
Castleton HousingBrixx Newsletter

July 2018



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Confidentiality note: The entire contents of this newsletter are to be held confidential between the recipient HousingBrixx customer and Castleton plc. It is for information only and must not be disclosed to any third party.

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Introduction

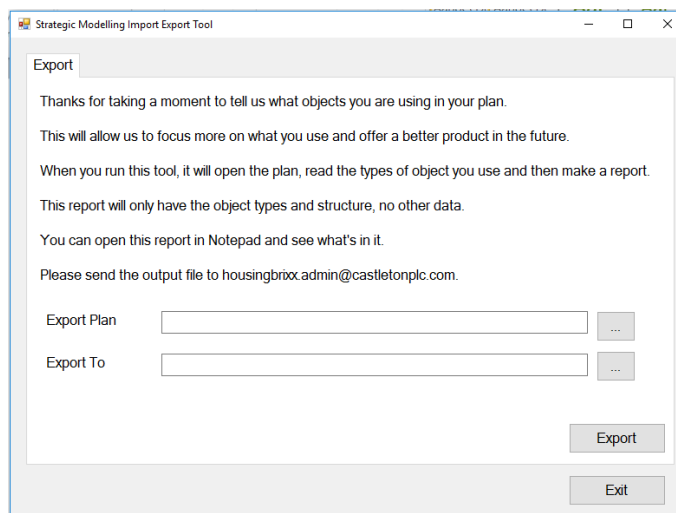
This is our regular newsletter to keep you up to date with ongoing initiatives and inform / invite you to proposed new projects at HousingBrixx. We are also letting you know about the progress of in-flight projects and telling you what to expect from the HousingBrixx team during our continuous plan to deliver more advanced, new and better products and customer services.

Important – Housekeeping Project

The object set in HousingBrixx contains many old and outdated objects. We are working on a couple of initiatives to rationalise the content whilst retaining a degree of the required, older functionality. We understand that a lot of our customers still use the old functionality and, for example, have their loan covenants frozen on UK GAAP for a number of years so we are not about to remove this. However, we need to start to remove some of the ancient parts that should no longer be used so that we can focus our resources on improving those parts of the solution that are used heavily.

We need to establish which objects you are either no longer using or using only rarely. We will then build switchable warnings into those objects that help and encourage users to move away from old functionality and update their plans onto more current objects.

We have built a small application that is installed with the May 2018 HousingBrixx release (and any subsequent release) that we need one person from each organisation to run and send the output to us. This tool looks at your plan and creates a file that tells us which Object Types you are using and it looks like this:



This application does not include any of your data in the output file. For confidentiality purposes it is important that you understand what this tool does and does not do:

It **does**:

- Tell us the types of objects that you are using. For example, if you have a Rental Income object that you have renamed in your plan to "Rental Income Acacia Avenue", we only see the original Object Type – in this case "Rental Income"



- Tell us the number of objects of a specific type that you are using. For example, if you have ten Rental Income objects in your plan (all potentially named differently) then we will see “Rental Income” ten times in the output file – nothing more.
- Tell us the basic structure of your model. For example, if your Rental Income object is a child of an Opening Property object then we will see that.

Conversely:

- It does **not** tell us the names of any of your objects
- It does **not** tell us any of the data that you have input into the objects
- It does **not** tell us any of the outputs from any of your objects

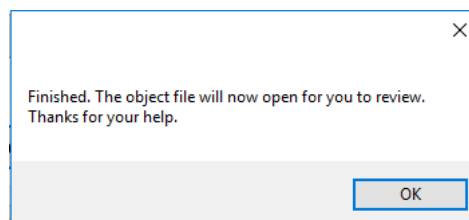
The output file therefore looks like this:

