

# Splitting multi-select data in form exports

In CommCare HQ the answers to multi-select questions are stored as a space separated list e.g. "item1 item2 item3". Exporting this raw data to to Excel or a CSV file makes it difficult to analyze so CommCare provides the user with the option so split the multi-select answers into multiple columns. The exported data would then look as follows:

Assuming we had two forms with the following values:

Form Submission 1 - question1 = "item1 item2 item3"

Form Submission 2 - question1 = "item2"

The exported data would look like this:

question1   item1	question1   item2	question1   item3	question1   extra
1	1	1	
	1		

A '1' in the cell indicates that the choice was selected, and a blank cell indicates that the choice was not selected.

Any choice that was not selected when the custom report was configured, or deleted choices from prior application versions, can be found in the "extra" column.

On the CommCare user interface this is configured when creating or editing a custom export by selecting the "Expand Multiple Answer Questions" option.

## Export Settings

Learn more about exports on our [Help Site](#).

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Export Name	<input type="text" value="Test Export"/>
Default file type	<input type="text" value="CSV (Zip file)"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Export stock data columns
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Automatically convert dates for Excel
	<input type="checkbox"/> Create a Daily Saved Export
	<input type="checkbox"/> Include duplicates and other unprocessed forms
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Expand Multiple Answer Questions

Please note that this feature currently only applies to form exports, not case exports.