

LIS for 2011/12

- Conversion of flat files to xml
- Amalgamation of more than one ILR file

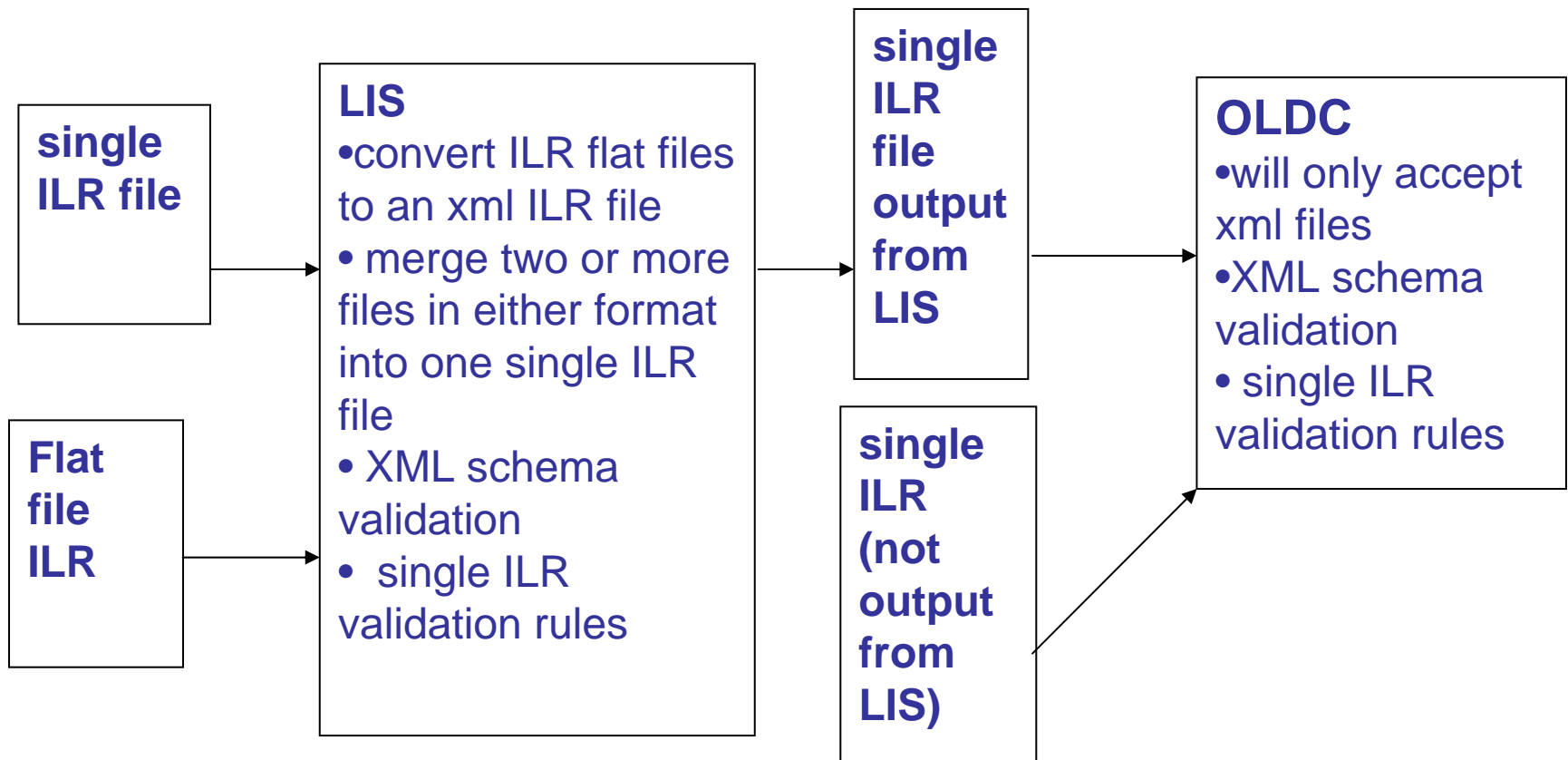
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setting data standards
for further education

