

XTranslator guide on mapping EDI X12 to flat file with delimiters
(Includes EDI X12 277 to CSV translation map)

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Basic requirements

This document describes the process of mapping EDI X12 to comma delimited flat text file for translation. In order to create the mapping you should have:

1. If you want to produce delimited flat text file, then you need source file in EDI X12 format that will be used to produce flat text file.
2. Documentation explaining complex EDI X12 file layout and structure. You should have some document that would list all the fields or elements that you need to read from the file. Contact your trading partner or supplier for simple documentation on all the fields.

Once mapping is done you do not have to recreate it again simply save it into the file with extension *.xmp. You can run map files using other utilities that come in the package (read User's Manual about other utility programs).

This document comes with complete map in a file with extension xmp. Please open and examine it as you read this document.

Software requirements

You will need to download and install XTranslator from the website <http://www.xtranslator.com> . Translator comes with number of templates accessible via Template Wizard. While you can create mapping templates and layouts manually adding them one item at a time, use of Template Wizard for standard formats like EDI X12, EDIFACT, etc. saves time.

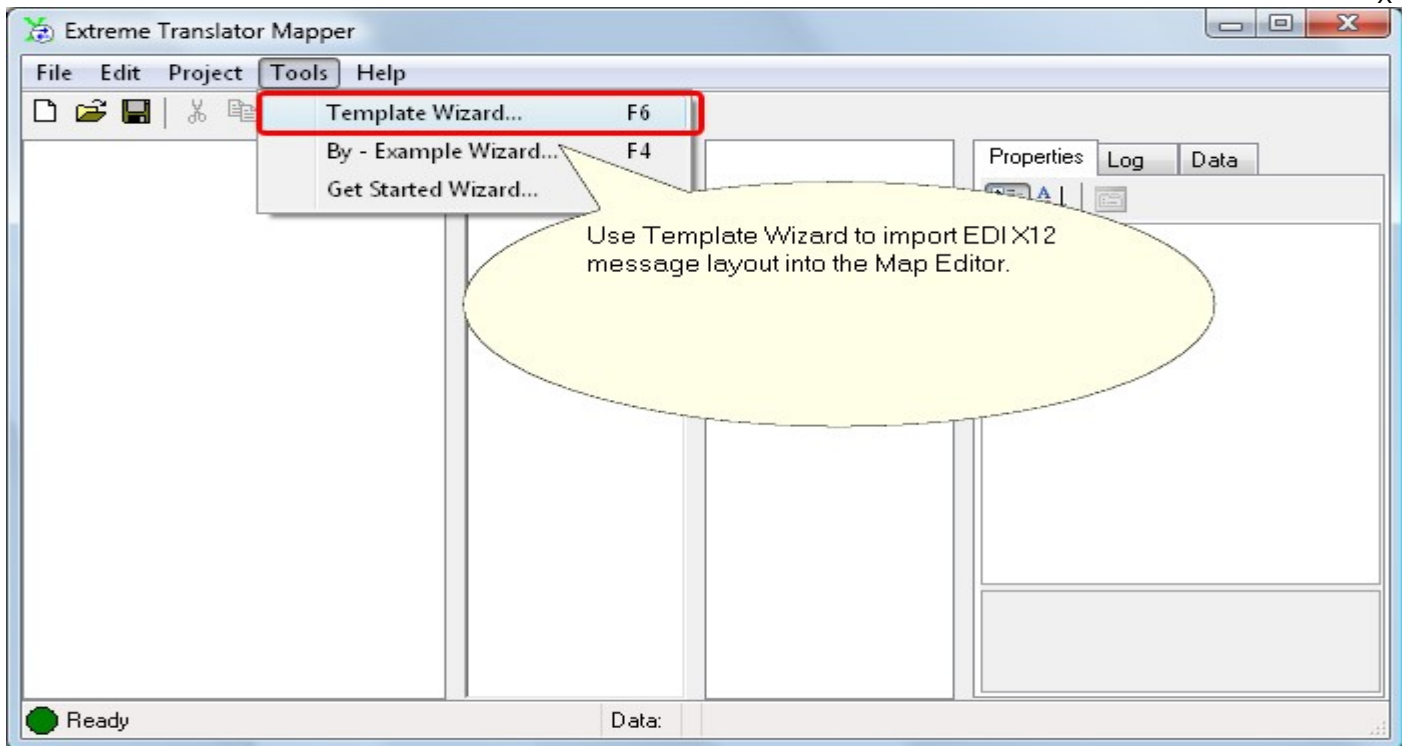
Setup program asks if you want to install templates that come with the package. If you choose not to install them, Template Wizard will not work and you will not be able to follow some parts of this document.

Once it is done, start Map Editor tool.

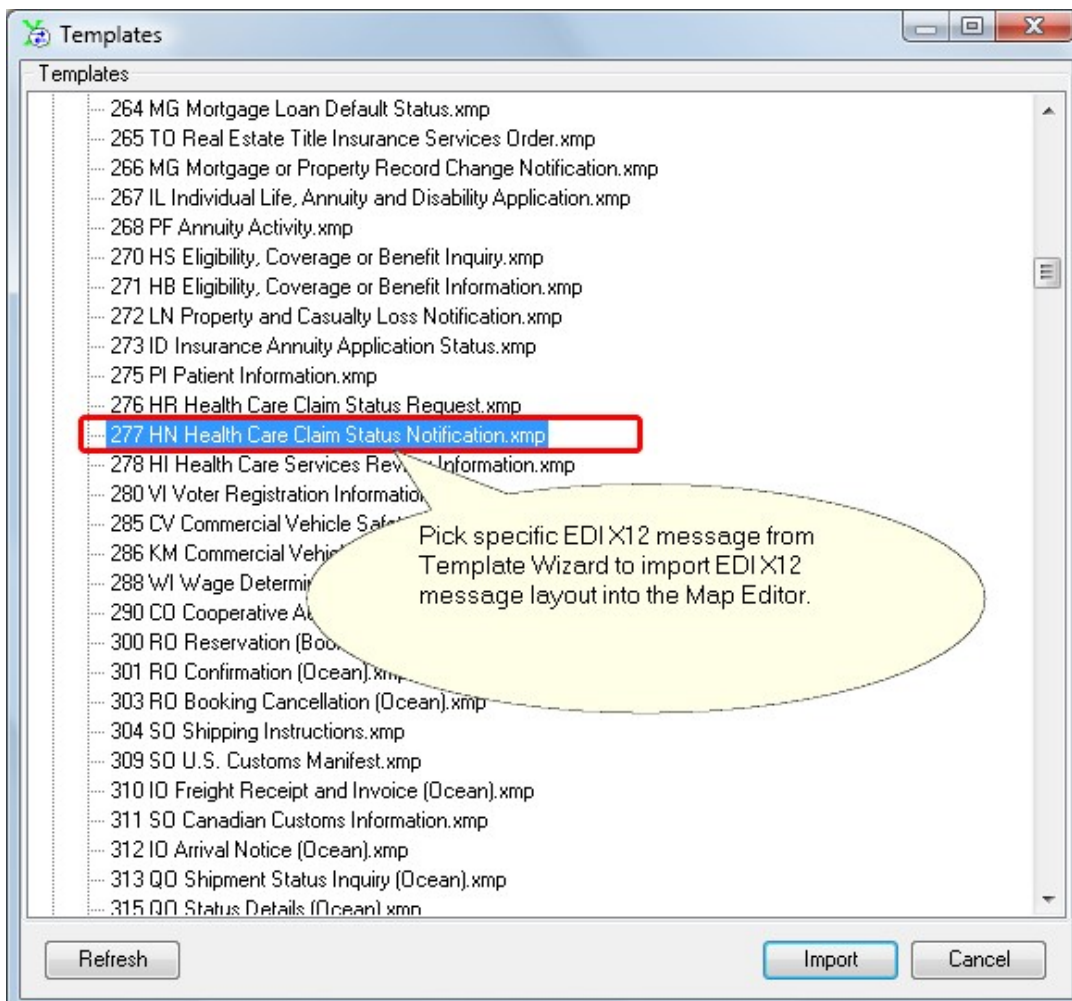
How to define EDI X12 input side

While this document talks about HIPAA X12 837 mapping to flat text file, it can be used to help map any EDI X12 message to flat file. Basic steps are the same for all EDI X12 message types.

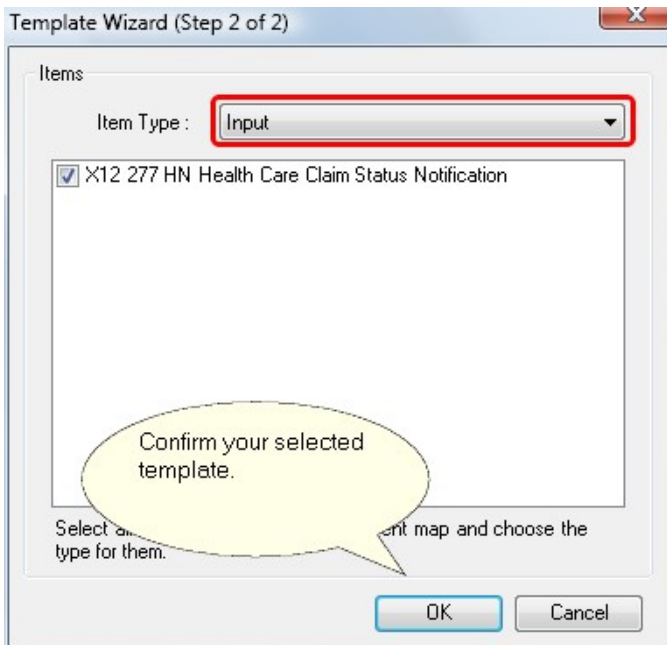
There are number of ways to map X12 837 to CSV flat files. Major obstacle is that EDI X12 files contain loops and repeating segments, and some loops may repeat more than 10,000 times when other loops repeat only 10 or 100 times. There are challenges to make it go out flat.



