

## Redmine - Feature #32372

### Preview the file content when importing CSV file

2019-10-30 08:26 - Go MAEDA

<b>Status:</b>	New	<b>Start date:</b>	
<b>Priority:</b>	Normal	<b>Due date:</b>	
<b>Assignee:</b>		<b>% Done:</b>	0%
<b>Category:</b>	Importers	<b>Estimated time:</b>	0.00 hour
<b>Target version:</b>			
<b>Resolution:</b>			

#### Description

When importing data from a CSV file, Redmine asks you to set import options. But sometimes you may not know the appropriate value for options such as field separator, field wrapper, and date format because the content of the CSV file is not shown there.

Although you can check them by opening the file locally, I think it is convenient if the content of the CSV file is shown on the screen. You will be able to know the proper value for the options.

#### Import time entries

Options

**Field separator** Semicolon ▾

**Field wrapper** Double quote ▾

**Encoding** ISO-8859-1 ▾

**Date format** YYYY-MM-DD ▾

**Send email notifications**

during the import

File content preview

```
row;issue_id,date;hours;comment;activity;overtime
1;;2020-01-01;1;Some Design;Design;yes
2;;2020-01-02;2;Some Development;Development;yes
3;1;2020-01-03;3;Some QA;QA;no
4;2;2020-01-04;4;Some Inactivity;Inactive Activity;no
```

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#### History

##### #1 - 2019-10-31 08:31 - Dominik Ras

I'd say don't burn your time on features like that. What value could that bring to the the people who process those imports? I'm not seeing a business need for that for several reasons:

1. you hardly ever deal with super clean and super short import files like that. In real life you'd probably end up with a bunch of strings such as  
.....  
.....
2. Even in that super small and super optimistic preview, the text is still unreadable to a human - no value added
3. The import makes sense only for large amounts of data. If you have a CSV with a lot of data, that preview will become even less readable = less useful

When you work l those imports, you have the source csv files open in Excel or Google Sheets in another window anyway.

I'd say a feature like that isn't worth dev time and hassle, because it actually creates a risk of making #Redmine even less appealing to an everyday / business / human user.

If that preview enriched the #UX, #UI or #CX somehow, that would be a different story.

## #2 - 2019-11-01 17:35 - Guillermo ML

The preview would be useful for us, because a lot of times we have issues between different encodings (usually UTF8 vs. ISO-8859-15).

You can open the file with your favorite text editor and looks fine, then you import it and discover that it had messed up some characters like á, é, í, ó, ú, ñ (in Galician or Spanish).

It happens a lot in other tools like SQLDeveloper or Libreoffice, and thanks to the preview you can correct the situation before importing data.

## #3 - 2023-11-03 02:11 - Go MAEDA

- File *32372-experimental.patch* added

- File *Screenshot 2023-11-03 at 10-09-46 Redmine.png* added

The attached patch is an experimental implementation of this feature. It displays the first four lines of a CSV file as a preview.

Although the Field separator and Encoding option ([#34718](#)) are automatically determined in the current version of Redmine, you still have to specify the Field wrapper and Date format. The preview helps you to choose the appropriate option.

Screenshot 2023-11-03 at 10-09-46 Redmine.png

### Files

ImportsController-settings-preview@2x.png	38.3 KB	2019-10-30	Go MAEDA
32372-experimental.patch	1.32 KB	2023-11-03	Go MAEDA
Screenshot 2023-11-03 at 10-09-46 Redmine.png	168 KB	2023-11-03	Go MAEDA