Single ILR

Data collection systems for 2011/12

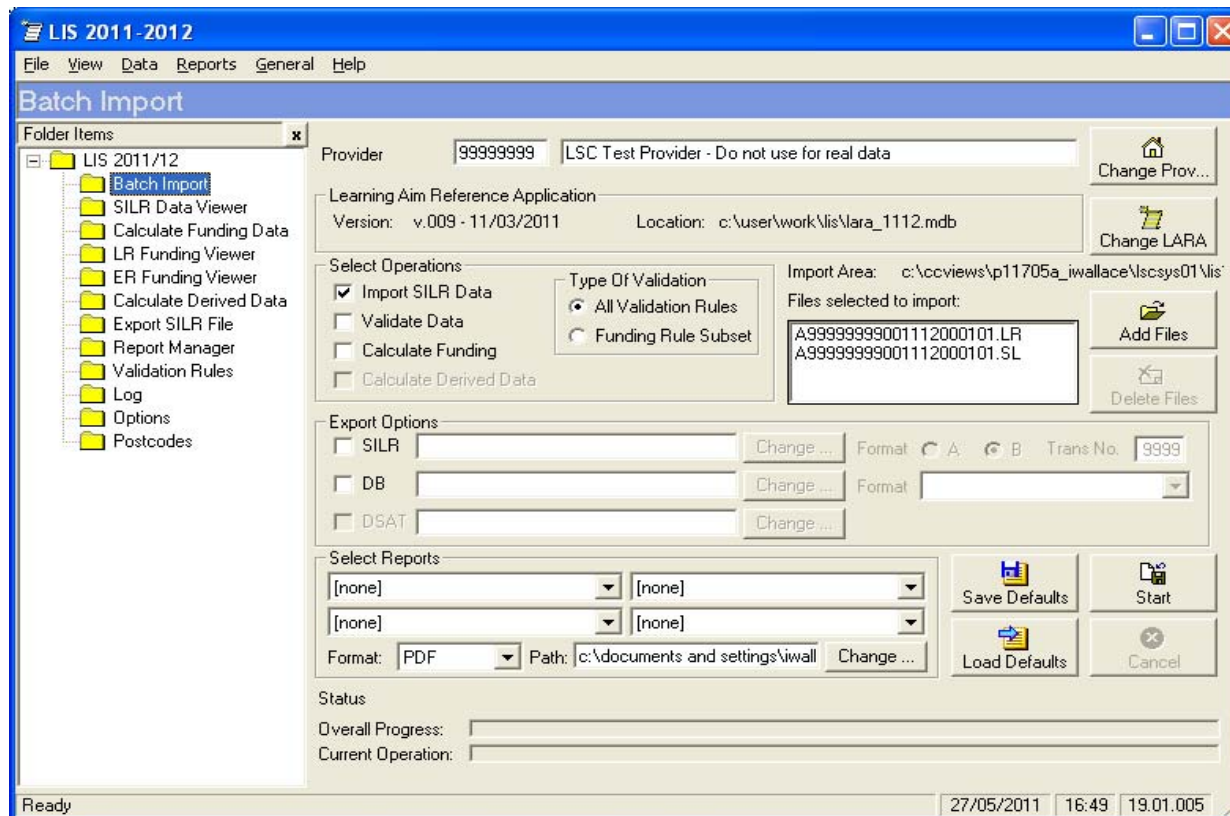


When to use the LIS

- All providers recommended to use the LIS to validate and check files prior to data submission
- use LIS if you need to convert one or more flat files (2010/11 format) to xml format
- use LIS if you want to join together one or more ILR files into a single ILR file for 2011/12

Conversion to xml

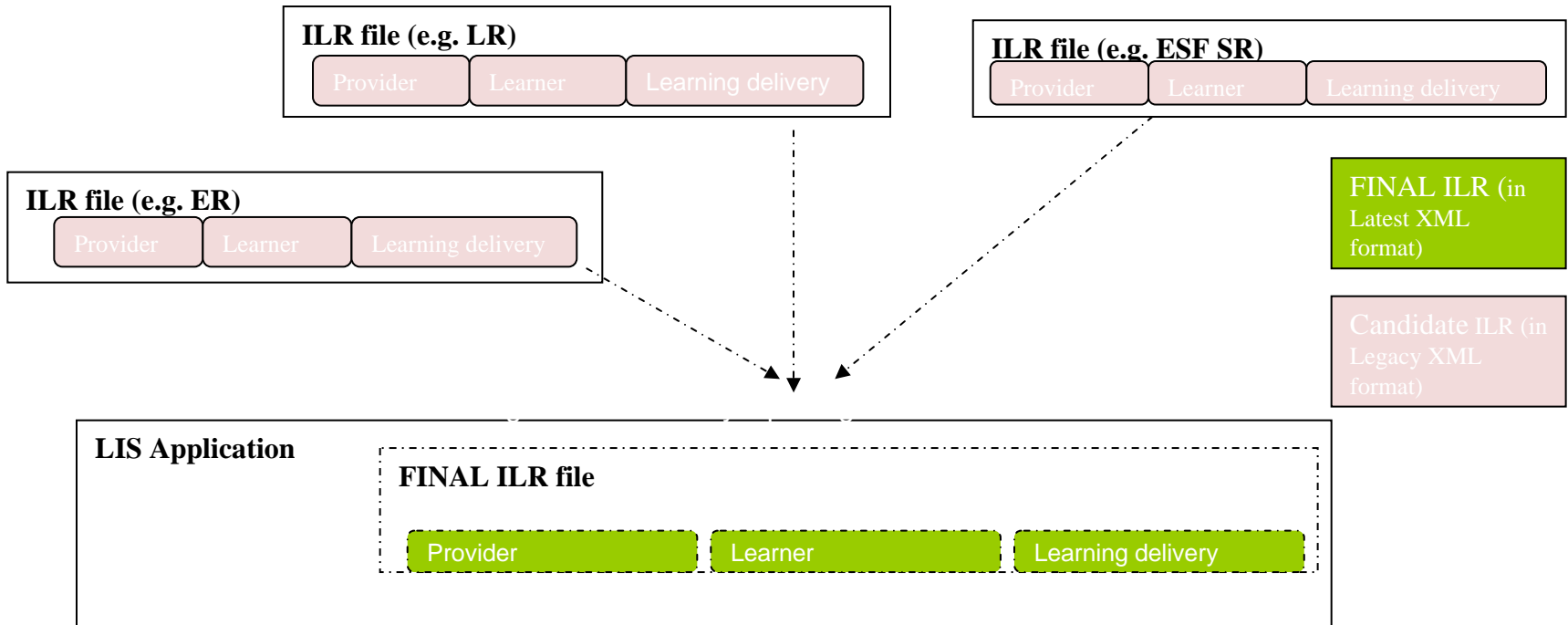
- Batch import screen in LIS. Use the Add files button to select the files that you wish to import, convert and amalgamate



