

Data Exchange Framework Activity for Marketing Automation 4.0 Installation Guide

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1. Introduction

The Data Exchange Framework (DEF) Activity for Marketing Automation extends the Marketing Automation activities. It enables you to trigger data synchronization from within a Marketing Automation plan.

1.1. Requirements

This product must be installed on a Sitecore content management (CM) server.

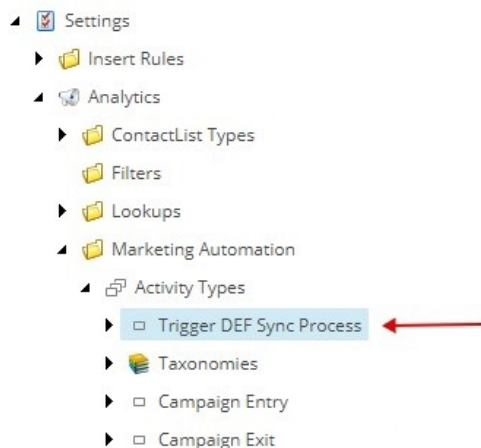
This product requires that the following are installed on the server:

- Sitecore Experience Platform 9.3.
- Data Exchange Framework (DEF) 4.0.0.
- Data Exchange Tenant Service 4.0.0 package.
- DEF Tenant Web Service 4.0. You must deploy this service as a separate IIS site.

1.2. Installation

To install the DEF Activity for Marketing Automation:

1. Download DEF Activity for Marketing Automation 4.0.0 from the [Sitecore Downloads](#) page.
2. On the CM server, in Sitecore, click **Control Panel**. In the **Administration** section, click **Install a package**.
The **Install a package** wizard guides you through the installation process.
3. When the installation is complete, confirm that the Activity was installed by opening the Content Editor and locating the item `/sitecore/system/Settings/Analytics/Marketing Automation/Activity Types/Trigger DEF Sync Process`.



4. Download the DEF Action Plugin for Marketing Automation 4.0. package. Deploy the package on top of the xConnect Marketing Automation Service.
5. Verify that the `App_Data\Config\sitecore\MarketingAutomation` folder contains the configuration file. Verify that the binaries folder of your Marketing Automation Service contains all the .dlls from the package.

NOTE

By default, the binaries folder is the root folder of the installation.

2. Walkthrough: Setting up a Marketing Automation action in Data Exchange Framework

This walkthrough shows you an example of how to set up a Marketing Automation (MA) action. It describes how to:

- [Create a Data Exchange Framework tenant](#)
- [Create a value accessor](#)
- [Create a pipeline](#)
- [Create value readers](#)
- [Create a pipeline context builder](#)
- [Create a Tenant Service Endpoint.](#)
- [Add a Trigger DEF Sync process to an Engagement Plan.](#)

2.1. Create a Data Exchange Framework tenant

The tenant is a container for the settings that need to be configured for the service. To create a tenant:

1. In Sitecore, open the Content Editor and navigate to `/sitecore/system/Data Exchange`.
2. On the **Folder** tab, click **Empty Data Exchange Tenant** to create a new tenant.
3. Select the created tenant and click on the **Data Exchange SDK** tab in the top menu bar.
4. Click on **Upgrade Tenant**. In the **Instruction Set** field, click the **Tenant Service** option.
5. Make a note of the tenant ID. Add the tenant ID, host, and credentials in the `<tenant service>\App_Config\ConnectionStrings.config` file, in the connection string called `Sitecore`. For example:

```
<connectionStrings>
  <add name="sitecore" connectionString="database=master;tenant id={841B0E94-4348-494D-
B32D-CA5E94F26ACC};host=my-sitecore;password=b;user name=sitecore\admin;timeout=20" />
</connectionStrings>
```

6. On your Sitecore Content Management and Marketing Automation Service servers, in the `App_Config\connectionstring.config` file, make sure you have a connection string for the tenant web service associated with the tenant. For example:

