AircastDB Library CSV Import/Export

This article explains the CSV file format used to import/export items from/to the AircastDB Library.

General

File Format

- Plain text format, comma-separated values (CSV).
- Separator is comma or tab (ASCII 9).
- Strings can be quoted with double-quotes.
- Text encoding can be ANSI or UTF-8; for UTF-8, the file must have a valid BOM.

Columns

The CSV file contains one or more columns of values. The set of columns is not fixed, instead **the first line in the CSV file must contain the names of the columns** used in this file.

Some "fixed" column names will be recognized and mapped to Aircast's internal fields. The other column names will be treated as additional columns for Attributes.

Fixed column names

Column Name	Remark
ID	With or without leading 0s
ExternalID	
Filename	
Title	
Artist	
Comment	
EndType	
Duration	seconds.milliseconds
EffectiveDuration	seconds.milliseconds (export only)
CueIn	seconds.milliseconds
FadeIn	seconds.milliseconds
Ramp1	seconds.milliseconds
Ramp2	seconds.milliseconds
Ramp3	seconds.milliseconds
HookIn	seconds.milliseconds
HookFade	seconds.milliseconds
HookOut	seconds.milliseconds
LoopIn	seconds.milliseconds
LoopOut	seconds.milliseconds
Outro	seconds.milliseconds
StartNext	seconds.milliseconds

Column Name	Remark
FadeOut	seconds.milliseconds
FadeEnd	seconds.milliseconds
CueOut	seconds.milliseconds
Anchor	seconds.milliseconds

Attribute columns

Additional columns found in the CSV file will be treated and imported as attributes.

Restrictions

Only the fixed columns and attributes columns can be used for import/export. You can **not** use CSV import/export to handle any of the following information:

- Folder assignment
- Playback options
- Additional cue data
- …

Exporting Items

When exporting items as CSV from the AircastDB Library, you have two file formats to choose from:

- *CSV file*: Will export all columns, including ID and all attributes found in any of the items
- *CSV file (without IDs)*: Will omit the ID column

The latter can be used to import the items into another AircastDB, where the items have a different ID.

Importing Items

CSV files can be used to update existing items in the Library, as well as adding new items.

In either case, you can have as many or few columns in the CSV file as you like. Columns not found in the file will be ignored. For example, you can use a CSV file with only the *ID* and *Comment* columns to update only the comment of a particular set of items (identified by their ID), and leave all other fields untouched.

Updating Existing Items

To update existing items in the Library, AircastDB will try to identify the item by one of the following columns:

1. ID
2. ExternalID
3. Filename

So if the ID column is present and contains a value, the ID will be used to identify the item; otherwise, if the ExternalID is present and contains a value, Aircast will try to identify the item by its External ID; otherwise the filename will be used. If that fails as well, it will look for an item that matches both artist and title.

If AircastDB is unable to identify the item in any of these ways, the item will be treated as new (see below).

The item will be updated using the data found in the remaining columns of the file. All other fields will remain untouched. If a column contains the special value -, the field will remain untouched as well.

Adding New Items

CSV files can also be used to add new items to the Library. In this case, **the ID column must be empty**, and in case a value for ExternalID or Filename is given, there must be no other item in the Library with that External ID or filename already (otherwise AircastDB would treat that line as an item update, not new item).

When adding new **files**, the filename must be located inside any of the registered Storages.

When no filename is given, or the `Filename` column is not present at all, the items will be treated as *Dummy* items.

TL;DR - An Example

```
ID,ExternalID,Filename,Title,Artist,Comment,EndType,Duration,CueIn,FadeIn,Ramp1,Ramp2,Ramp
3,HookIn,HookFade,HookOut,LoopIn,LoopOut,Outro,StartNext,FadeOut,FadeEnd,CueOut,Anchor,Alb
um,Top40,Track,Jahr,Genre

00005217,,"M:\Music\Yann Tiersen\Skyline\01 Another Shore.m4a","Another Shore","Yann
Tiersen",,,293.907,,,,,,,,,,,,,293.906,,293.907,,Skyline,,1,,

00005206,,"M:\Music\Yann Tiersen\Good Bye Lenin\13 Birthday Preparations.mp3","Birthday
Preparations","Yann Tiersen",,,151.000,,,,,,,,,,,,,147.905,,151.293,,"Good Bye
Lenin",,13,2003,Soundtrack

00005196,,"M:\Music\Yann Tiersen\Good Bye Lenin\03 Childhood (1).mp3","Childhood
(1)","Yann Tiersen",,,97.000,,,,,,,,,,,,,91.606,,97.533,,"Good Bye
Lenin",,03,2003,Soundtrack

00005208,,"M:\Music\Yann Tiersen\Good Bye Lenin\15 Childhood (2).mp3","Childhood
(2)","Yann Tiersen",,,104.000,,,,,,,,,,,,,97.762,,104.893,,"Good Bye
Lenin",,15,2003,Soundtrack

00005195,,"M:\Music\Yann Tiersen\Good Bye Lenin\02 Coma.mp3",Coma,"Yann
Tiersen",,,78.000,,,,,,,,,,,,,76.751,,78.400,,"Good Bye Lenin",,02,2003,Soundtrack

00005177,,"M:\Music\Yann Tiersen\Die fabelhafte Welt der Amelie\04 Comptine d'un Autre ete
- L'apres-midi.mp3","Comptine d'un Autre ete - L'apres-midi","Yann
Tiersen",,,138.000,0.249,,,,,,,,,,,,,131.805,,138.710,,"Die fabelhafte Welt der
Amelie",,04,2001,Soundtrack
```