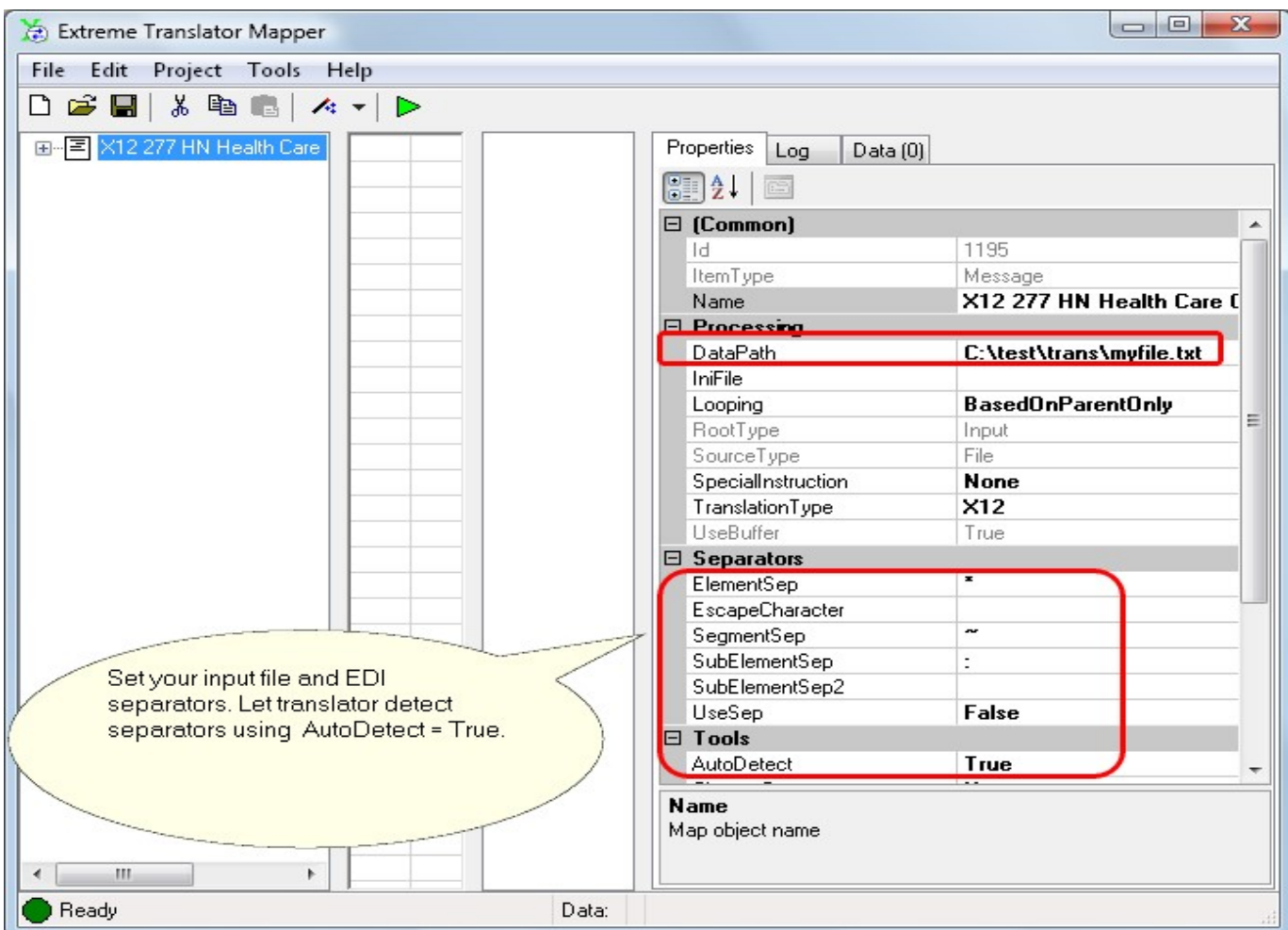
You can import already pre-built templates using Template Wizard menu.



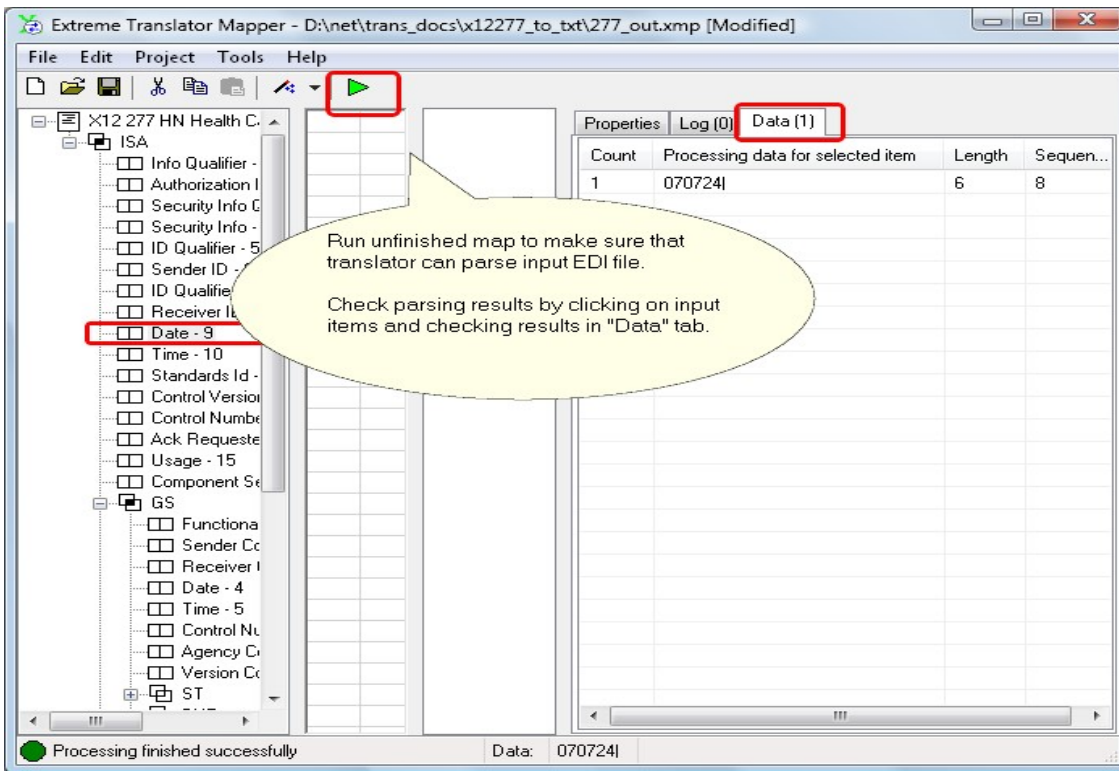
Templates are grouped based on they release version number. We pick one from X12_4010 group.