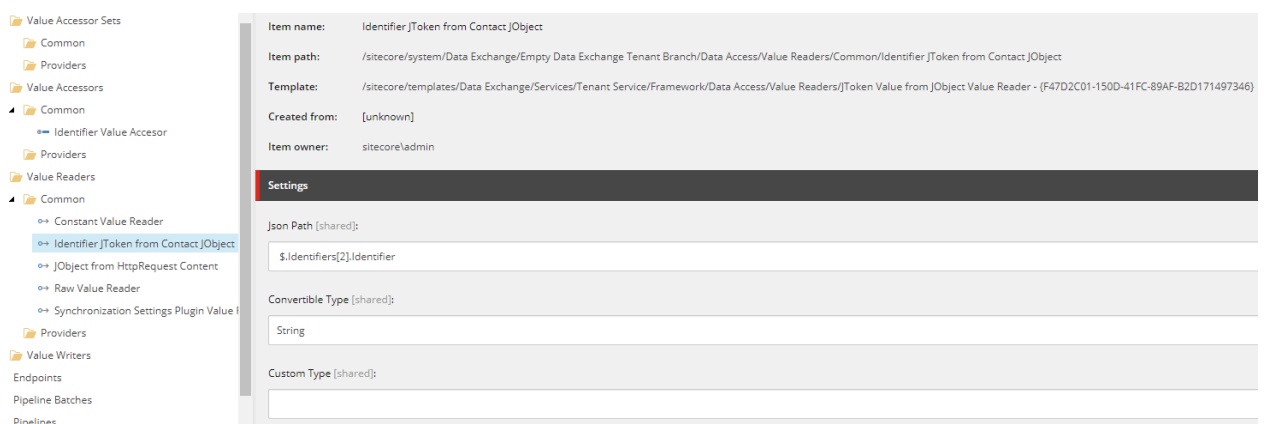
```
<xmlversion="1.0" encoding="utf-8">
<connectionStrings>
  <add name="my-tenant" connectionString="https://my-tenant.service"/>
</connectionStrings>
```

2.2. Create a value accessor

When an MA event triggers the Data Exchange Framework Action Plugin for MA it sends a request to the Tenant Service, which extracts the message body from the request. The contact is serialized as a JSON object.

You must create a value accessor that can access the first identifier in the serialized xConnect contact.

1. Navigate to `<tenant>/Data Access/Value Readers/Common`.
2. On the **Folder** tab, click *JToken Value from JObject Value Reader* to create an item. Name it *Identifier JToken from Contact JObject*.
3. In the **Convertible Type** field, select *String*. In the **Json Path** field, enter `$.Identifiers[1].Identifier`.



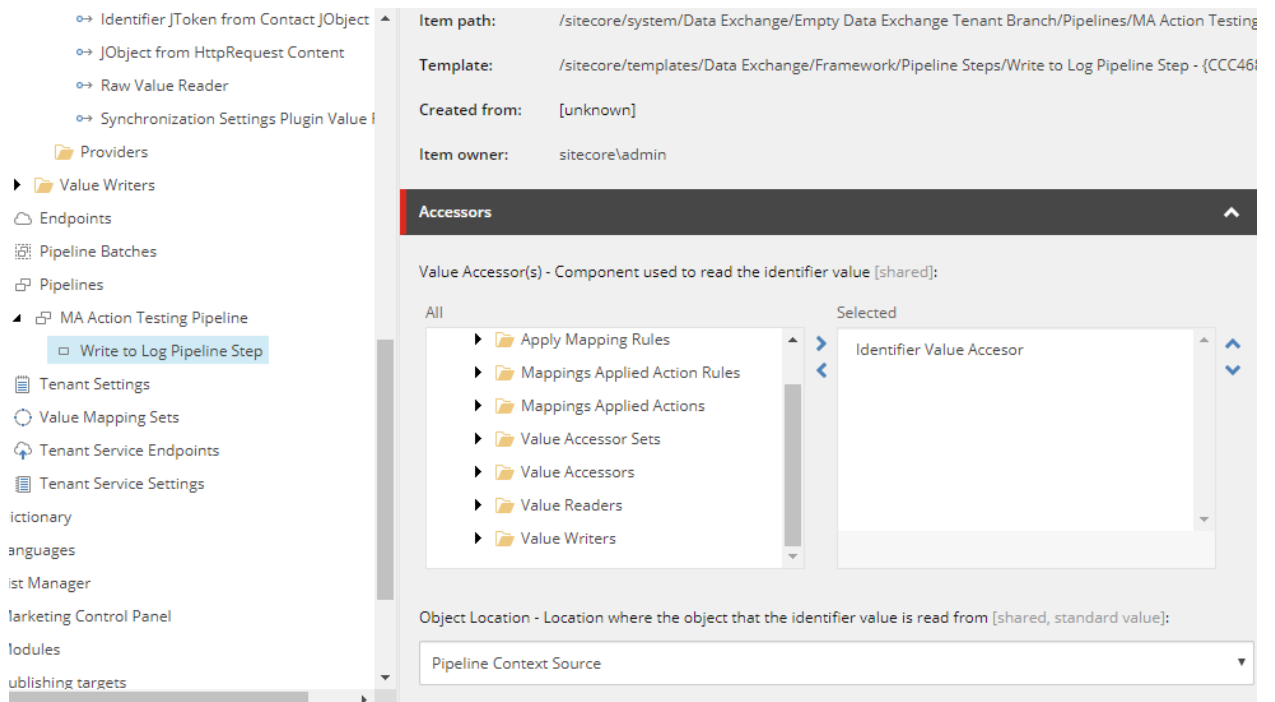
4. Save the changes.
5. Navigate to `<tenant>/Data Access/Value Accessors/Common`.
6. On the **Folder** tab, click **Value Accessor** to create an *Identifier Value Accessor*.
7. In the **Value Reader** field, click the *Identifier JToken from Contact JObject* object that you created.
8. Save the changes.

