

Cardax FT Feature Information Schedule Import (XML)

The Cardax FT Schedule Import feature provides for schedules to be imported from external sources using standard software functionality known as XML Interface.

Why Import Schedules?

Often there is an external source of data on a customer's computer network that may be used as a basis for access control schedules in the Cardax FT system. Cardax FT Schedule Import provides a means of transferring the data from the existing system, via a common file format, into Cardax FT. The Cardax FT Schedule Import utility has been developed to allow third parties to dynamically update time information in existing schedules, FT access control schedules, or Commander schedules. This feature can be used to synchronise schedule data on an on-going basis with other applications within the organisation.

Typical sources of data include a facility resource booking system.

The advantages of using Cardax FT Schedule Import are:

- A single source of records is used, minimising the possibility of data entry errors.
- The process can be set up to run automatically reducing manual operator data entry.

Data Transfer Process

Data transfer allows the external database application to put the records that are intended to be imported, into a specific file location in a common data format (such as CSV format) for the Schedule Import utility to access. The Cardax FT Schedule Import utility then picks up the data and imports the data records into the specified FT schedules.

An exception report listing any records that failed the import process is produced for later resolution.

Implementation

Specific resource booking system knowledge is required to successfully implement the Cardax FT Schedule Import feature. The Cardax utilities have been written with maximum flexibility in mind to allow connection to virtually any resource booking system. It is necessary to understand the format of the third party data to know what is available for import.

The mapping of the resource booking system to the database fields needs an understanding of XML programming. A Developer Guide has been produced to assist software engineers to carry out this work. The guide can be found on the Cardax FT Command Centre Installation CD.



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