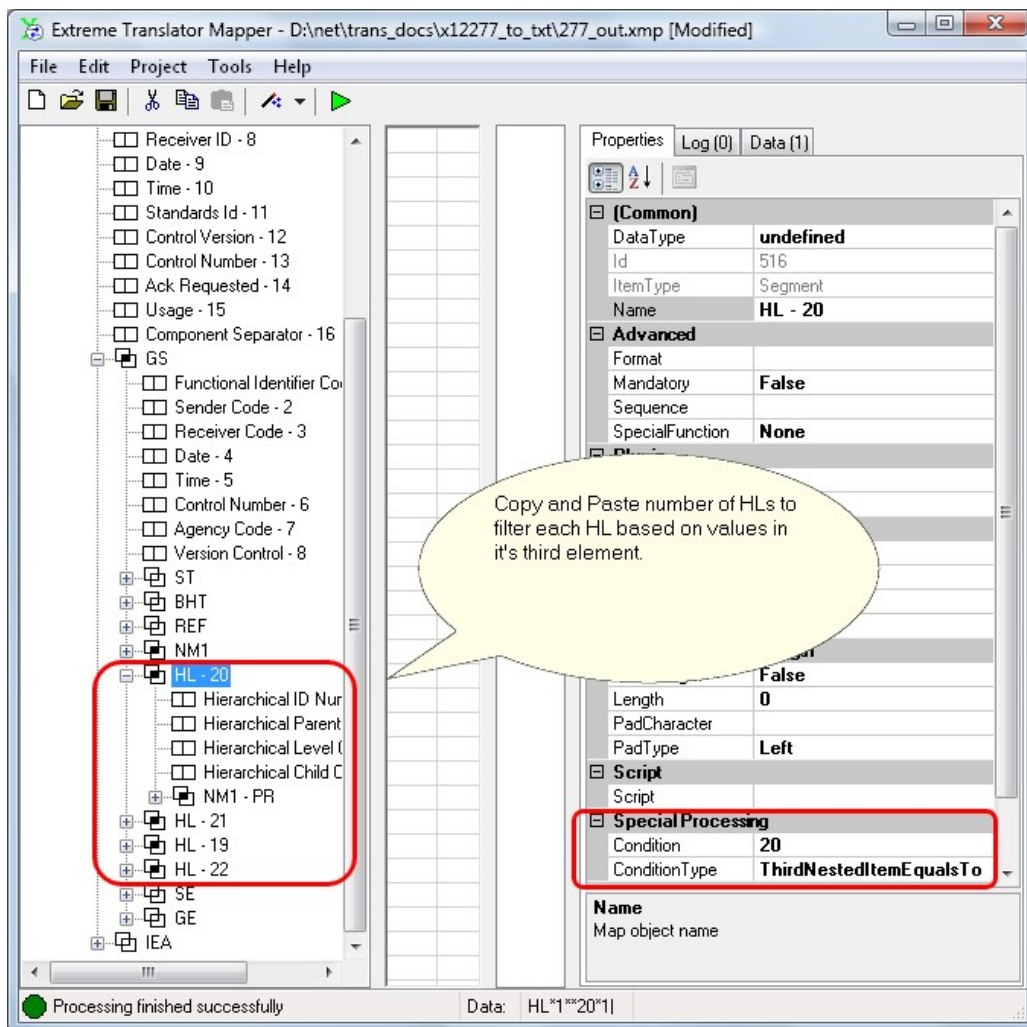
You can import specific template for input or output side.



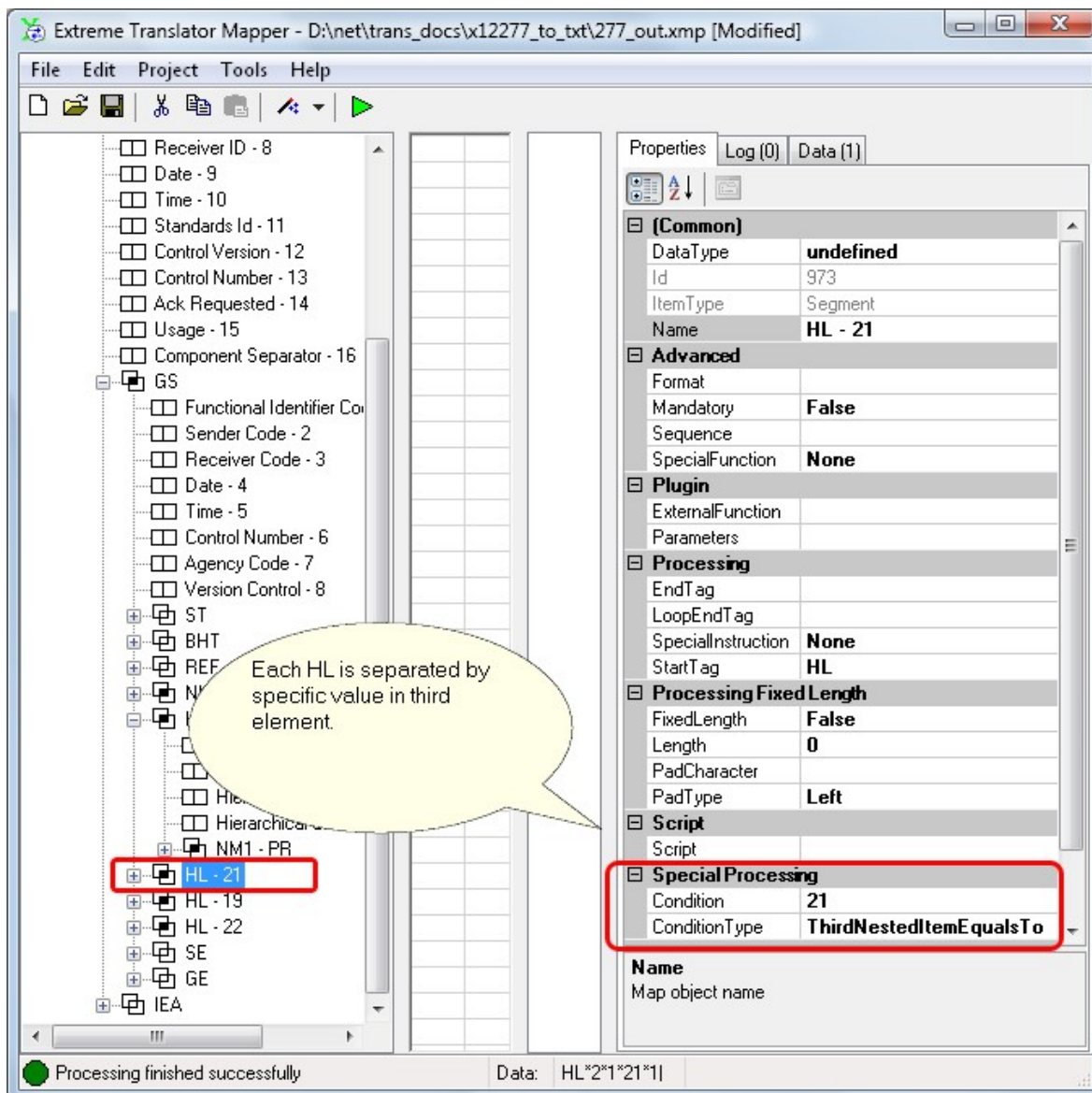
You can change number of properties related to input file. Including input file name, path and EDI X12 separators for the file.



Run unfinished map to make sure it can parse input EDI X12 file and match it to the imported template.



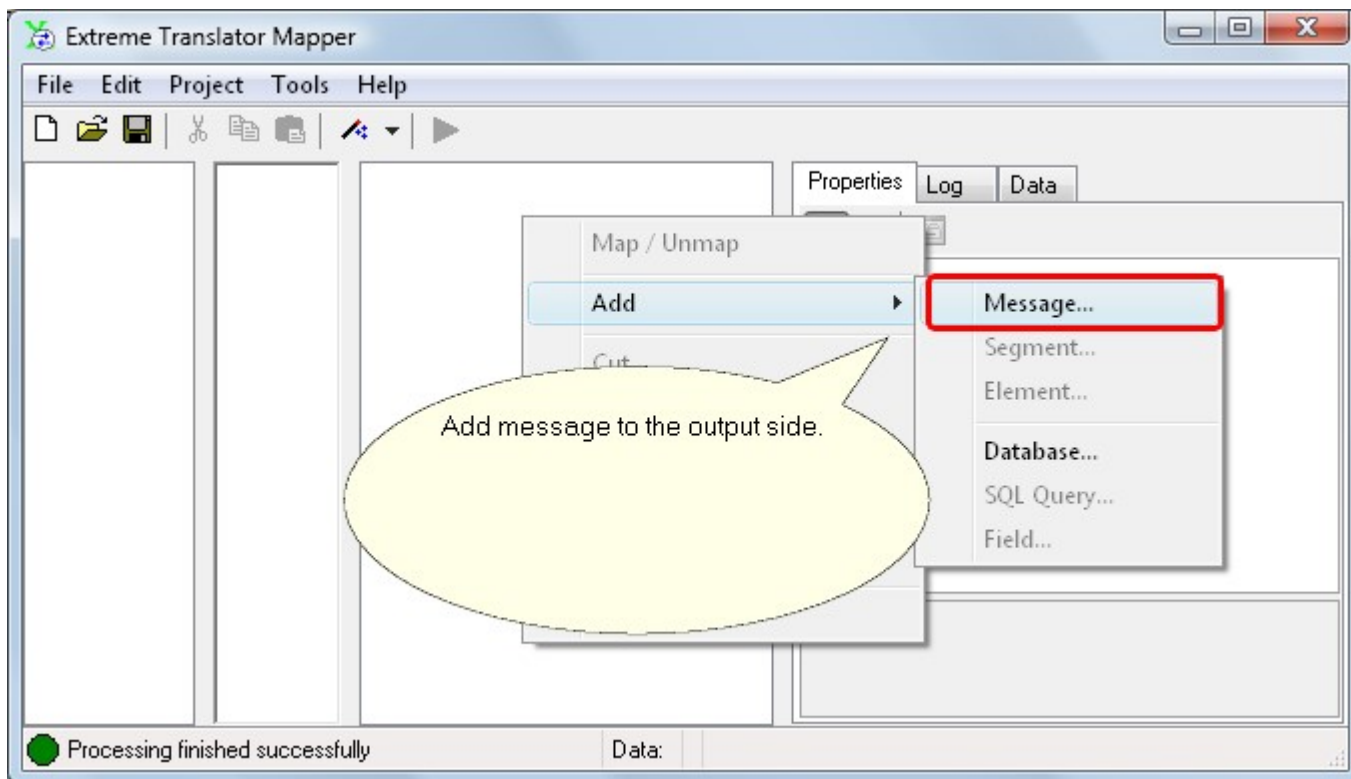
You can filter some segments and separate them not just by segment name but also by segment qualifiers (specific constant values in segment's elements).



