

## The UpdateCSVFile utility

Timelapse includes a utility program called *UpdateCSVFile.exe* (see Timelapse webpage on [Utility applications](#)). It partially helps update CSV files to match what is expected by Timelapse:

- update the headers of CSV files to conform to Timelapse data labels;
- repair file names that don't conform to File / RelativePath expectations.

The CSV output file is your old CSV file name suffixed with *\_updated.csv*.

Imagine that you have the following.

- A Timelapse template whose data labels (column headers) include, amongst other things: *File*, *ProjectID* and *Species*.
- An existing CSV file created elsewhere that contains four columns with the headers: *Image Name*, *Project ID*, *Genus Species*, *Count*.

You want to use UpdateCSV.exe to transform your existing CSV file into one that can be read by Timelapse. This requires the following things to happen.

- Three headers need to be renamed to match the template's DataLabels: *File*, *ProjectID* and *Species*.
- The *Image Name* column contains file location in the form of a complete path: *C:/Documents/Project/site1/image01.jpg*
- The template is located in the *Project* folder, where various subfolders (e.g., *site1*, *site2*) contain the files. Thus each file location in *Image Name* must be transformed e.g., where the *RelativePath* and *File* fields contain *site1* and *image01.jpg*.

The steps you would have to follow are listed below.

1. Create a text file (e.g., using WordPad) titled *headerTranslations.json*. This file should list the headers in your CSV file that you want to change, and what those headers should be changed to. This is best illustrated by the example above (*Count* is not included as it exactly matches an existing template DataLabel). The example text file would look like this.

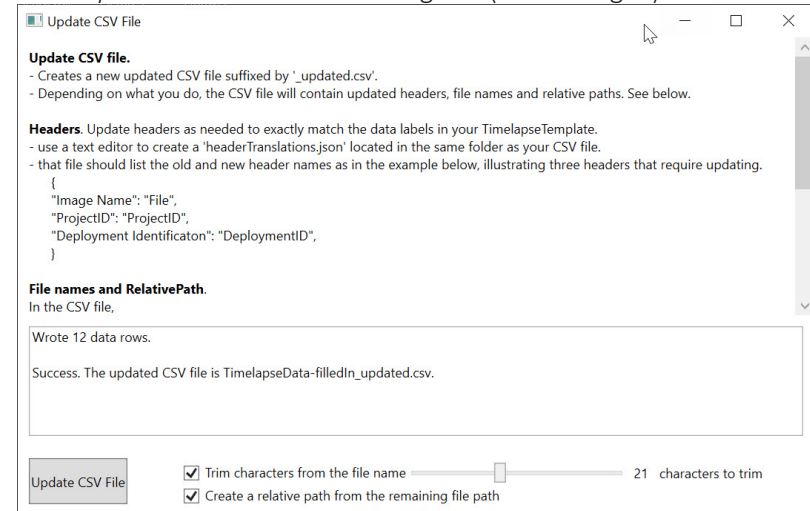
```
{
  "Image Name": "File",
  "Project ID": "ProjectID",
  "Genus Species": "Species"
}
```

**Note.** The syntax is:

```
{
  "old header 1": "new header 1",
  "old header 2": "new header 2",
  ...
  "old header n": "new header n",
}
```

Braces, quotes, colons and commas are all required. Unchanged headers do not have to be included.

2. Copy the headerTranslations.json file into the same folder as your CSV file.
3. Start *UpdateCSVFile.Exe*. The dialog box (after filling in) looks like this.



4. Trim *C:/Documents/Project/* (21 characters) off the file names by,
  - » check the *Trim characters..* checkbox
  - » adjust the slider to 21, which removes the 1st 21 characters
5. To split the remaining file path into the *RelativePath / File* columns, check the *Create a relative path...* checkbox. This will place the file name portion (e.g., *image01.jpg*) into a *File* Column, and the text preceding trimmed file path into a *RelativePath* column (e.g., *'site1'*). A *RelativePath* column will be created if none exists in your CSV file.
6. Click UpdateCSV File and specify the location of the CSV file to update. Error messages (if any) will be reported in the above dialog box.
7. Open the updated CSV file to ensure that everything was done correctly. You should see the updated header names, and the shortened file names.
8. Import the updated CSV file into Timelapse.
9. If anything appears wrong, correct those errors and try again.

**Note.** If all your files are located in the root folder (e.g., if *Site1* was your root folder), then you would just trim whatever characters lead up to the file name. For example, to trim off *C:/Documents/Project/site1/* you would set the *Trim* to 27 characters but do not check the '*Create a relative path...*' checkbox.