Pre-conversion Validation

- Basic file validation is applied to the flat file to ensure conversion can take place.
- Will check file structure and integrity, data types of fields and ensure incoming file only has records for one UPIN/UKPRN
- File cannot be converted to XML if it has contradictory values in H10, H21, H40 for different aims for a single learner
- File cannot be converted to XML if it has contradictory values in A44, A45, A66 or A67 for aims with the same start date (A27) for a single learner
- Conversion carried out using rules defined in the conversion rules spreadsheet at http://www.theia.org.uk/ilr/ilrdocuments/201112_ilrdetail.htm

Amalgamation Process



Amalgamation

- Will accept any combination/number of flat and xml files.
- Will process in the following order:
 - Flat files are loaded before xml files
 - Flat files are loaded in sequence sorting on file extension and serial number
 - Xml files are loaded in sequence sorting on transmission number and serial number
- File types are determined as follows:
 - Combination of B's=B
 - Combination of A's + B's = B
 - Combination of A's= user to define (only use A if file contains all learners at that provider)
- Providers must input the transmission number to be used. Transmission number must always be higher than last one used on last file uploaded to OLDC

Please note: it is important to get the naming convention right and to distinguish between an A and B file, otherwise you may be in danger of deleting data in OLDC.

Amalgamation (2)

Process for merging records from two or more ILR files:

- If there are no Learner Ref Number (L03) clashes then all records are just appended one after the other into the LIS database. The tool will not try to merge learner records for the same learner if they have different Learner Ref Numbers (does not try to match names, DOBs or other characteristics).
- If there is more than one record with the same Learner Ref Number, the LIS will compare the Learner data fields and if they are the same it will create a single record from this data and append all the learning aims to this single learner record. The aim sequence number will be re-sequenced.

eg: Joe Smith Learner Ref No A435797 is in both the LR flat file (with two aims) and ER flat file (with one aim) for a provider. If all the learner fields are the same then a single record for Joe will be output using the same Learner Ref No and containing 3 aims.

Amalgamation (3)

Learner field Comparison for records with the same Learner Ref Number is as follows:

- To merge two learner records together all the Learner “L” fields must be identical (check is not case sensitive) in both records apart from the following exceptions:
 - Address, Current Postcode, Telephone and email address. If there is a conflict in data for these items then the values held in the first file processed will be used and data from subsequent files ignored (this will be reported back to the user)
 - A “real” postcode will always take precedence over a value of ZZ99 ZZZ which will be overwritten
 - A Destination value of 95 “continuing” will always take precedence over any other destination value
 - A contact preference indicator of RUI3 will always take precedence over any other contact preference values

Amalgamation (4)

Employment Status records. These are created using the following rules:

- There can only be one employment status record of type “First day of Learning: FDL” – the one with the earliest date will be used
- There should not be more than one record of type “Current Employment Status : CES” for any given date. If there are 2 records for the same date with contradictory status’s then the records cannot be amalgamated and will be rejected. If there are 2 records with the same date and status then the record containing an employer id and workplace postcode takes precedence and is retained
- There should not be more than one record of type “Day before starting learning aim: DBS” for any given date. If there are 2 records for the same date with contradictory status’s then the records cannot be amalgamated and these learner records will be rejected

Amalgamation (5)

Filename, Header and Source Files

- The header is populated with details of when the conversion/amalgamation took place
- An entry is made in the source files section of the final xml file for each file that is input containing details of the original source filename and other details from the original source file header

Amalgamation (7)

Learner Deletions

- Depends on final export file type
- See the ILR specification para 62 for further detail
- Safest to declare all learner deletions explicitly using the Learner deletion structure in an xml file or using field L08 in a flat file.
- If the record is simply removed from one of the imported files it will only be removed from the Data Service national database if the final export file is an A file

Further information

Service Desk: 0870 2670001

Email: servicedesk@thedataservice.org.uk

For the single ILR specification, provider support manual and conversion rules:

http://www.theia.org.uk/ilr/ilrdocuments/201112_ilrdetail.htm

Further information on the enhancements to data collection systems:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/News/enhancements_dc_systems