FTP Connector

Overview

DBSync's FTP (File Transfer Protocol) connector implements a file transport channel. It allows DBSync to exchange files with an FTP server. The FTP connector can be used to:

1. Download the file from an FTP server.
2. Upload files to an FTP server.
3. Read one or more files.
4. Write to one or more files.

What is an FTP?

File Transfer Protocol (FTP) is a network protocol used to transfer computer files between a client and a server.

It has an extension named FTP that allows for encryption of sessions and uses a different port (explained below).

Prerequisites

In order to establish a connection to an external File Transfer Protocol server, the user must:

1. Have a valid license to DBSync FTP connector, username and password to connect to DBSync iPaaS platform.
2. Sufficient read/write permission to required directories.

Data Transfer

The DBSync FTP connector allows you to transfer data from, and to, an FTP server.

In order to transfer data from an FTP server to another source, you need to define a Trigger that describes where the data resides.

In order to transfer to an FTP server, you need to define one or more Rules that describe where to store the data.

Notes:

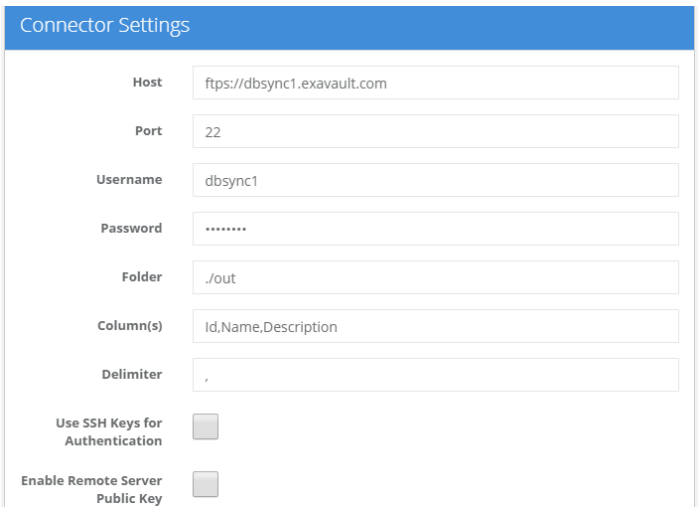
1. When the FTP Connector is used to transfer a file, the data is transferred in-memory to the FTP server, and nothing is registered on CloudWorkflow.
2. It is possible to connect to several FTP servers. However, each connection requires a separate connector.

Connector Configuration

The following table describes the parameters needed to define an FTP connector:

Property	Description	Required	Default Values
HostName	By default, we provide file protocol as **FTP** and in case if a user wishes to change to anything else then, s/he should use the following format: DBSync supports only below given protocols. ftp://hostname \\ sftp://hostname ftps://hostname	Yes	FTP, SFTP, FTPS
Port Number	By default, for plain file protocol, the port number should be 21; and, for secured protocol, it should be 22.	Yes	FTP:21 SFTP:22 FTPS:990/21
UserName	The username of the FTP server.	Yes	
Password	The password of the FTP server.	Yes	

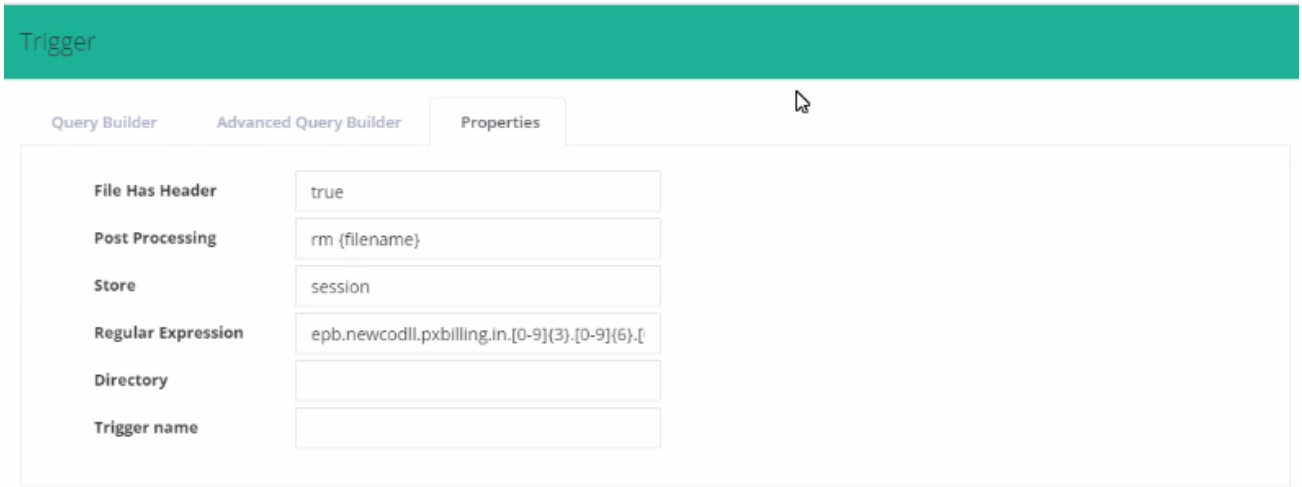
Folder	The folder path from where the files should be read or written. If there is a slash at the start of the path then, connector treats it as a root folder of FTPs protocol. Note : There shouldn't to be any slashes at the start, or at the end, of the folder path.	Yes	
Columns	The columns are the header in the file. The file should be comma separated (CSV).	Optional	
Delimiter	Delimiter indicates separation of data. For example a comma is one of the delimiters.		
Enable			
Remote server	Enables the use of a remote server.		
Use SSH	Enables the use of SSH - also known as Secure Socket Shell. It is a network protocol that provides administrators with a secure way to access a remote computer.		



