

Vip-2-Vzr Import tool for Van Zyl Rudd



Vip-2-Vzr is a South African developed, Windows based program designed to move corporate personnel data from a human resources or payroll system such as VIP or UNIQUE, into another system such as the Van Zyl Rudd Equity management program. In fact, it can move data from any ASCII text files, to any other comma or tab delimited files).

In day to day operations there is a simple 3 step export process:

- From VIP, export the reports (usually 3) to ASCII files.
- Run Vip-2-Vzr to translate these into VZR import format.
- Run Van Zyl Rudd to import these files.

In the unlikely event of there being a bad or corrupted data item inside VIP, it could be rejected by either step 2 or 3 and will need to be fixed or removed inside VIP, and the 3 steps repeated. In this way, only clean and correct data will be imported into VZR.

Vip-2-Vzr does its job in the following (very simplified) manner:

- A *template* file tells it where the data item is located in the *source* data for each record (e.g. in line 2 from position 60 for 8 characters long).
- The data item is extracted and tested for compliance (e.g. a date format).
- If specified, the data item is translated with reference to a *translation* file (e.g. a race group stored as 'W' can be translated to '2' etc).
- A *mapping* file tells it where in the *target* file (the VZR import file) the data item must be placed.
- The delimited target files get written.

This process is automatically repeated for each of the VZR file import types e.g. General, Income and Movement (as well, if required for 3 others) Each of these file groups has its own template and mapping files. In addition, there can be up to 26 user defined translation files e.g. race, job-codes etc.

The initial setting up of the system involves customizing the template, mapping and translation files, and should ideally be done by a consultant. It may be necessary to adjust the VIP reports if companies have set up their systems in non standard ways.

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