

Conversion program vcf2xml V.24.04

These days, a lot of contacts are on smartphones, and even some push-button phones can export phone numbers to **.VCF** format. However, the latest information systems usually accept import in **.XML** format.

A **.VCF** file might 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
```

Great, everything I need is here, but I m not going to create the **.XML** file by hand. So I ll leave the work to the program.

1. File vcf2xml.ini

The required parameters must be saved in the **vcf2xml.ini** file. This file must be created or edited with a simple **Notepad** program.

```
Name=N:
Email=EMAIL
Phone=TEL
```

Here I specify the names of the items in the XML file so that they meet the requirements for the next import. If I omit the line Email=**EMAIL** in the definition, the email address will not be transferred to the resulting **.XML** file, even if it is included in the input file with **.VCF** format.

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 **vcf2xml** 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 vcf2xml 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 **vcf2xml** program has no graphic menu, so I have to specify the name of the file from which it should read data. I edit the **vcf2xml.ini** file as follows:

```
Name=N:  
Email=EMAIL  
Phone=TEL  
gmail.vcf
```

If I do nothing else, the **vcf2xml** program creates a **gmail.xml** file.

That is, the name of the output file is taken from the input file and it looks like this:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="windows-1250"?>
<gmail>
<vcf>
<Name>Kamenicky Frantisek Ing.</Name>
<Phone>+421903452761</Phone>
<Email>f.kamenicky@gmail.com</Email>
</vcf>
</gmail>
```

Note that the order of items in the output file may not match the order in the **.VCF** file. In the last example, the phone number is before the email address in the XML file. There are cases where you have to respect the order and names of items for import into other systems. The **vcf2xml** program makes this possible.

In the output file, all semicolon characters are replaced by spaces in the data.

Sometimes it can be useful to limit the number of converted contacts. A mandatory item marked with an asterisk will cause the contact where the data value in this item is empty to be dropped from the output **.XML** file.

```
Name=N:
Phone=TEL
*Email=EMAIL
gmail.vcf
```

In this example, the output file will contain only contacts where the email address is defined.

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:

```
Name=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 created the **vcf2xml** program, I needed to merge contacts from two mobile phones.

I had two files for example **alpha.vcf** and **beta.vcf** . But after merging them, I lost the information where the contact came from.

This can be solved in the program by entering the identification in a suitable place, for example at the end of the **vcf2xml.ini** file.

Name=N:

Phone=TEL

Ident=Alpha

alpha.vcf

alpha.xml

In each contact of the output file alpha.xml, an entry with the name **Ident** and the value Alpha is created as follows:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="windows-1250"?>
<gmail>
<vcf>
<Name>Kamenicky Frantisek Ing.</Name>
<Phone>+421903452761</Phone>
<Ident>Alpha</Ident>
</vcf>
</gmail>
```

Sometimes it may happen that you need the resulting **.xml** file for import into another system so that there are no diacritics in the name.

When you also write the **ASCII=1** line in the **vcf2xml.ini** file, the program will convert the diacritics into the basic ASCII code, i.e. into the English alphabet as follows:

Viktor Kožený as **Viktor Kozeny** or **Vlastimil Čáp** as **Vlastimil Cap**

2. Conclusion

The program is FREEWARE. However, the author reserves the right to decide where the program will be stored for download. If you intend to store the downloadable program on another server, please inform the author.

I make the program available as it suits me. If you have an idea how it can be improved, write an email.

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