2.3. Create a pipeline

To create a pipeline:

1. Navigate to your `<tenant>/Pipelines`.
2. On the **Folder** tab, click **Pipeline** to create a new item. Name it, for example, *MA Action Testing Pipeline*.
3. Select the pipeline. On the Folder tab, click **Write to Log Pipeline Step** to create a new pipeline step.

4. Select the new pipeline step and configure the *Identifier Value Accessor* value accessor you created previously.



The screenshot shows the Sitecore configuration interface. On the left is a navigation tree with 'Write to Log Pipeline Step' selected under 'MA Action Testing Pipeline'. The main area displays configuration details for the selected step:

- Item path:** /sitecore/system/Data Exchange/Empty Data Exchange Tenant Branch/Pipelines/MA Action Testing
- Template:** /sitecore/templates/Data Exchange/Framework/Pipeline Steps/Write to Log Pipeline Step - {CCC46}
- Created from:** [unknown]
- Item owner:** sitecore\admin

The **Accessors** section is expanded, showing 'Value Accessor(s) - Component used to read the identifier value [shared]:'. It features two panes: 'All' and 'Selected'. The 'Selected' pane contains 'Identifier Value Accessor'. Below this, the 'Object Location - Location where the object that the identifier value is read from [shared, standard value]:' is set to 'Pipeline Context Source'.

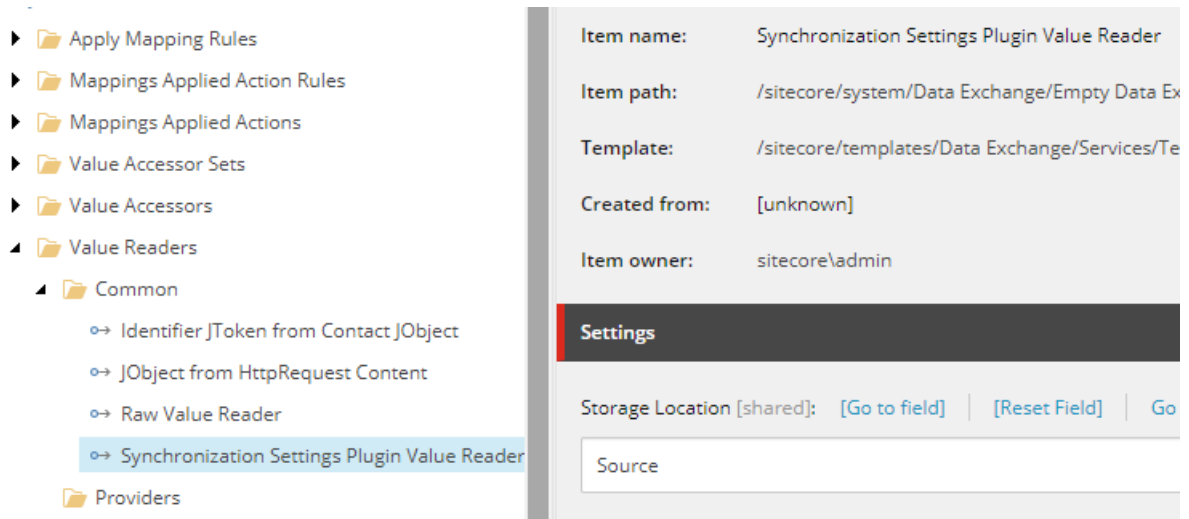
5. Save the changes.

2.4. Create value readers

To create the necessary value readers:

1. Navigate to <tenant>/Data Access/Value Readers/Common/.
2. On the **Folder** tab, click **JsonObject from HttpRequest Content Value Reader** to create a new item. Name it, for example, *JsonObject from HttpRequest Content*.
3. In <tenant>/Data Access/Value Readers/Common/, on the **Folder** tab, click **Raw Value Reader** to create a new item. Name it, for example, *Raw Value Reader*.
4. In <tenant>/Data Access/Value Readers/Common/, on the **Folder** tab, click **Synchronization Settings Plugin Value Reader** to create a new item. Name it, for example, *Synchronization Settings Plugin Value Reader*.