Trigger Configuration

The following table describes the Trigger properties of an FTP connector that needs to be defined when sending data from the FTP server to another source.

Property	Description	Required	Default Value
Store	This property enables the data to be stored in-memory during file Transfers. There are two possible values - (1) Session; and, (2) InMemory. InMemory means that the transferred values are held in cache. Session means that the stored values are held in the session.	Yes	Session
Directory	DBSync FTP connector enables you to dynamically select inbound file directory via Trigger property Section.	Optional	
File Has Header	Indicates that the file has a header.	Optional	
Post Processing	Enables the execution of Shell commands after completing the data transfer process.	Optional	
Regular Expression	Enables to select all similar files on the server location for processing. Example: ^([a-zA-Z]:\\)?[^\x00-\x1F"<>|:*\?/]+\.[a-zA-Z]{3,4}$ matches a valid Windows file name.	Optional	

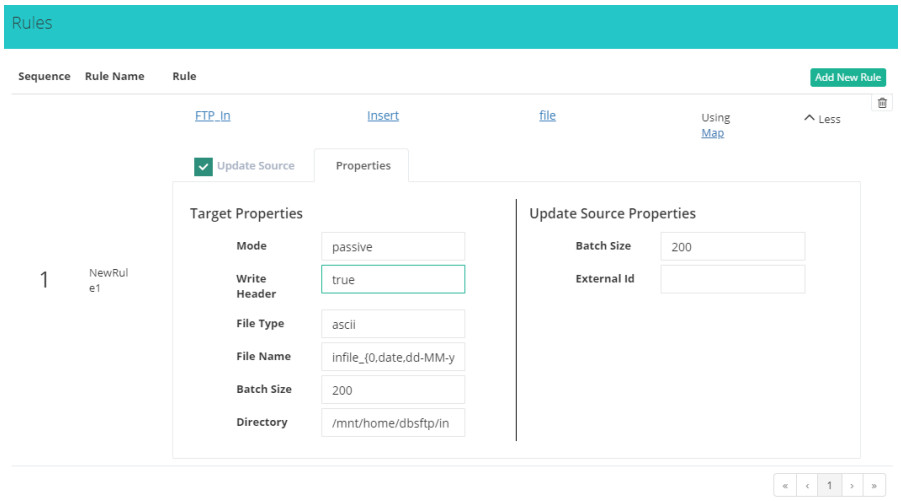


The Query Builder is a tool that allows you to define a specific SQL query. As a result, you can create queries that are tailored to your needs.

Rule Configuration

The following table describes the Rule properties that need to be defined when sending data to an FTP server.

Property	Description	Required	Default Values
Mode	FTP has two different ways to establish a data connection between FTP server and its client - namely, PASV(passive) and PORT.	Yes	Passive
File Type	The property is the file type and there are two types - namely, Binary and ASCII.	Yes	ASCII
File Name	File name signifies the target file name which is set for two purposes: 1. If a new file is to be created on the target FTP server then, a user needs to fill in the text area as @ Filename - @ and then, can specify the file name of his/her choice. 2. If data has to be appended to the existing file then, leave this field blank.	Optional	
Batch Size	The batch size is the speed with which files are inserted into target system. By default, DBSync will pass this as 200.	Optional	
Directory	Directory to store the file on to the Target FTP server.	Optional	
Write Header	Boolean value indicating if the header should be written or not.	Optional	False



Uses of the FTP Connector

- Automated file backups by decreasing manual intervention from any CRM or Accounting system to a remote FTP server.
- Post processing of files from one directory to another, within a file system.
- An example of usage of the FTP connector can be found in the following article:

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does FTP connector support Bi-directional data flow?

A: Yes, Furthermore, if you so choose, you can also make it uni-directional.

Q: How frequently one can sync the data if reading from, or writing to, any FTP server?

A: The sync can be performed at every five-minute interval.

Q: Is this connector available with both, On-demand and On-premise, versions?

A: Yes, the FTP connector can be used with both, On-demand and On-premise, versions of DBSync Cloud Workflow.

Useful hint
Learn about file transfer protocol

File transfer and FTP/sFTP