uCreate Print Training

Transcript for: Connecting to data sources

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Software version: v9.1

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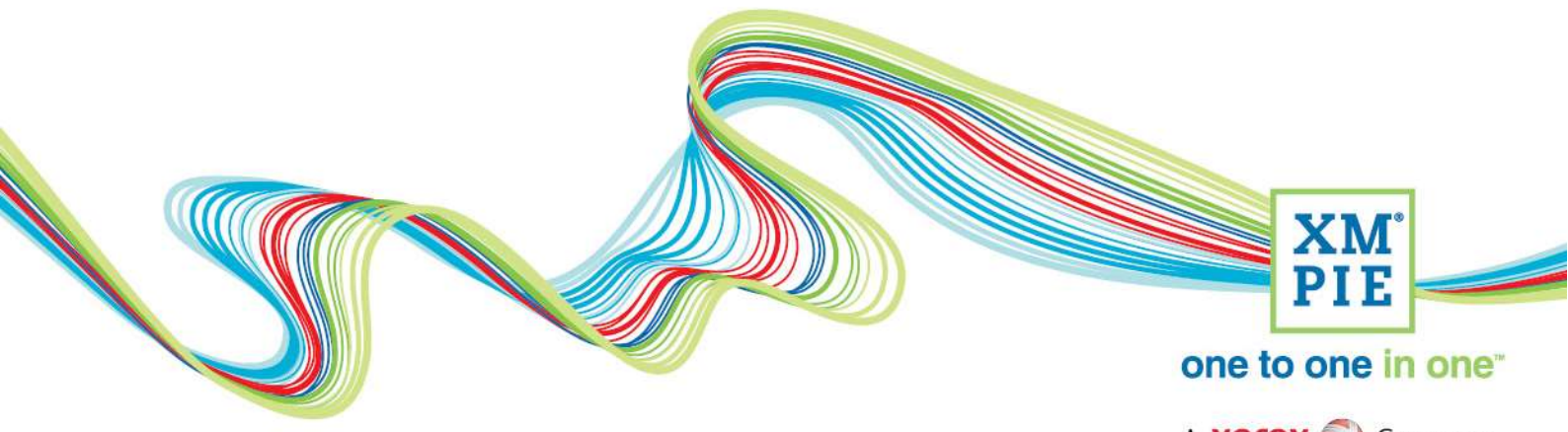

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For information, contact XMPie Inc.
485 Lexington Avenue
10th. Floor
New York, NY 10017

More information can be found at www.xmpie.com

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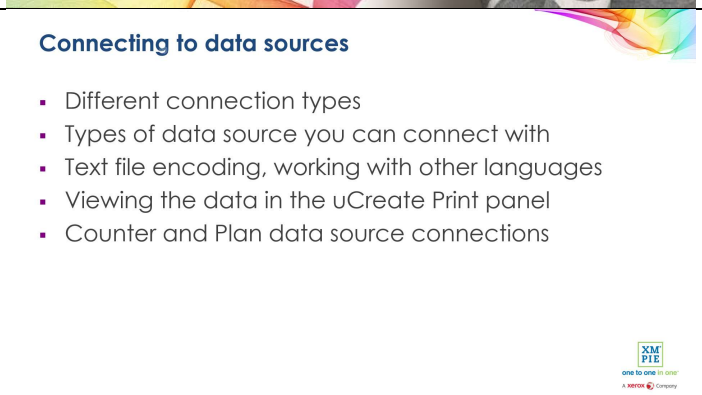
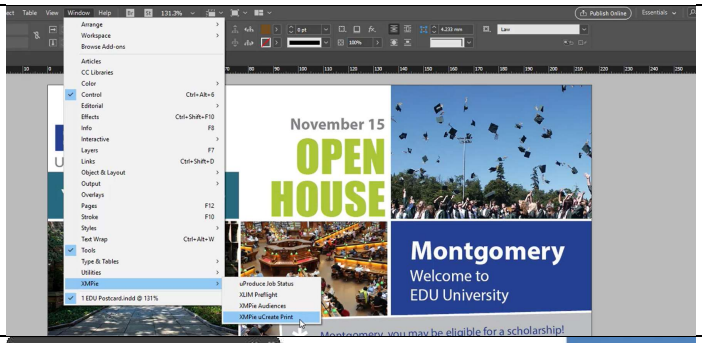
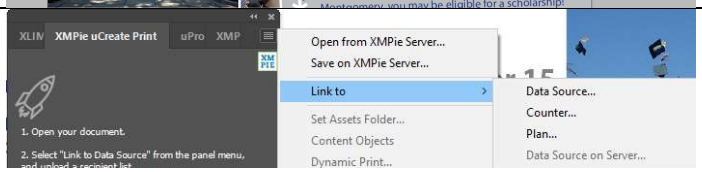
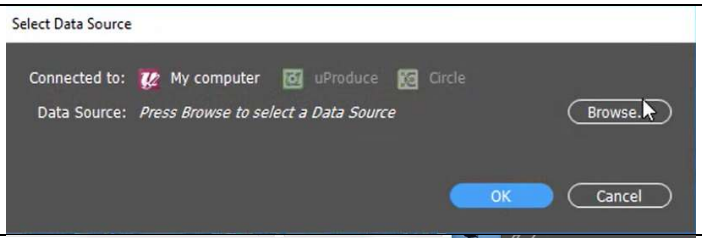
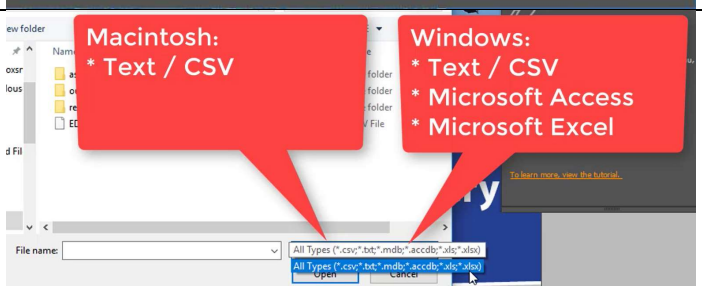
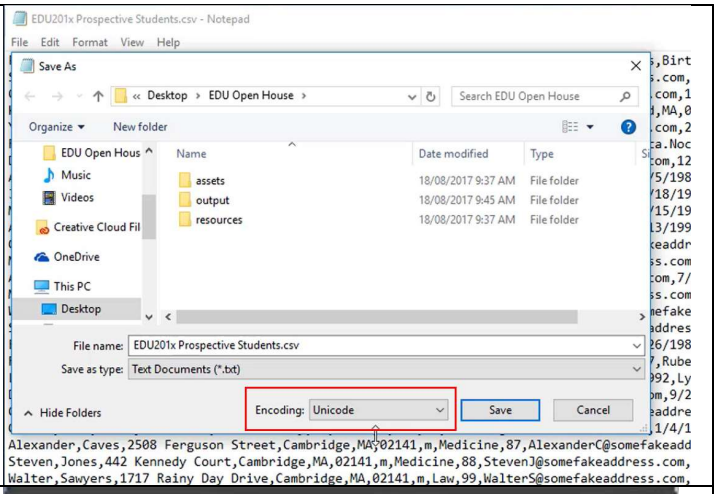
