data files be saved with Unicode encoding on Windows, or UTF-16 encoding on Macintosh.



Even Japanese, Chinese and Korean character sets are supported in uCreate Print if the TXT or CSV files are saved with Unicode or UTF-16 encoding.

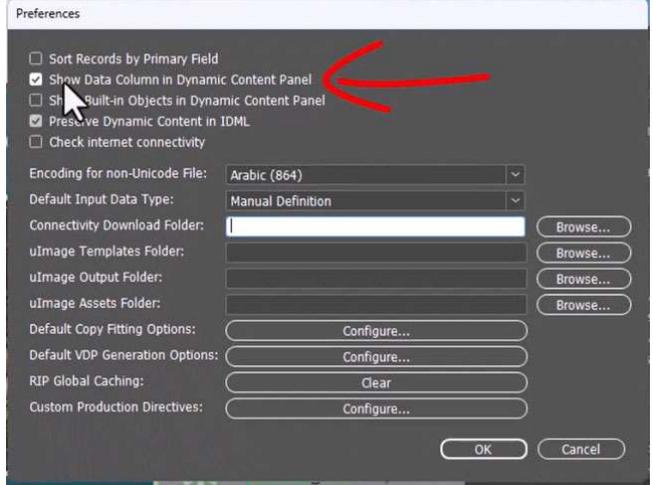


Click OK to close the confirmation.



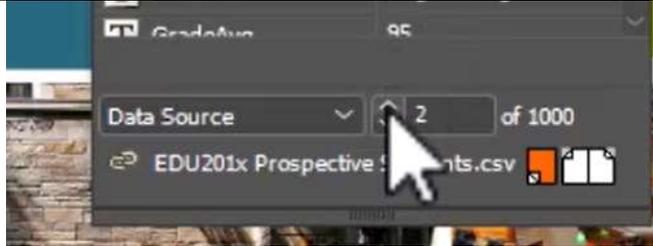
Your data source fields or columns are now listed in the Dynamic Content panel ready to be placed into the document, or to create new content objects based on data values.

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.

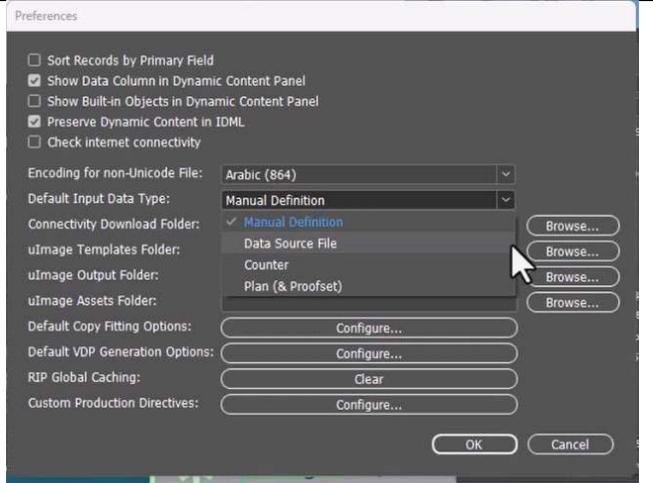


The controls at the bottom of the panel allow you to scroll through the data records, or to go to a specific record.

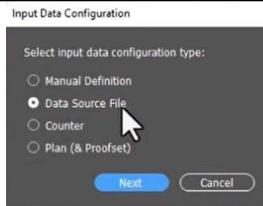
You are now ready to start placing the content objects into the document, or to edit and add new content objects as shown in later videos in this training course.



Before I return to the data connection options, there is another preference you may want to set. You can control the default input data type which is the option selected when you first set input data. For me, it is usually a data file.



If I create a new document, you can see this option is now selected by default.



A counter is an automated data source containing a sequence of numbers.

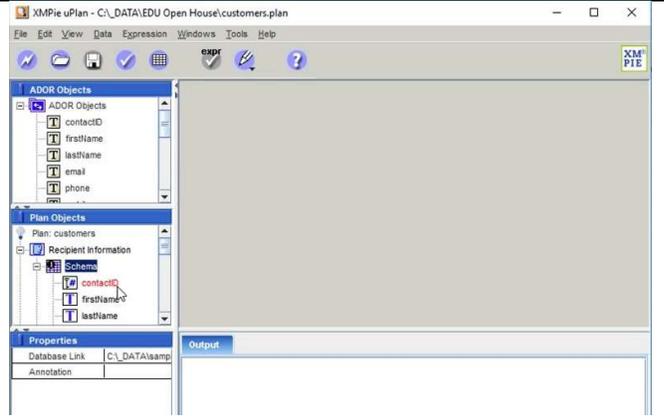
This is useful for jobs like tickets where a sequential number is the only data that is needed, but the counter can also be used for other types of projects.



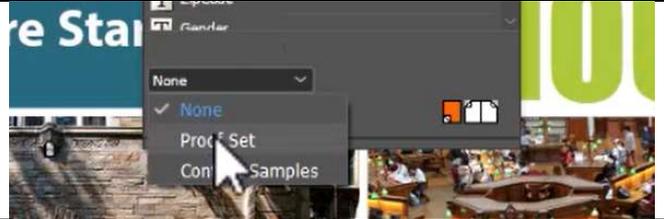
Depending on your license, you may be able to link to a plan file that has been created with uPlan.

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.

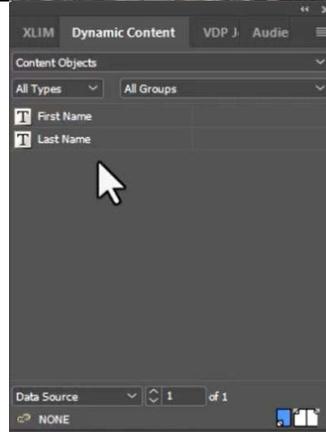


Usually, when working with a plan file, you will also use a proof set to see some sample content objects in the document design. If you don't have a proofset, the design will only show the name of the content object as a placeholder value.



The last option is used to manually define the structure of a data source that you will connect with later.

To help you get started, uCreate Print will automatically create firstname and lastname content objects that can be placed into the document design.



And in the Input Data Fields area, it will create database fields for id, fname and lname.

If your data file will have different names, you can rename these here, and of course add more fields that will be in the data you plan to connect with later.

There are videos later in this course that will go into these options in more detail.

