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Funding Information System (FIS) Command Line Guidance

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Funding Information System

Change to this Document

Version	Date	Changes made
V1.0	12/09/2014	Initial version.
V1.1	24/03/2016	Updated for current functionality



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Background

The Command Line option allows users to run FIS without using the FIS application interface. This allows FIS to be run in the background and at a more convenient time, for instance running one or more large ILR data files overnight.

Because FIS Command Line uses Windows DOS Command code no additional software is required, however, it does require the user to write the command code and configure other settings and folder structures.

Using Command Line for FIS

When the Command Line function is triggered it will start FIS and link to a template file which tells FIS which procedures to run. It will then link to a folder designated by the user from which ILR data is imported and will then run selected procedures in FIS. FIS then delivers selected report and export outputs and another user-specified folder location.

To run FIS Command Line you will need the following

- FIS and its Prerequisite software installed
- A 'Template' file, created manually in FIS by the user.
- A well-formed ILR data file to import.
- Three folders for each command line process: 1) a folder which contains the template file; 2) a folder which will contain ILR data to be imported; and, 3) a folder for exported reports and access mdb files. Log data generated during and Command Line process will be exported here as well.

Which procedures can be run from FIS Command Line

- The file amalgamation procedure 'Amalgamate' cannot be run in a Command Line process as it requires multiple file selection attempts and Command Line by default only selects one ILR data file.
- Import and Validate an ILR Submission
- Perform Funding Calculations
- Export ILR to an Access Database
- Any report which contains 'with defaults' in the name. FIS reports normally require selection criteria to be chosen as the reports are run. These versions of the reports have had this disabled.



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Creating a template file

The template is an XML file which tells FIS which parameters to use for a Command Line driven execution process. This is generated in FIS by the user by choosing the required Data Provider, Funding Year, reference data sets, component set and procedures in the FIS user interface in the same way that they are selected for a normal process; and then selecting 'Save Template' under the File Menu in the FIS interface.

Creating Command Line Syntax

The following pseudo code demonstrates the command code syntax:

```
cd c:\users\machine name\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Start  
Menu\Programs\Skills Funding Agency\Data Collection and Transformation
```

```
"Funding_Information_System.appref-ms" "c:\users\machine  
name\Desktop\Template_Files_1\template_1.xml| c:\users\machine  
name\Desktop\Command_Line_Input_Files_1|c:\users\machine  
name\Desktop\Command_Line_Output_Files_1"
```

Actual command line code should use the actual file and folder paths.

Running FIS Command Line

Command line code for FIS can be executed from a DOS Command window or can be used to create an executable file. This is done by writing the code into a text file and saved with a file extension of ".bat". When this is double clicked or called by another process, then it will trigger FIS perform the functions preset in the template file which it calls.