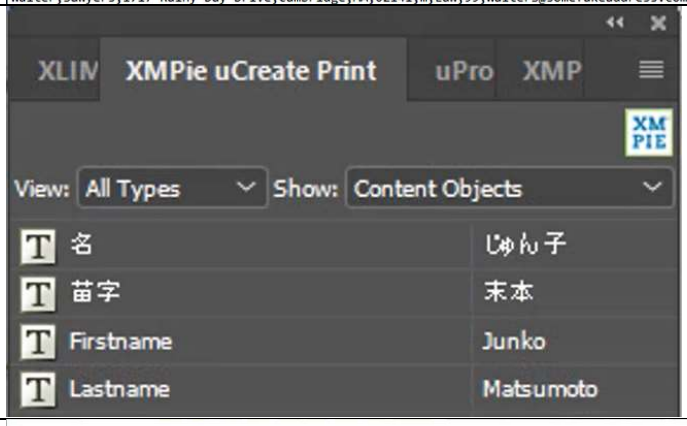
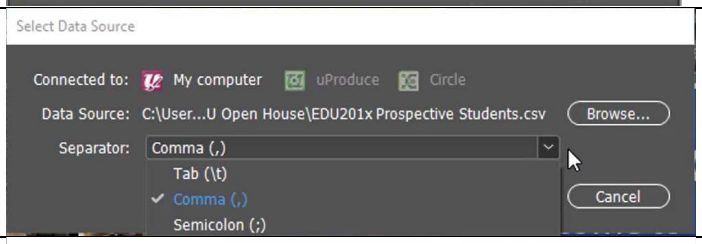
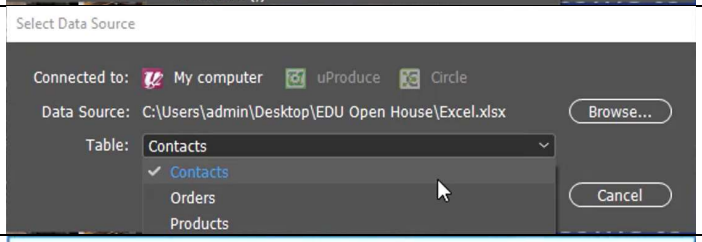
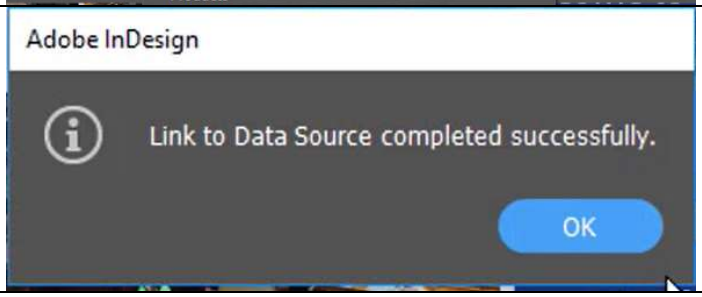
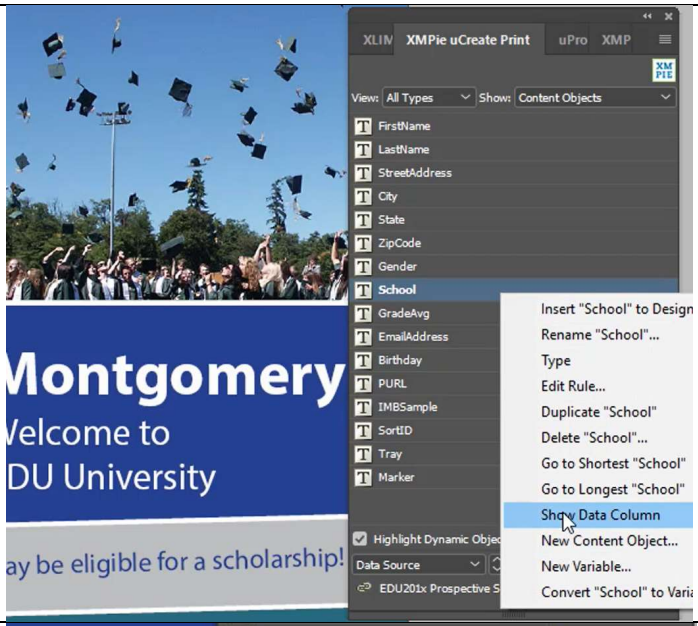
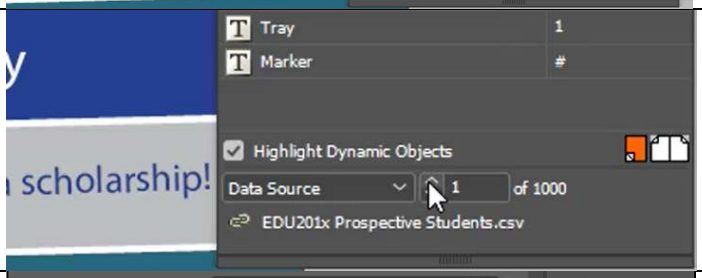
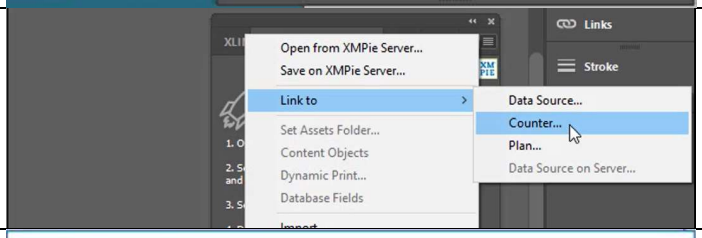
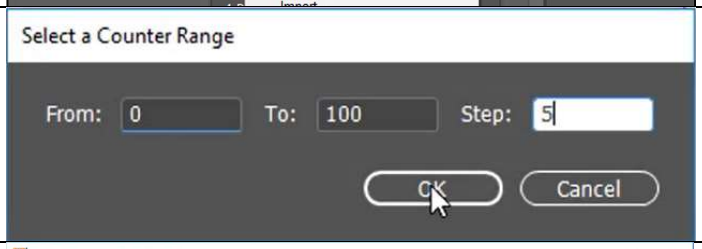
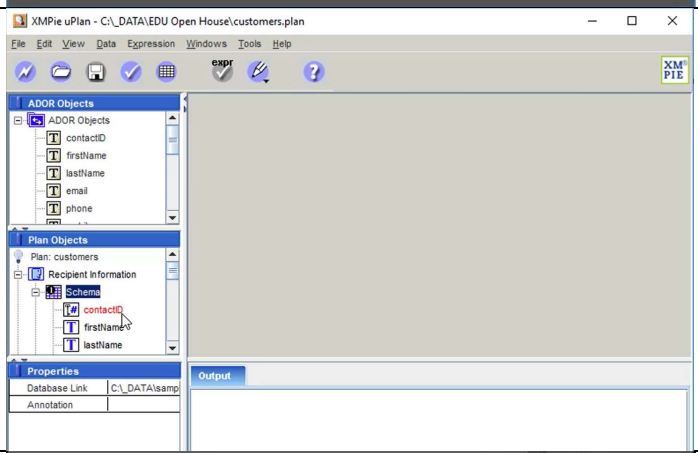
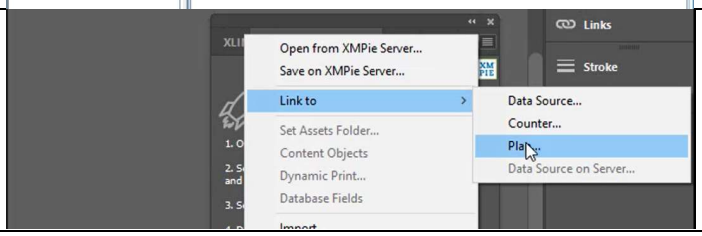
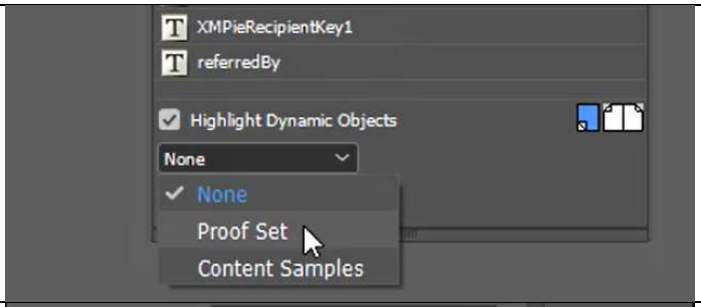
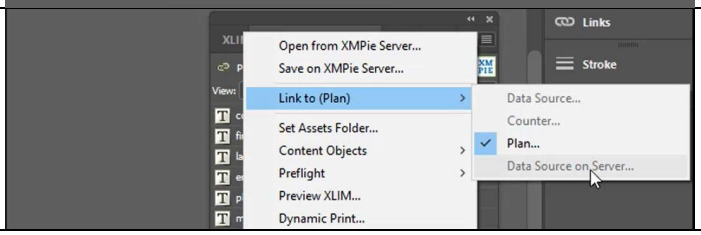
Voice over script	Thumbnail
Hi! Welcome to XMPie uCreate Print training.	
In this module we demonstrate how to connect uCreate Print with your data sources so you can start to create your VDP or variable data print templates.	
To start, open Adobe InDesign, and create a new document, or open the document that you want to add data to. Locate the uCreate Print panel. If it is not visible, select it from the Window menu, XMPie group.	
From the panel menu, select Link to… 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.	
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 uCreate Print panel ready to be placed into the document, or to create new content objects based on the data values. In some cases, it may be helpful to view the data values in the panel by right-clicking in the panel area and selecting Show Data Column.	
The controls at the bottom of the panel allow you to scroll through the data records. You are now ready to start placing the content objects into the design, or to edit and add new content objects as shown in later videos in this training course.	
Now to return to the other connection options... A counter is an automated data source containing a sequence of numbers.	
This is useful for jobs like tickets, but can also be used for other projects.	
A plan file is created with uPlan and contains information about the data structure, the business rules or logic and content objects that can be placed into the InDesign document. So, 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 can 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 need a proof set if you want to see the actual content object values in the document design.	
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.