

Conversion program vcf2csv V.24.04

Nowadays, many contacts are found in smartphones and even some button phones know how to export phone numbers to **.VCF** format. However, information systems usually accept import in **.CSV** format. Even an ordinary user works with MS Excel or its equivalent, where there is a possibility accept **.CSV** contacts

To convert a **.CSV** phone number file to a **.VCF** format for a mobile phone I published my csv2vcf program years ago. You can find it on the server slunecnize.cz here <https://www.slunecnice.cz/sw/csv2vcf/>

Sometimes the reverse conversion program **vcf2csv** may be useful. I originally designed this program just for my private use, but it turned out to be as useful as his friend csv2vcf.

A **.VCF** file can look like this:

```
BEGIN:VCARD
VERSION:3.0
FN:Ing. Frantisek Kamenicky
N:Kamenicky;Frantisek;;Ing.;
EMAIL;TYPE=INTERNET;TYPE=HOME:f.kamenicky@gmail.com
TEL;TYPE=CELL:+421903452761
END:VCARD
```

Hooray, there is everything I need just for Excel it should be in one line. You could edit it for one contact manually, but you usually have 100 or more contacts in a **.VCF** file. So we leave the job to the program.

1. File vcf2csv.ini

Required parameters must be stored in **vcf2csv.ini** .

```
Firstname=FN:
Lastname=N:
Email=EMAIL
Phone=TEL
```

Here I specify the column names of the resulting table to make it understandable. If I omit the line **Email=EMAIL** here in the definition, then the resulting **.CSV** file does not contain the email address even if it is included in the **.VCF** input file.

It is necessary to take a good look at how the .VCF file looks and set the parameters accordingly, which must be unambiguous. So a few examples:

```
BEGIN:VCARD
VERSION:4.0
N:Klčová;Alena;;;
FN:Alena Klčová
TEL;TYPE=cell,text;VALUE=uri:tel:+421 337 557 112
PHOTO;ENCODING=;;
END:VCARD
```

Just define **N** for the name and **TEL** for the phone; The vcf2csv program looks for a colon character further down the line.

```
BEGIN:VCARD
VERSION:2.1
N;CHARSET=UTF-8;ENCODING=QUOTED-PRINTABLE:Gavora Jan;;;
TEL;CELL:+421903888781
END:VCARD
```

Just define **N**; for the name and for phone the **TEL;CELL**: The vcf2csv program looks for a colon character further down the line.

Surprise will produce a **.VCF** file from the smartphone. The **.VCF** format has the advantage that the number of items in a contact can be individual. A common case is that you define an email for the conversion, but some contact does not have an email address. Such an entry will remain empty in the output **.VCF** file.

If you define the code for the name weakly during the conversion, i.e. only the letter **N**, it may happen that **you also used a note** on your smartphone for a contact that you thought was confidential. But when exporting contacts, the **NOTE** item will also appear for such a contact.

Although the program first detects the name based on the first letter, for example **Green Ferdinand**, but then when it finds the next line that starts with **N**, NOTE sets your note, e.g. Stupid as a name to Green Ferdinand s phone number and the trouble is over.

The program **vcf2csv** has no graphical extension as the menu and therefore I have to specify the file name where to read data by editing the **vcf2csv.ini** :

Firstname=FN:
Lastname=N:
Email=EMAIL
Phone=TEL
gmail.vcf

If I do nothing more, **vcf2csv** creates a file **gmail.csv** . So it takes the name of the output file from the input file and it looks like this:

```
Firstname,Lastname,Email,Phone  
"Ing. Frantisek Kamenicky","Kamenicky Frantisek  
Ing. ","f.kamenicky@gmail.com","+421903452761"
```

If you do not specify the name of the column, it is set according to the **.VCF** file as follows:

```
FN:  
Lastname=N:  
Phone=TEL  
Email=EMAIL  
gmail.vcf  
test.csv
```

```
FN:,Lastname,Phone,Email  
"Ing. Frantisek Kamenicky","Kamenicky Frantisek  
Ing. ","+421903452761",f.kamenicky@gmail.com"
```

Note that the order of the columns in the output file may not be the same as the order in the **.VCF** file. In the last example, the phone number is before the email address. There are cases that you must follow the order and column names to import into other systems. **vcf2csv** allows this.