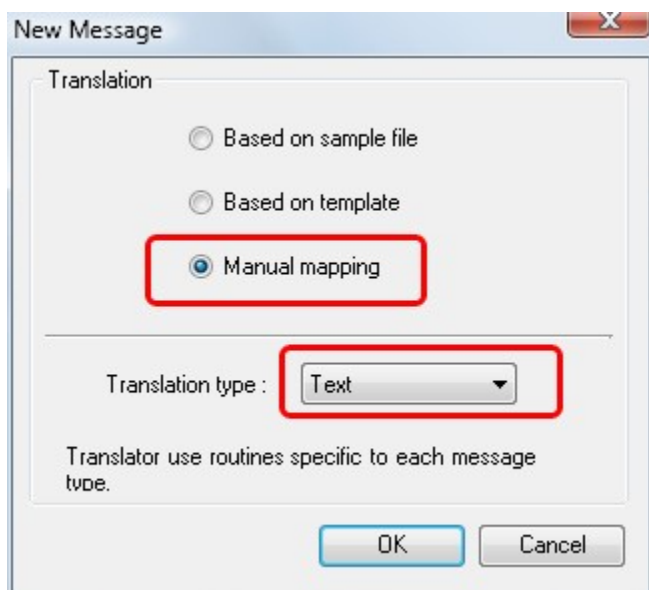
In this example HLs are separated based on values contained in third element of the segment.

How to define flat file with delimiters

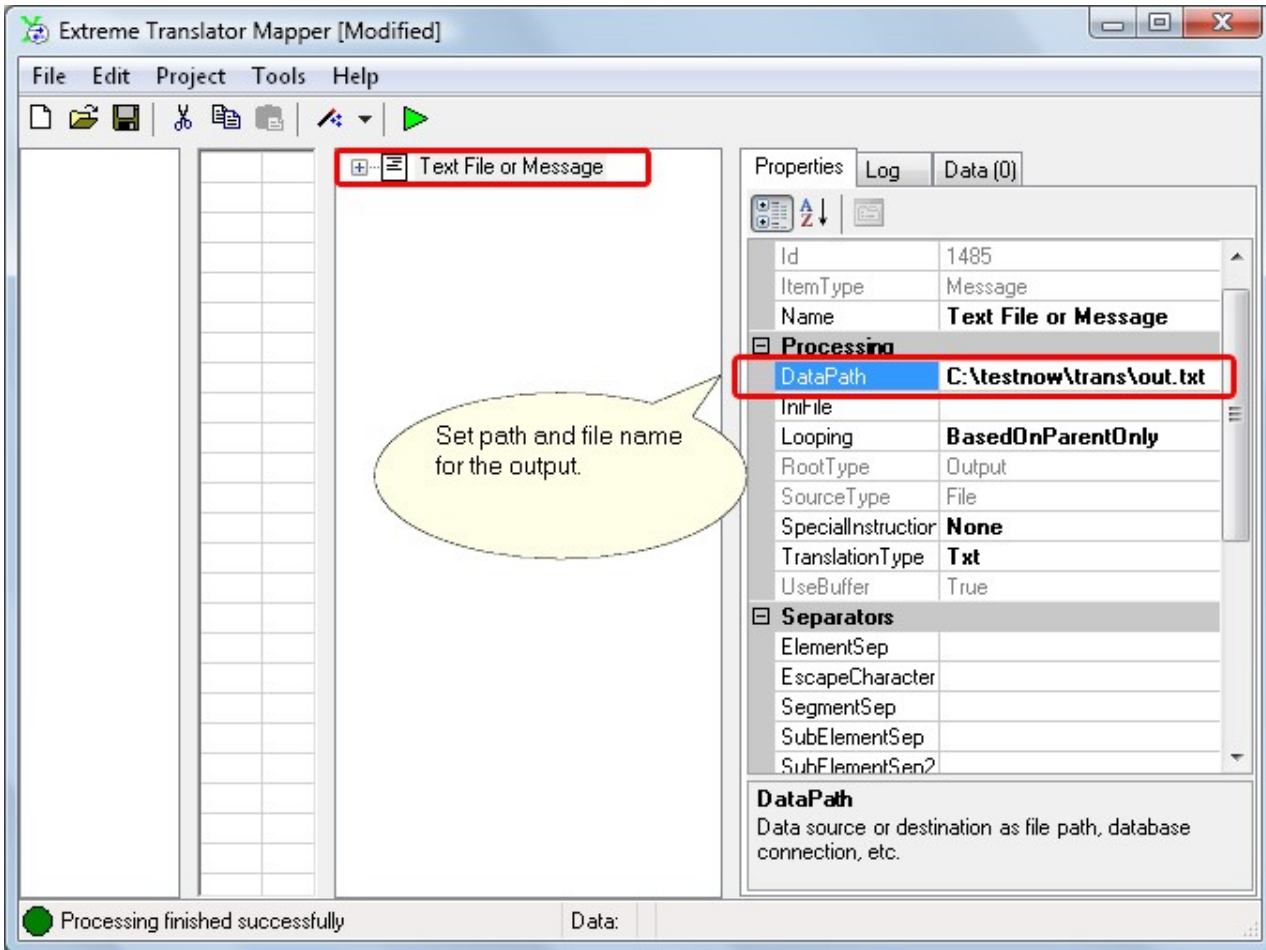
Once you setup input side with EDI X12 file layout you can add output side flat file layout using manual setup. If you already have sample output CSV flat file you want to produce you can use By-Example Wizard to import its layout into Map Editor. This would save time. But since we do not have sample output file in this example we define output side layout manually.



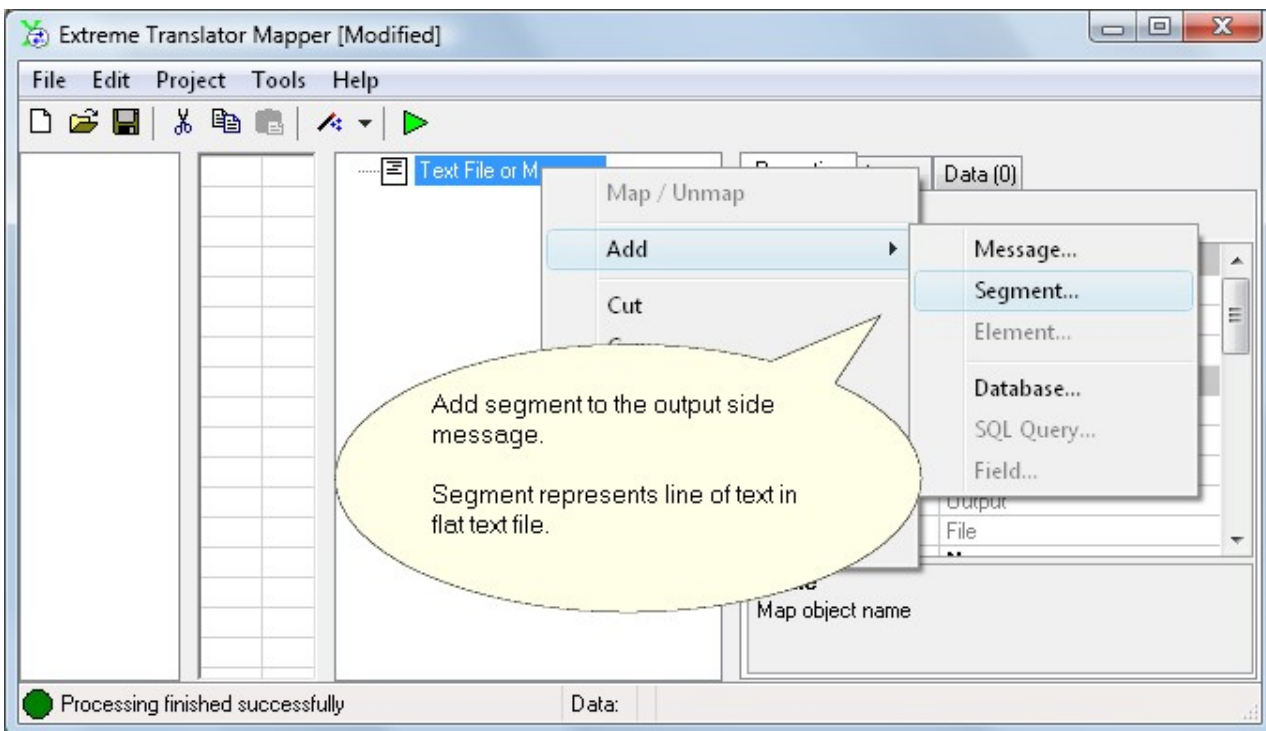
You can add output file layout using Add->Message menu.