- In the **Storage Location** field, click *Source*. Save the changes.



2.5. Create a pipeline context builder

To create a context builder:

- Navigate to <your tenant>/Tenant Service Settings/Pipeline Context Builders.
- On the **Folder** tab, click *Pipeline Context Plugin Builder* to create a new item.
- Set the **Value Transformer** field to *JObject from HttpRequest Content*.
- Set the **Plugin Readers** field to *Synchronization Settings Plugin Value Reader*.
- Save the changes.

2.6. Create a Tenant Service Endpoint

To create an endpoint:

- Navigate to <your tenant>/Tenant Service Endpoints.
- On the **Folder** tab, click *Pipeline Tenant Service Endpoint* to create a new item. Name it, for example, *MA Action Endpoint*.
- Configure the endpoint with the parameters in this table:

Parameter	Content
Request Value Reader	<i>Value Readers/Common/Raw Value Reader</i>
Pipeline Context Builder	<i>Pipeline Context Builders/Pipeline Context Plugin Builder</i>

Parameter	Content
Pipeline	<i>Pipelines/MA Action Testing Pipeline</i>

4. Select the **Enabled** checkbox. Save the changes.

2.7. Add a Trigger DEF Sync process to an Engagement Plan

In order to activate the Marketing Automation, you must connect the tenant service to an engagement plan.

NOTE

This section assumes that you are familiar with Marketing Automation and Engagement Plans.

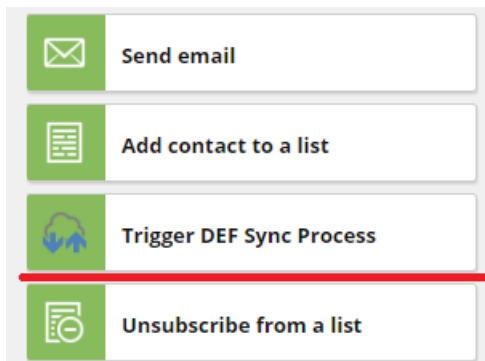
To create a connection:

1. On your CM Instance, open the `<sitename>\App_Config\Sitecore\MarketingAutomation\Sitecore.DataExchange.MarketingAutomation.Client.config` file. Add the name of the Tenant Service in the `<tenantServiceConnectionRepository>/<tenantServices>` node. For example:

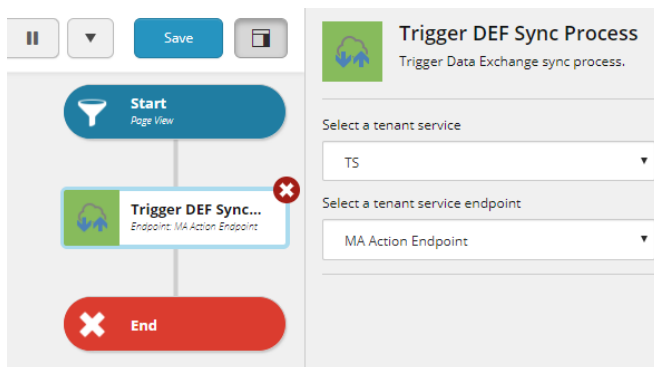
```
<dataExchange>
  <tenantServices>
    <marketingAutomation>
      <tenantServiceConnectionRepository
type="Sitecore.DataExchange.MarketingAutomation.Activity.Repositories.TenantServiceConnectio
nRepository, Sitecore.DataExchange.MarketingAutomation.Activity">
        <tenantServices hint="list:AddService">
          <tenantService>my-sitecore</tenantService>
        </tenantServices>
      </tenantServiceConnectionRepository>
    </marketingAutomation>
  </tenantServices>
</dataExchange>
```

2. In Sitecore, in Launchpad, open the Marketing Automation application.
3. Create a [new campaign](#). You can also use an existing campaign, if you already have one. Configure the start point to trigger the campaign when a customer visits a specific page or when a general PageView event happens.

- From the toolbox, drag and drop a *Trigger DEF Sync Process* marketing action to the campaign.



- Click the *Trigger DEF Sync Process* action. In the first dropdown menu, select a tenant service from the list of available services. In the second dropdown menu, select *MA Action Service*.



NOTE

You can configure the list of available Tenant Services in the `Sitecore.DataExchange.MarketingAutomation.Client.config` configuration file.

- To test the service, navigate to the published Sitecore site in a browser, enroll a contact to the new campaign, and wait until the client session ends. Open the latest Tenant Service log file. If the service is working, it contains a message with a contact identifier, for example:

```
2019-09-05 10:49:06.538 +08:00 [Information] 10:49 AM : 6638f579-5e10-47c9-bef6-3bf2d2a1a240
```