



CSVCompare

User Guide

Version 1.0

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Complexity Made Simple

Contents

Version History	3
Introduction	4
System Requirements	4
U.S. Government Use	5
How It Works	6

Version History

Version	Description
1.0	Initial release

Introduction

CSVCompare is a small Windows-compatible utility application to compare between two and ten comma-separated value (*.CSV) file contents and then generate a text file which documents instances of the same value(s) existing in two or more of the *.CSV files.

A *.CSV file is most commonly associated with spreadsheet applications (e.g. Microsoft Excel). A *.CSV file can be structured two different ways: as a columnar list of data or as a single line of values which are separated with a comma character. A CSV file uses a file extension of .CSV; typically, Windows will associate the file extension with whatever spreadsheet application is installed on the computer.

CSVCompare does not purposely alter/modify the contents of a .CSV file during its operation. CSVCompare does not modify the Windows Registry database, nor does it require elevated privileges to operate. No file associations are made by CSVCompare. The output text file (aka: the report) unique filename is generated from the computer's current date and time.

The author built this application to augment cyber analyses which needed to compare archived lists of TCP/IP addresses (and flag duplicate entries). This first real world test of this application compared four .CSV files against each other:

- file #1 – this month's list of unique IP addresses
- file #2 – company #1 unique IP address list which contained 23,274 entries
- file #3 – company #2 unique IP address list which contained 43,749 entries
- file #4 – company #2 unique IP address list which contained 11,193 entries

CSVCompare required 535 seconds (i.e. roughly 9 minutes) to generate the report, identifying 424 matches throughout the three *.CSV files. The impact of identifying foreign-assigned TCP/IP addresses – and subsequent research into their owners/history of wrongdoing were extremely impactful to my customers, and became a launch point of further detailed analyses.

System Requirements

- Windows 8 (or higher)
- All Windows applications “like” computer memory – a starting point for any Windows machine should really be 16GB of memory. If this application starts running slower, check your Windows Task Manager for applications that are leeching memory (and then start closing them)
- This application runs comfortably within 10MB of disc space
- A decent color monitor capable of displaying 1024x768 (or higher resolution)

U.S. Government Use

U.S. government agencies, to include the Department of Defense, are NOT permitted to use this application without written consent from the author. A per-seat usage fee will be assessed prior to that written authorization being granted to the requester.

Quick Start

Although the setup program installed this application into a dedicated folder, this application is meant to be copied into the same folder where the data resides:

1. Create a dedicated folder on your hard drive, ensuring it has at least double the amount of hard drive space free and the CSVCompared size of the files it will manipulate.
2. Copy this application and its associated .Ini file into the same folder that contains the *.CSV data files that are to be compared.
3. Edit these CSVCompare.Ini file entries:

[Files]

CSV01=<filename.csv>

CSV02=<filename.csv>

CSV03=<filename.csv>

CSV04=<filename.csv>

CSV05=<filename.csv>

CSV06=<filename.csv>

CSV07=<filename.csv>

CSV08=<filename.csv>

CSV09=<filename.csv>

CSV10=<filename.csv>

Replace the <filename.csv> information with the name of the .CSV file. At least two .CSV files must be configured within the CSVCompare.Ini file. Delete lines within the CSVCompare.Ini that are unneeded; for example, if only three .CSV files will be compared (a.csv, b.csv, ccc.csv), the CSVCompare.Ini file would resemble:

[Files]

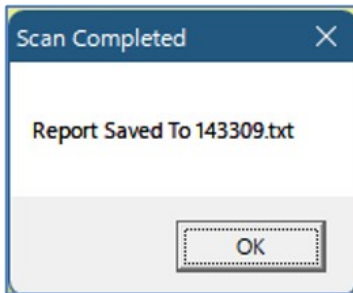
CSV01=a.csv

CSV02=b.csv

CSV03=ccc.csv

How It Works

When the CSVCompare.Exe file is started, the CSVCompare.Ini file is opened and read; each of the defined .Csv files are opened and their contents are read into a unique array (i.e. memory). A uniquely-named text file is created/opened for writing output. Each array's contents are then compared against each other, in succession, until the last array is compared. If an array's element is found within another array, then a line is appended to the output text file. After the last array elements are compared, the output text file is amended with a reporter footer and then closed. A message box is then displayed onscreen to show the unique filename that the output was generated to:



Sample Scenario

Ten *.CSV files need to be compared against each other to identify content commonalities between them. The CSVCompare.INI file is thus configured to look like this:

```
[Files]
CSV01=A1.CSV
CSV02=B2.CSV
CSV03=C3.CSV
CSV04=D4.CSV
CSV05=E5.CSV
CSV06=F6.CSV
CSV07=G7.CSV
CSV08=H8.CSV
CSV09=I9.CSV
CSV10=J10.CSV
```

The contents of the ten .CSV files were:

A1	B2	C3	D4	E5
Volvo Cobra AC Nagant GM Puma Bugatti Bridin Studebaker Geely Alfa Romeo DeLorean	Indian Jaguar Kia Crosley Land Rover Lincoln Lamborghini Matra Nissan	Chrysler Datsun Daihatsu Daimler Geo Honda Invicta Indian	Ford Dodge Plymouth Jaguar Ferrari Aston Marton Audi Bentley Chrysler	Yugo McClaren
F6	G7	H8	I9	J10
Opel Oldsmobile Packard Plymouth R.E.O. Reliant Scimitar Scion Toyota	McClaren Peugeot Maserati Auburn Checker Dort Motor Company Du Pont Motors Fisker Hudson Hupp Imperial MG Kaiser-Frazer	Toyota Volkswagen Porsche Ford Yugo Sterling Fiat BMW Acura Alfa Romeo	DeLorean Hummer AMC Crosley Duesenberg Excalibur Nash LaSalle Peerless Pontiac Stutz Studebaker Willys White	Daihatsu LaSalle

When the CSVCompare.Exe is executed, the resultant output file contained the following information:

```
File #1 is: D:\A\A1.CSV containing 12 items
File #2 is: D:\A\B2.CSV containing 9 items
File #3 is: D:\A\C3.CSV containing 8 items
File #4 is: D:\A\D4.CSV containing 9 items
File #5 is: D:\A\E5.CSV containing 2 items
File #6 is: D:\A\F6.CSV containing 9 items
File #7 is: D:\A\G7.CSV containing 13 items
File #8 is: D:\A\H8.CSV containing 10 items
File #9 is: D:\A\I9.CSV containing 14 items
File #10 is: D:\A\J10.CSV containing 2 items

Studebaker was found in D:\A\A1.CSV and D:\A\I9.CSV
Alfa Romeo was found in D:\A\A1.CSV and D:\A\H8.CSV
DeLorean was found in D:\A\A1.CSV and D:\A\I9.CSV
Indian was found in D:\A\B2.CSV and D:\A\C3.CSV
Jaguar was found in D:\A\B2.CSV and D:\A\D4.CSV
Crosley was found in D:\A\B2.CSV and D:\A\I9.CSV
Chrysler was found in D:\A\C3.CSV and D:\A\D4.CSV
Daihatsu was found in D:\A\C3.CSV and D:\A\J10.CSV
Ford was found in D:\A\D4.CSV and D:\A\H8.CSV
Plymouth was found in D:\A\D4.CSV and D:\A\F6.CSV
Yugo was found in D:\A\E5.CSV and D:\A\H8.CSV
McClaren was found in D:\A\E5.CSV and D:\A\G7.CSV
Toyota was found in D:\A\F6.CSV and D:\A\H8.CSV
LaSalle was found in D:\A\I9.CSV and D:\A\J10.CSV

=====
CSVCOMPARE UTILITY APPLICATION
Build Number: 11/27/2022
Company: Software by Daughtry
Support: http://www.sdaughtry.com
Report Generated On: Sun 11/27/2022 3:33:50 PM
Number of Seconds the Comparison Required: 1
```

Notes:

1. The file comparison operation is CaSe SeNsItIvE!! For example, a match would be found if two files contain the text 'LaSalle', but a match is NOT found if file (1) contains 'LaSalle' and file (2) contains 'LASALLE'.
2. Trailing spaces within .CSV file contents are problematic. This is also a problem with Microsoft Excel (and possibly other spreadsheet applications). If file (1) entries do NOT contain a trailing space, but some of file (2) entries do contain a trailing space, then a match will NOT be found. Microsoft Excel (and possibly other spreadsheet applications) will provide unreliable results within PivotTables and calculated data if some of the data (manually inputted or imported) sporadically contains trailing spaces. This problem may be mitigated by Excel add-on products; the use of Excel formula(s) to remove trailing spaces or conducting a search/replace operation against the contents of a .CSV file via a text editor prior to using CSVCompare.
3. Although not required, it is recommended the two files which comprise CSVCompare (i.e. CSVCompare.Exe, WBDVD64I.Dll), its configuration file (CSVCompare.Ini) and CSV files that will be compared reside in the same folder. WRITE (or MODIFY) permissions are required of this folder to ensure the resultant CSVCompare output report can be created and then written to).

Technical Information

This application requires less than 5MB of disc space for its files:

- CSVCompare.exe – application file
- CSVCompare.Ini – configuration file (editable with Notepad or a text editor)
- WBDWC64I.Dll – runtime file

However, whenever processing large volumes of data, three factors come into play:

1. CPU processor speed
2. Hard drive type/speed (5400RPM / 7200RPM / SSD)
3. Available memory (ideally 16GB or more RAM installed)

It is recommended to close all Windows applications (especially web browsers) before processing large amounts of data to free up memory. A faster hard drive can shave minutes (or even hours) of time required to process data.

Data Backup

Whenever processing raw data, it is ALWAYS a prudent decision to first back up the original data and work against a copy of the data. For example, the machine could automatically reboot due to an operating system update or a software driver update requires the reboot the machine to

replace open files. A co-worker could accidentally bump the machine's reboot button, or toggle the surge protector's power switch with a broom. There are dozens of ways to interfere with data processor – and it will ALWAYS occur at the worst possible time.

Support and Registration/Donation

1. Send us an email (scott@sdaughtry.com) that fully describes the problem(s) you're experiencing and we will get back to you as soon as possible. It is prudent for you to fully back up this application's folder (in full) as a precautionary pre-troubleshooting step.
2. This application is distributed as DONORWARE – no features have been removed or crippled from this application. This application's dedicated web page located on our company web site (<http://www.sdaughtry.com>) has a link to donate to continued updates of this application and/or fund the creation of other utility applications.