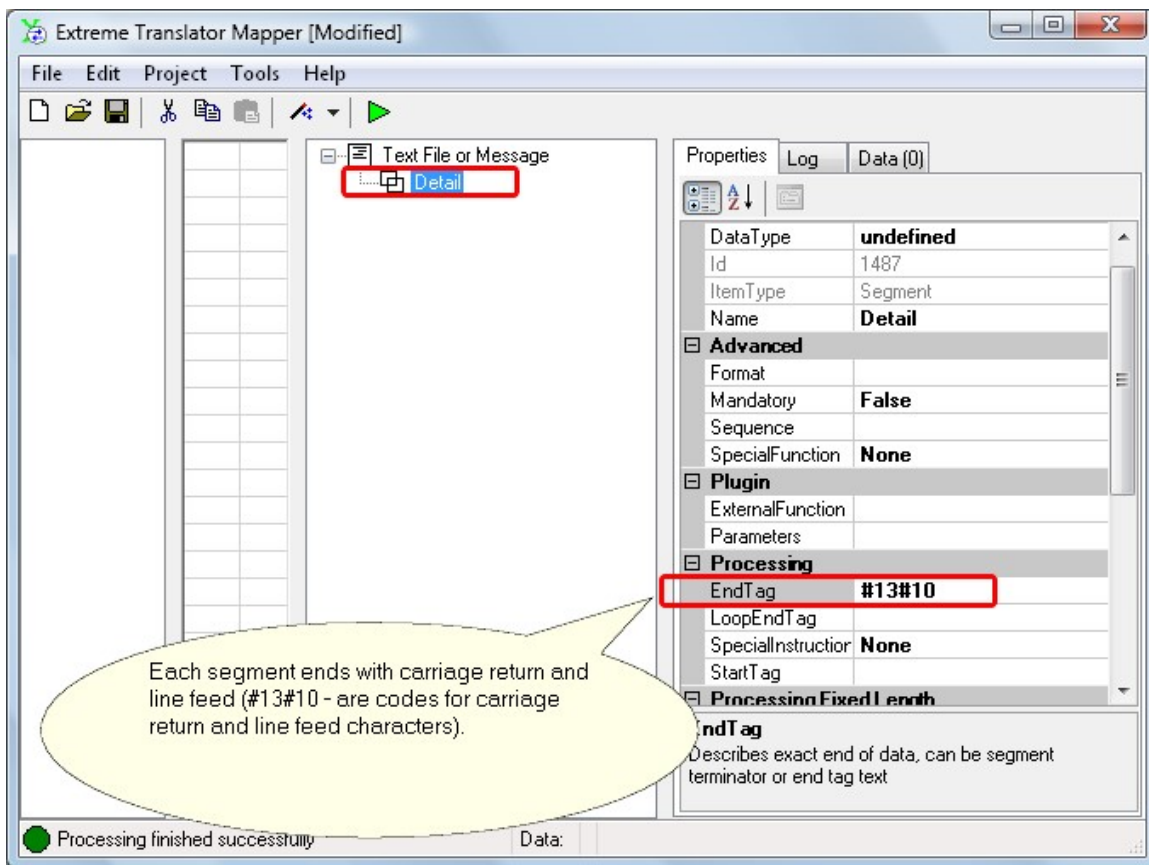
Choose "Manual mapping" to define layout one field at a time.



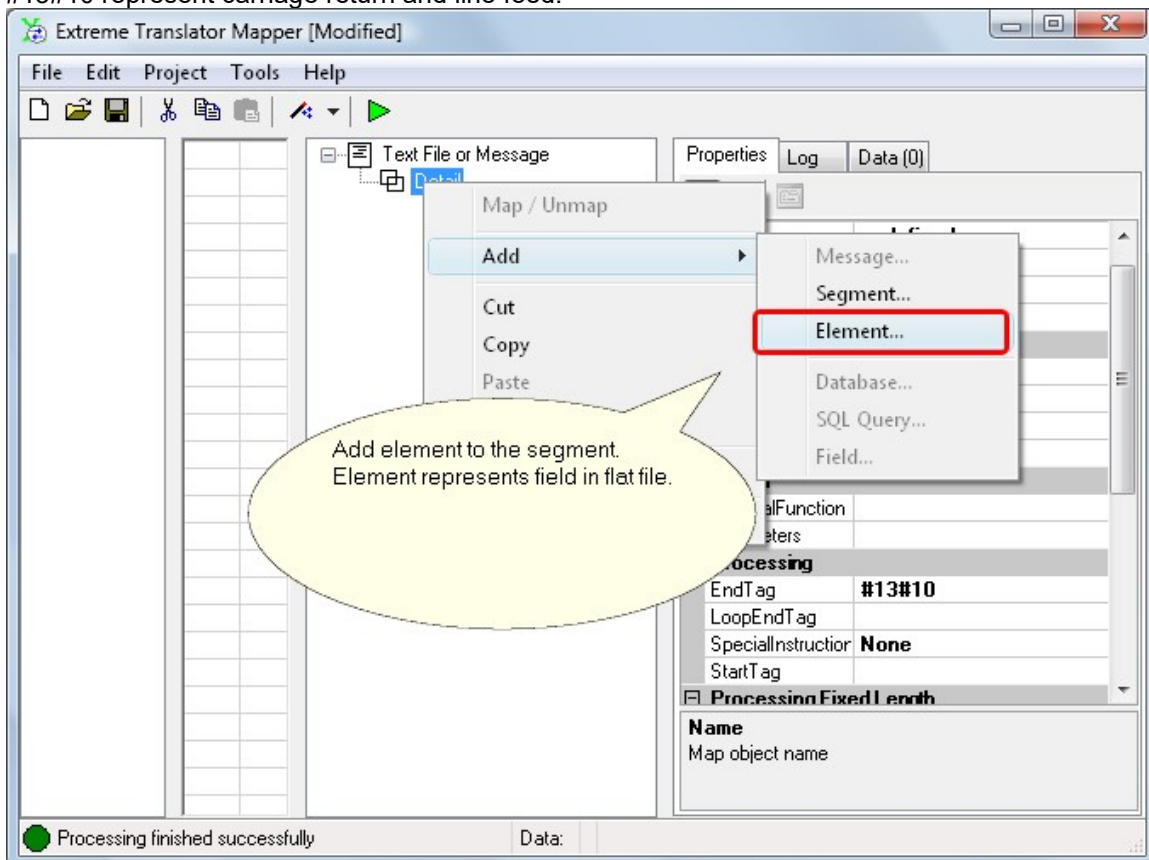
You can change number of output file properties including output file name and path.



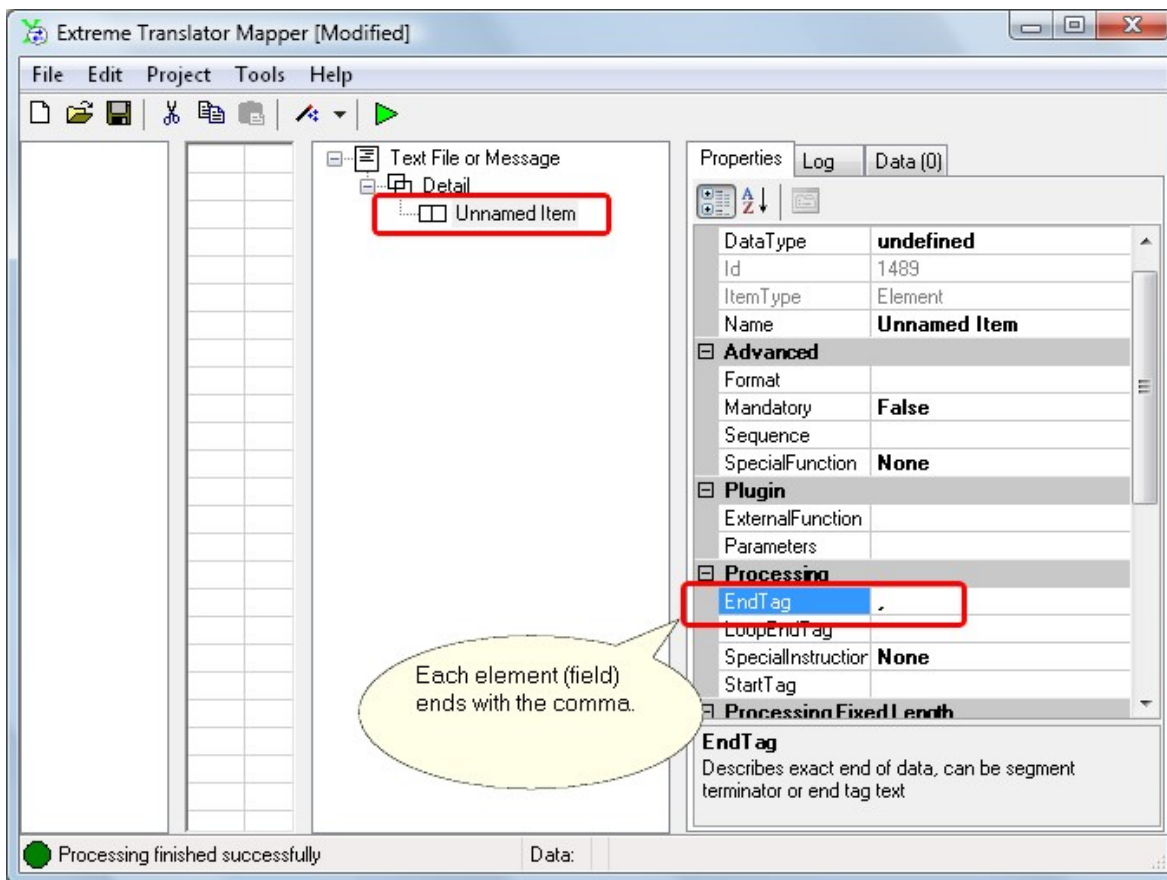
Add segment to the output file layout. Each segment represents line of flat text file. Lines can repeat many times. You only need one segment for all similar repeating lines.