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8"?>
- <PLAN>
  - <OBJECT>
    <TYPE> = </TYPE>
    <DISABLED> = 0</DISABLED>
  - <CHILDREN>
    - <OBJECT>
      <TYPE> = Global Calculations</TYPE>
      <DISABLED> = 0</DISABLED>
      <CHILDREN> </CHILDREN>
    </OBJECT>
  - <OBJECT>
    <TYPE> = Global Assumptions</TYPE>
    <DISABLED> = 0</DISABLED>
  - <CHILDREN>
    - <OBJECT>
      <TYPE> = FRS 102 Assumptions</TYPE>
      <DISABLED> = 0</DISABLED>
      <CHILDREN> </CHILDREN>
    </OBJECT>
  </CHILDREN>
</OBJECT>
- <OBJECT>
```

As you can see, this is quite technical but it is really useful for us to be able to tell which objects are not being used by the wider community and therefore, where we need to focus our efforts both in terms of clean up and in improving those objects that you are using.

Follow these steps after installing the May 2018 (or later) release:

- Go into the Useful Files folder and locate ObjectTypes.exe
- Right click and “Run as administrator”
- Use the navigator button on the Export Plan line to locate your plan
- Use the navigator button on the Export To line to locate your output location
- Click Export
- The app will then present the following dialogue box:



- Click OK to inspect the file.
- Email the file (called “ObjectTypes” by default) to our normal [Admin](#) email address.

As always, your input is gratefully received and you can get involved further via [this sub-forum](#).



Projects Update

Importer

The Importer project is in beta-testing stage and we urgently require the feedback of those involved so that we can move it to the next step. You can also contribute to this project via our forums by clicking on [this link](#). Please leave your suggestions and comments and don't forget to "Follow this Forum" (see below) so that you are informed of others' posts and keep up to date with the project.

Customer Support Forums → HousingBrixx RSL → HousingBrixx Importer (100 line)

HousingBrixx Importer (100 line)

All things related to the 100 Line importer

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Forum Management

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Dashboard

This has been scoped and we are on track to deliver phase 1 of the new Value for Money dashboard according to our published roadmap. This project also has its own forum page [here](#) where you can contribute.

Intercompany

This project has also completed the scoping exercise and the functional requirements document will be published very soon. If you would like to help us to improve the intercompany functionality in the system then we would encourage you to join this project by responding on [this email address](#) and we will send you the technical spec' document.

Developments

As per the above on intercompany, we will also be running a workshop to review and improve the Developments objects and reporting in the system. A date has not yet been set for this so email us on the usual housingbrixx.admin@castletonplc.com to express your interest and a preferred time of year.

Non Social Housing & Commercial

As per Developments, please get involved!

General enhancement requests

There is a specific [features section](#) on the forum where we invite you to post enhancement and feature requests. If you agree or disagree with any of the proposals then please express your opinions – we will use this information to promote items up or down the development list, according to their popularity.

Forum

The HousingBrixx forum has been upgraded so you will notice some small changes to functionality and a tech support new section to help you deal with [installation issues](#).



Support desk

In accordance with previous newsletters, we are nearing go-live of the support desk ticketing system which will enable you to submit and track your support tickets online. It also will allow us to check and report on our support desk performance. Final testing is underway and we would now like you to register.

If you are already registered on the Vivantio system for other Castleton software products then you will be able to use the same login to view the progress of your support requests. If you are not already registered then you can register now in preparation for the go-live in the near future.

Please follow this link and register in preparation for the new system.

<https://castletonplc.selfservice.vivantio.com/Account/Login>

Once live, the system will be linked to the existing support desk email address so you will still be able to submit support queries in the usual way.

Training

We have inked in open training dates for the rest of 2018 and you can now download the list of these [here](#).

Tutorials

The website is being expanded to include more Top Tips Tutorials which deal with small technical issues and often-unknown parts of the system. You can download them [here](#).

HostedBrixx

Following requests from the HousingBrixx user-base, we have designed, built and configured, hosted HousingBrixx in the cloud. We have successfully completed some internal and external tests. The system has also been run past a cohort of external testers and HostedBrixx is now available and ready for the HousingBrixx community.

Please contact your Account Manager or email housingbrixx.admin@castletonplc.com for more details. We also have a forum area [here](#) where you can post your comments and register your interest.



User Groups – hold the date!

The following user groups have been organised for the autumn. Please put the dates in your diary and join us to see previews of the latest functionality, network with other users and provide feedback on existing functionality and future enhancement requests.

They are free to attend and lunch & refreshments are provided.

Sign up on the website in the [Events](#) section

- 12th September: Northern Ireland user group, venue tbc
- 12th September: Republic of Ireland user group, venue tbc
- 3rd October: Scottish user group, Hanover HA, Edinburgh
- 10th October: Welsh user group, Pobl, Newport
- 17th October: English (North) user group, Magenta, Wirral
- 31st October: English (South) user group, venue tbc

Products and roadmaps

HousingBrixx

Since our last newsletter we have released the large annual Spring release which benefited from more rigorous testing than any previous release. Full details of the build notes and the install file can be downloaded from our [forum download area](#).

Our next release of the HousingBrixx solution will deliver some housekeeping changes and some much needed “behind the scenes” structural changes which, whilst they won’t have any customer impact, they will allow us to develop new functionality more efficiently in future.

Overview roadmap for 2018/19 with progress to date

Release	Content
Q1 April 2018	Functionality to support 2018 FFR & SHR submissions Delivered Minor bug fixes Delivered Planner version 4.3 launch including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changes to report formatting • a new, faster Account Selector • improvements when making & breaking parent/child object relationships • ability to export & archive the History List • general fixes & enhancements Delivered
Q2 Summer 2018	Enhanced Importer Delivered – beta testers, please test on your plans Begin overhaul of “Favourites” objects including Help Text Ongoing



	<p>Housekeeping exercise to begin process of providing a migration pathway to help and encourage users to upgrade to better objects. Ongoing</p> <p>Provision of hosted HousingBrixx Delivered</p> <p>Beta-testing platform using the above Delivered</p> <p>Overhaul of development objects Date for scoping tba</p>
<p>Q3 Autumn 2018</p>	<p>Dashboard phase 1 delivery Ongoing</p> <p>Additional item – DevelopmentBrixx update for FRS102</p> <p>Enhancements to model Intercompany, JVs & Gift Aid Ongoing</p> <p>Enhancements to model non-social housing and commercial</p> <p>Extended housekeeping exercise</p> <p>Inclusion of important new functionality as indicated by users Submit your suggestions on the forum</p>
<p>Q4 Spring 2019</p>	<p>Completion of housekeeping exercise to rationalise object set</p> <p>Dashboard phase 2/3 scoping</p> <p>New item: Funding suite overhaul Ongoing</p> <p>Additional user-driven functionality Submit your suggestions</p>

This is an intended roadmap at the point of publishing and timings may change once we have completed scoping and technical documentation.

