

EBSR Help Sheet

THE TRANSXCHANGE PUBLISHER

1 Background

The data that describes a bus service, its route and its timetable is all contained in a TransXChange (TXC) file that can be sent either as part of an Electronic Registration or sent independently of a registration in order to transfer data from an operator to a third party. Whilst this is a wonderful mechanism for sharing data in a consistent form, the data contained in a TXC file is impossible to understand without it first being formatted into something that is readable. To enable this, the TXC Publisher has been developed by the DfT and is available free of charge to anybody who requires it.

2 The Publisher – What Does It Do?

The Publisher simply takes the TXC file and converts it into a document that is readable. It converts lines of data into a document that contains all of the relevant details of a service. There are two versions of a TXC file, one to handle EBSR and one for general data transfer. The EBSR version must contain all the mandatory information needed for a registration and the Publisher will show everything that currently appears on a paper registration with the added detail of information about all stops if the data is within the TXC file as well as a map of the route. In the general version the Publisher will show whatever data is contained in the file. This can be less information than in the registration version because the details of the company, its address, licence number etc. will not be required. Or it can include more information e.g. the richer data needed for real time systems such as running boards, garage codes, vehicle numbers etc.

When running the Publisher you have various options that allow you to choose what gets displayed. For example, full timetables, or merged timetables, all stops or only principal points, detailed maps or summary maps etc. The more technical user can also find further advice on the TransXChange site to customise the output even more:-

<http://www.transxchange.org.uk/technicalFaq.htm>

3 How Do I Get a Copy of the Publisher?

The Publisher is available from the TransXChange website via the following link:-

<http://www.transxchange.org.uk/publisher.htm>

When you do come to download the Publisher, it is important to check that you are downloading the most recent version. The latest version of the

Publisher (as at 25 March 2009) is V2.2a_10 which supports both V2.1 & V2.2a of TransXChange.

4 Do I Need Any Special Software to Run the Publisher?

The Publisher is designed to run under Windows and everything you need to set up and run the Publisher is contained in the download. The only additional things you will need are *Java Runtime Environment* and the ability to be able to access external web services.

- *Java Runtime Environment* is needed to run the Publisher and is available free of charge. Further information about this and how to install it can be found at:-

<http://www.transxchange.org.uk/publisher.htm#prereqJava>

- The Publisher has to use external web services (notably mapping, which uses the Multimap service and also the NaPTAN database held by Thales) and this can cause problems if firewalls are configured to stop applications from accessing such outside services. However, firewalls can be configured to allow genuine applications such as the Publisher to access such services and advice on how to do this can be found at:-

<http://www.transxchange.org.uk/publisher/troubleshooting.htm#ChangeWS>

If your organisation has this type of restriction on its Firewall, then you will need to discuss this with your IT Department and point them to these advice notes.

For further help in troubleshooting problems with installing and running the Publisher refer to

<http://www.transxchange.org.uk/publisher/troubleshooting.htm>

5 Further Information

Two EBSR Help Sheets are available which give further information to help with TXC Publisher issues:

- Help Sheet I2: Simple TXC Publisher Issues
- Help Sheet A1: Advanced TXC Publisher Issues

For more FAQs on Publisher issues, refer to:

<http://www.transxchange.org.uk/technicalFaq.htm>

6 How Do I Get Further Help and Advice?

As always, users can seek further advice by sending an email to Transport Direct at TDPortal.Feedback@dft.gsi.gov.uk. Technical queries can also be emailed to schemer@kizoom.com