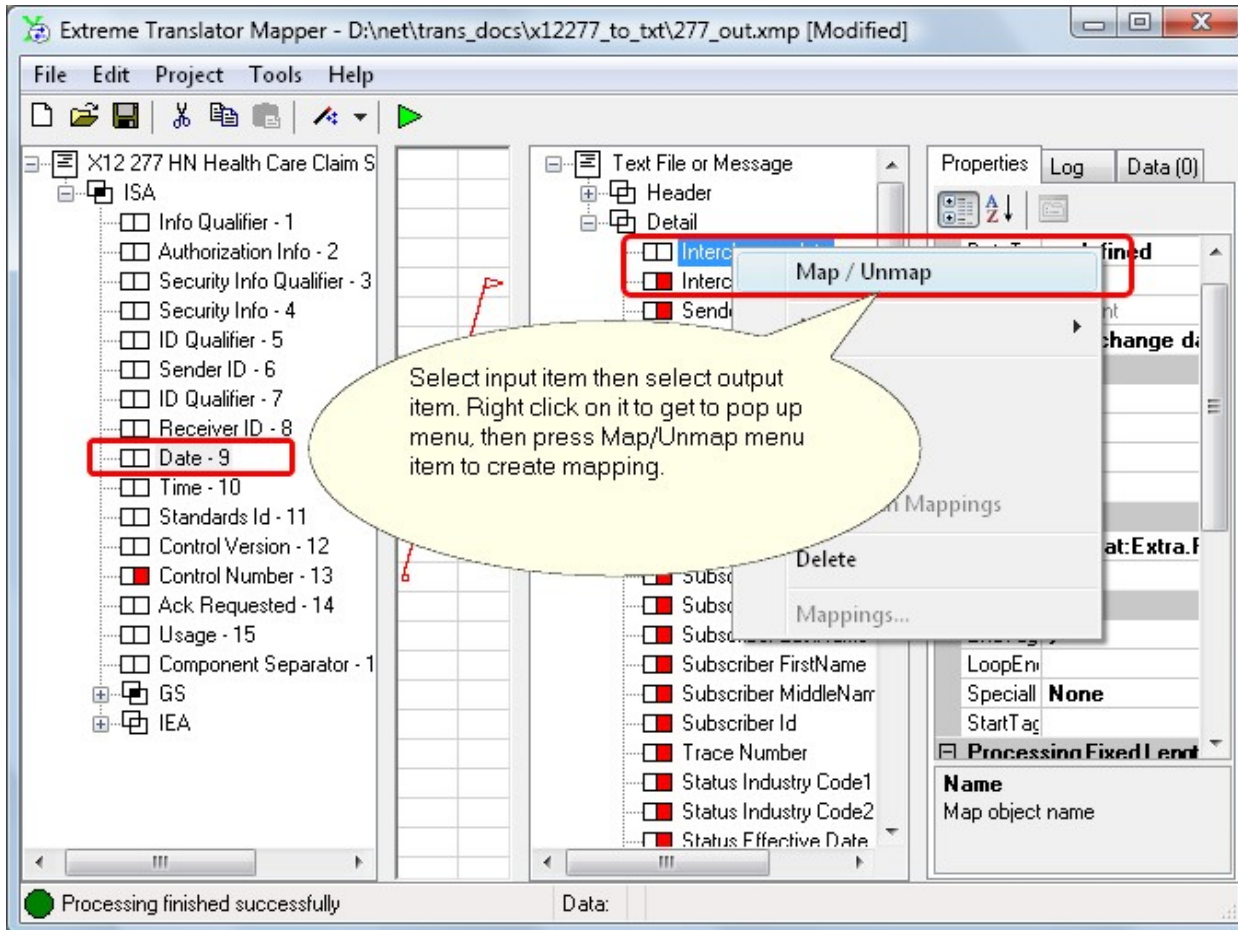
Since we want each set of fields of the output file to start at new line add #13#10 to EndTag property of the segment. Codes #13#10 represent carriage return and line feed.



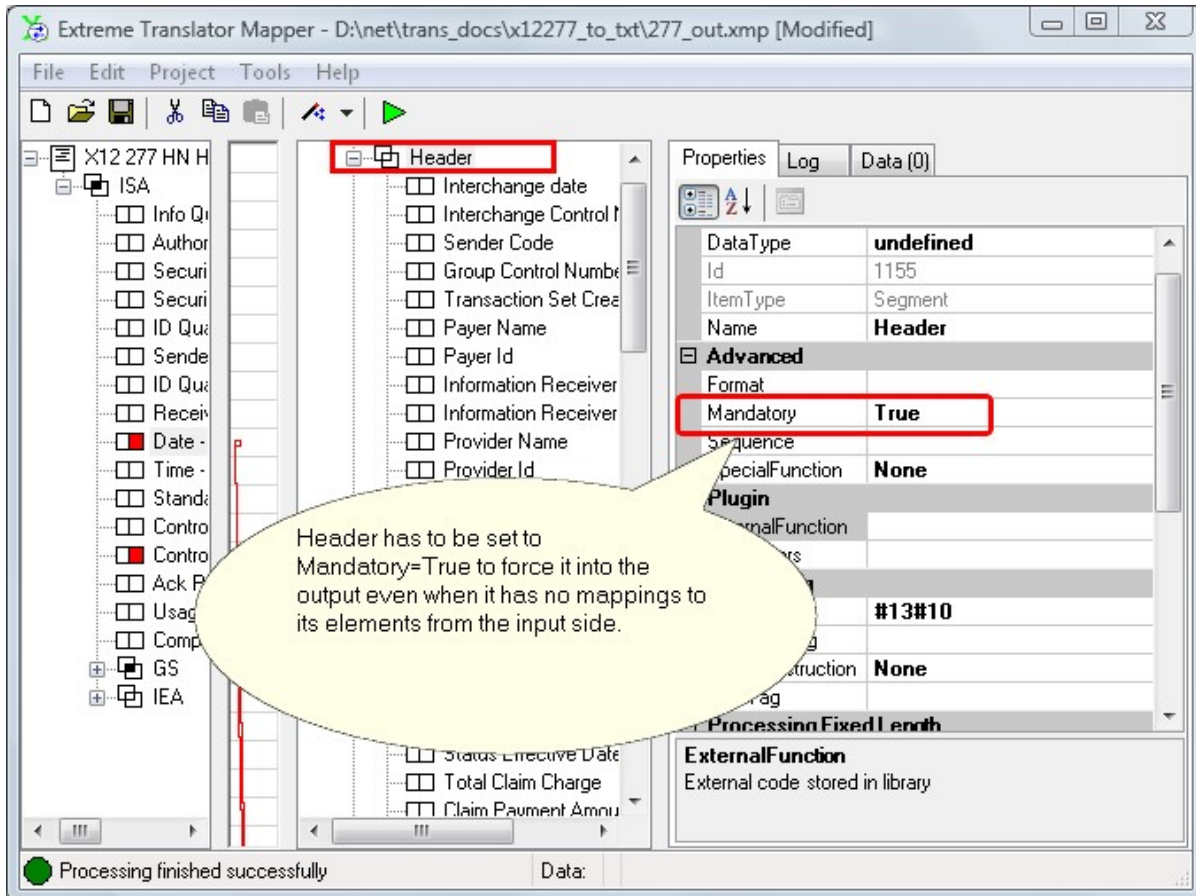
You can add elements (fields) to the output segment using Add->element menu.



