

Using DExporter to feed XMLAccess Reader

DExporter exports database schema and data in XML from MS Access.

Output from this utility can be processed with the `XMLAccess.Reader` in `RDBToOnto`.

This auxiliary reader can be used in case `MSAccess_Reader` fails to read the database.

To use `XMLAccess_Reader`, you need first to export the data and metadata using `DExporter`.

To apply DExporter on a database:

- Open `DExporter.mdb` with MS Access.
- Through the displayed interface, enter the database to export and destination directory.
- The resulting directory included in the specified destination directory will include XML exports of all data tables and schema.
- The data in this directory are exploitable input for `RDBToOnto` (through `XMLAccess_Reader`).
- The input file for `RDBToOnto` is located in the resulting directory and has the database name with extension `.xdb`.

Limitations

- **No quotation symbols, both ' and " in table names and field names.** They should be removed from the Access database before starting any export process (Only way found to get round a bug in `exportXML` function of Microsoft Access).
- **No external tables.** The exporter has not been designed to deal with external tables (we haven't tested if the MS Access `exportXML` utility used in this script does support external files).
- **Forms export can fail but we still have the schema and data.** We noticed on several samples that the export process failed at form export stage. Note that the result can still be exploited by `RDBToOnto` as main parts of the database have been processed at this stage