In the output file, all semicolon characters in the data are replaced with a space so that it does not complicate the delimiter situation.

The abbreviation **.CSV** stands for "Comma Separated Values". If you need a separator other than a comma, edit the **vcf2csv.ini** file by typing only one character in the next line, for example :

```
Firstname=FN:  
Lastname=N:  
Phone=TEL  
Email=EMAIL  
gmail.vcf  
|
```

You can use one of the characters as a delimiter

| ! / # \$ & ? = - + , . : ; < > () [] { }

You must then define the appropriate character as a delimiter when importing. The same delimiter is used in the header and in the data.

```
Firstname|Lastname|Phone|Email  
"Ing. Frantisek Kamenicky"|"Kamenicky Frantisek  
Ing."|" +421903452761"|"f.kamenicky@gmail.com"
```

Sometimes, it may be helpful to limit the number of converted contacts. A mandatory column marked with an asterisk causes the contact where the data value in that column is empty are missing in the output **.CSV** file.

```
Firstname=FN:  
Lastname=N:  
Phone=TEL  
*Email=EMAIL  
gmail.vcf
```

In this example, only the lines where the mail address is defined are in the output file.

It may happen that, on the contrary, you need a list of contacts where there are no email addresses. Not everyone has an email, and pensioners in a nursing home are such a case. The list of those who do not have an email address can be obtained by the following definition with a minus sign:

```
Firstname=FN:  
Lastname=N:  
Phone=TEL  
-Email=EMAIL  
gmail.vcf
```

In the **.VCF** file, the phone number can be "in raw form", for example Czech +420123456789 or German number like +49123456789. If he needs to have the phone number in a "readable" form, write this in the file **vcf2csv.ini**

#Phone=TEL

The result will be **+420 123 456 789**, or **+49 123 456 789**

You can define multiple conditions for one item.

***#Phone** is OK, the required item can be formatted

-#Phone is silly, you want to format an empty item

***-Phone** is stupidity, the requirements contradict each other, it applies -

-*Phone is stupidity, the requirements contradict each other, it applies *

In the situation for which I create program, I needed to merge contacts from two mobile phones.

I then had two files, such as **alpha.csv** and **beta.csv**. But after their merger, I lost information where the contact comes from.

This can be solved in the program by writing identifications to the **vcf2csv.ini** file.

Firstname=FN:

Lastname=N:

Phone=TEL

Ident=Alpha

gmail.vcf

alfa.csv

In each line of the output file, program create a column with the name **Ident** and value **Alpha** as follows:

Firstname,Lastname,Phone,Ident

"Ing. Frantisek Kamenicky", "Kamenicky Frantisek

Ing.", "+421903452761", "**Alpha**"

Sometimes you may need the resulting .csv file to import or convert to another .vcf format so that there is no diacritics in the name.

When you write the line **ASCII=1** to the file **vcf2csv.ini**, the program converts the diacritics into the basic ASCII code, ie into the English alphabet as follows:

Viktor Kožený as **Viktor Kozeny**

and

Vlastimil Čáp as **Vlastimil Cap**

Here is a conversion table :

ÁÄČĎĚĚÍĹŇÓÖŐŘŠŤÚÛÚÝŽáäčďěěíĺňóöôőřšťúůúýžß
AACDEEILN000RSTUUUYZaacdeeíĺnoooorstuuuuyzs

Everything else, ie the lines on which the formats mentioned so far do not fit, is accepted only as a comment.

So in the file **vcf2csv.ini** you can write e.g. what action the vcf2.csv.ini file was prepared for.

2. Conclusion

The program is FREEWARE. However, the author reserves the right to decide where the program will be saved for download. If you plan to save the download to another server, please inform the author.

I make the program available as it suits me. If you have an idea how to improve it, write mail.

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