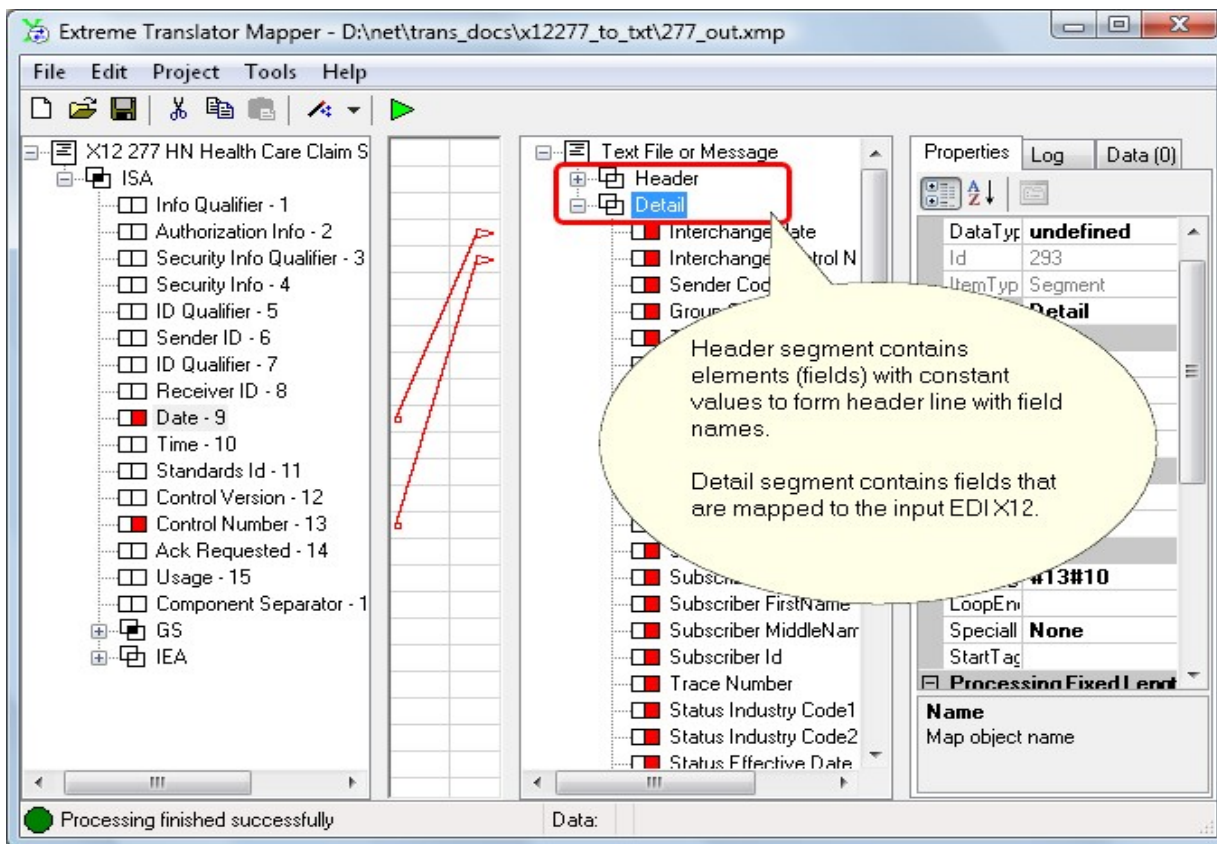
Each element (field) can end with specific separator. In this case we only use commas to separate fields. Enter comma into EndTag for the new element.



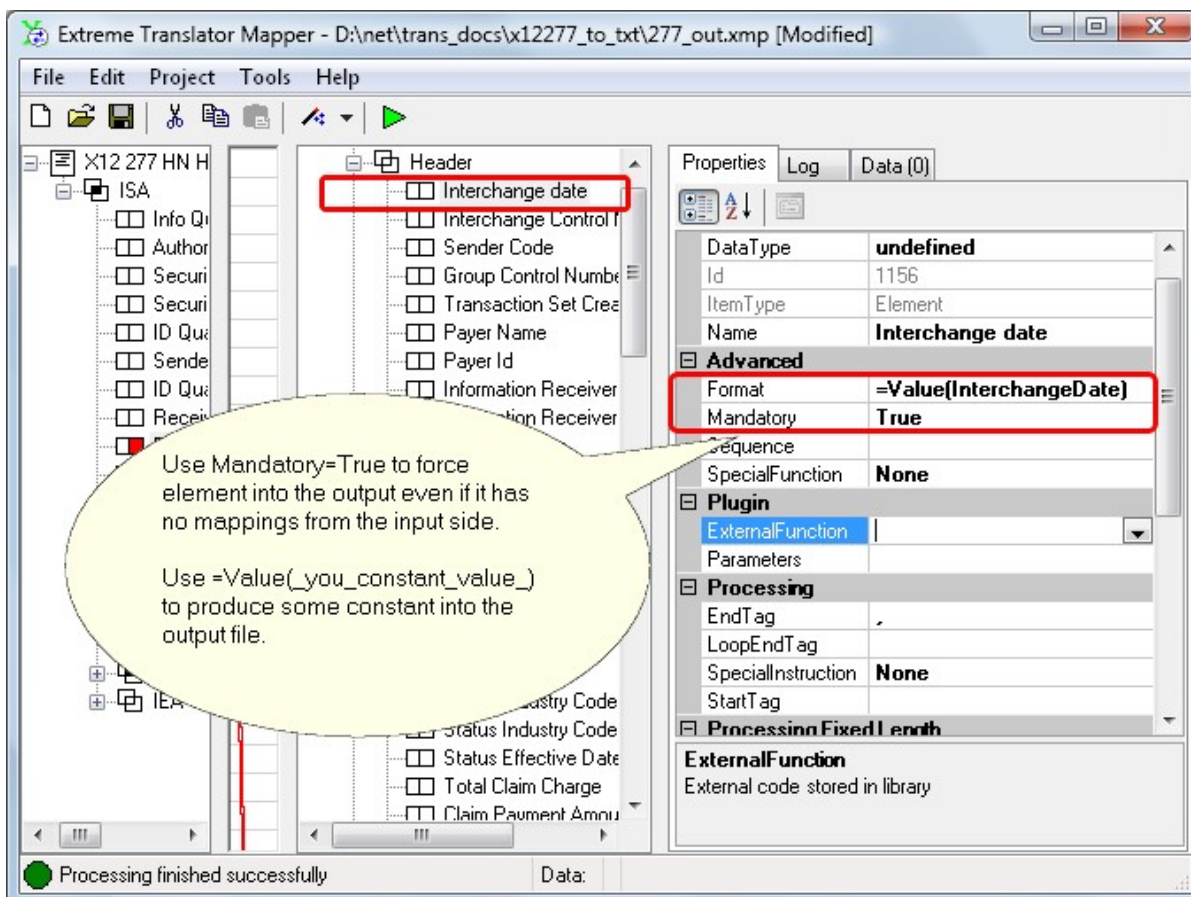
You can use "Map/Unmap" menu to map or unmap specific input item to the output item. Select input item and select output item, then right click on the output item and press "Map/Unmap" menu to form a link. Red or black arrow will appear in the middle pane of the Map Editor.



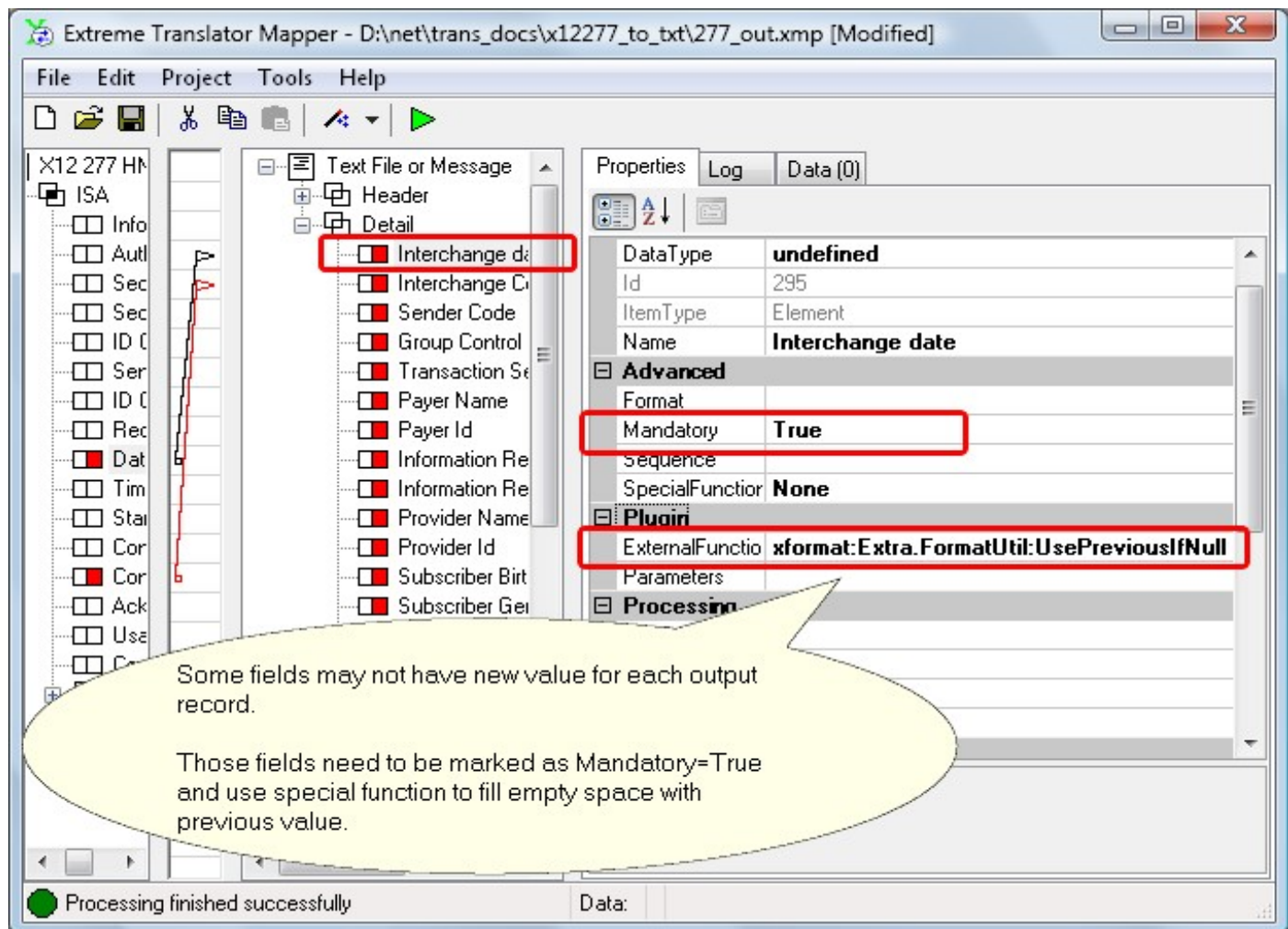
It is possible to add header line with field names to the output file. Add new segment called "Header" using "Add->Segment" menu. Then add elements to the header segment. Add new element for every field name in the header line.



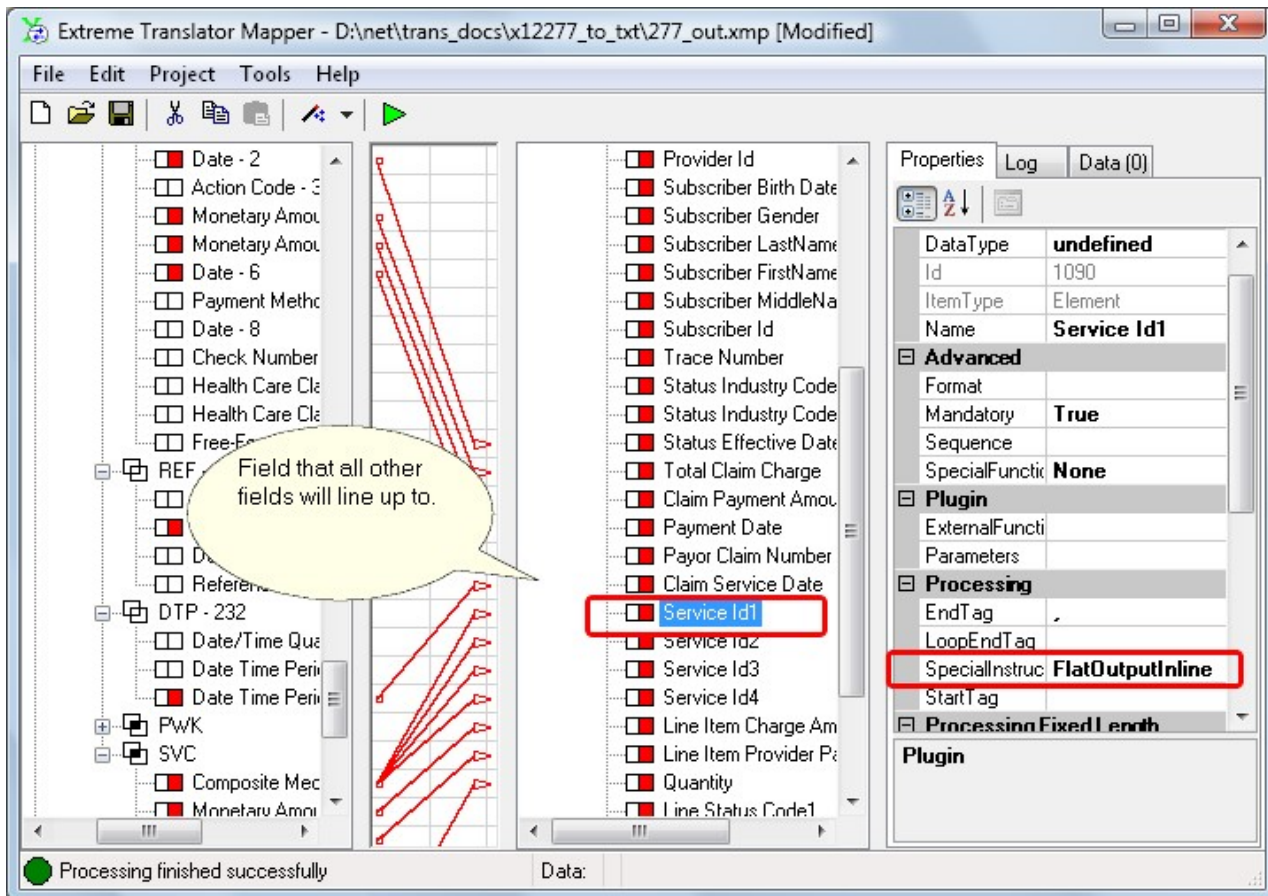
Header should be above detail segment.



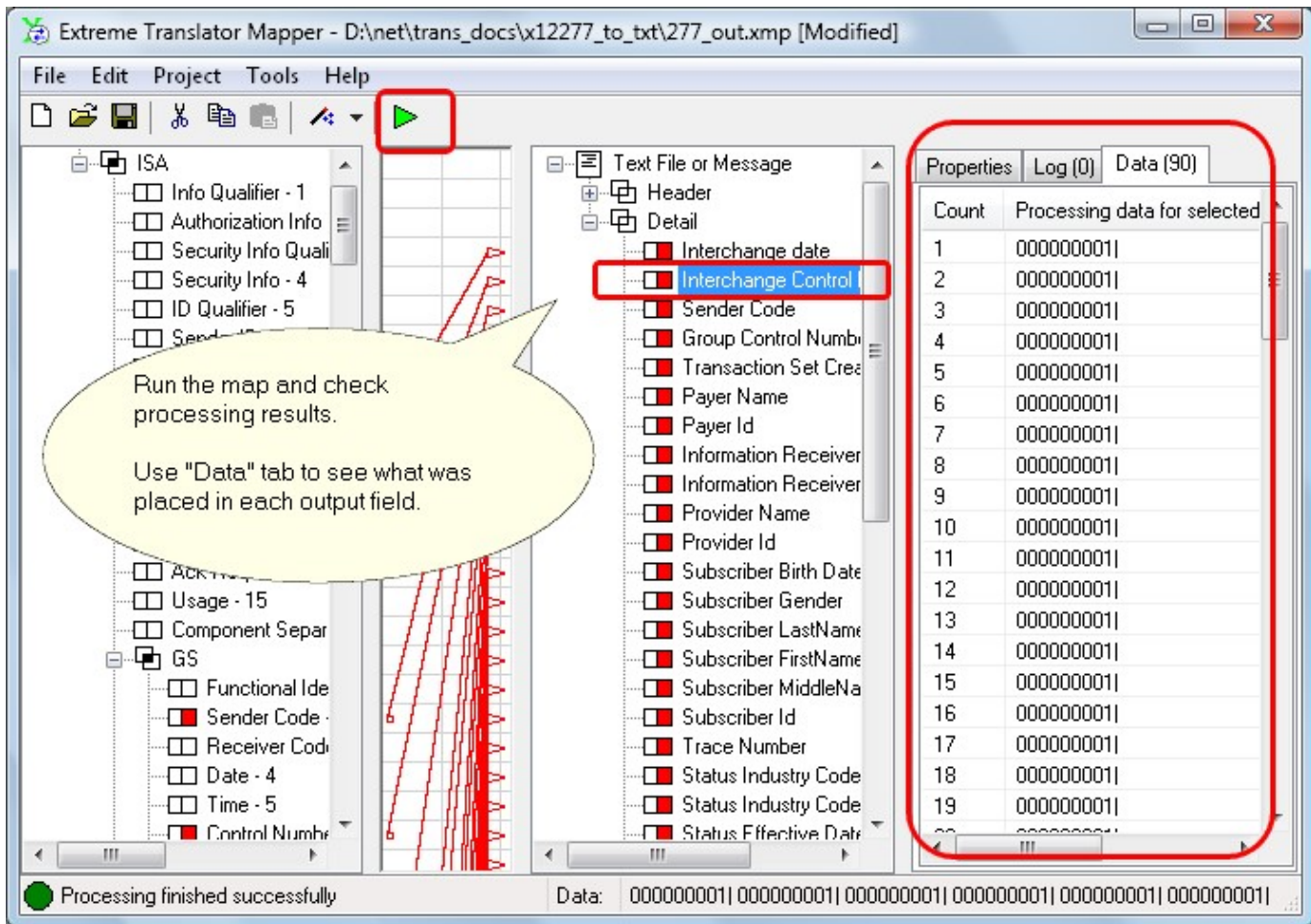
Set each element in the header to Mandatory=True and enter field name into Format property using =Value(_your_constant_value) function.



When output is produced some EDI X12 input fields may come from loops that repeat only once and do not have new values for every line of the output flat file. Those fields should be marked as Mandatory=True and use ExternalFunction "UsePreviousIfNull" to fill blank fields with values from the previous lines.



EDI X12 files contain number of loops and looping segments. Translator needs to know how to line up output values into the fields to form output lines. It needs a hint on what field is the first detail item (first field of the most repeating loop). That is the field all other fields will be lined up to. Set this field on the output side to SpecialInstruction=FlatOutputInline.



Run your finished map to see results. Sometimes it is better to run map during mapping process as well. Just to see if values are coming across from the input side. When you click on each item in the map you can see values for that item in "Data" tab.

We hope this document helped you. If you have any questions please contact us via Support page.