

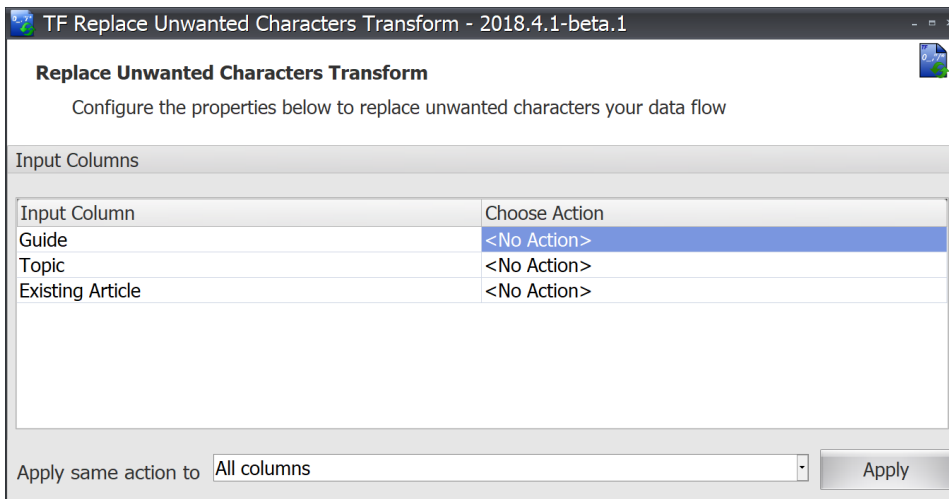
# Task Factory Replace Unwanted Characters Transform

Last Modified on 30 September 2020

🔔 Task Factory users running version 2020.1.4 or older (released prior to May 27, 2020): **There's an important Task Factory update.** Please visit [here](#) for more details.

## Replace Unwanted Characters Transform

Transform Icon	Transform Description
The icon for the 'Replace Unwanted Characters Transform' features the characters '0_,"/*' in a bold, black font. Below the characters is a circular arrow icon, consisting of a thick black line forming a circle with an arrowhead pointing to the right, indicating a transformation or replacement process.	<p>The <b>Replace Unwanted Characters Transform</b> is a flexible component that's used to remove and replace unwanted characters or words from your source data.</p>



## Input Columns

Option	Description
<b>Input Column</b>	Name of the input column.
<b>Choose Action</b>	There are two actions that can be used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Action</b></li> <li>• <b>Output Action</b></li> </ul>

## Action

**Replace Alpha/Alphanumeric/Numeric characters and replace with user defined value** - This option gives you six predefined options to replace characters. This option is useful if you need a simple way to remove unwanted characters without knowing the specific characters you want to remove, but know what you want to keep.

Option	Description
<b>Parameters - Action</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>ReplaceAlpha</b> - Remove/replace letters in the alphabet from the input string.</li> <li>• <b>ReplaceNonAlpha</b> - Remove/replace anything other than letters in the alphabet from the input string.</li> <li>• <b>ReplaceNumeric</b> - Remove/replace numbers from the input string.</li> <li>• <b>ReplaceNonNumeric</b> - Remove/replace anything other than number from the input string.</li> <li>• <b>ReplaceAlphaNumeric</b> - Replace/remove any characters [A-Z], [a-z], and [0-9] from the input string.</li> <li>• <b>ReplaceNonAlphaNumeric</b> - Replace/remove any characters other than [A-Z], [a-z], and [0-9] from the input string.</li> </ul>
<b>Parameters - Replace Match Character With</b>	The character or word to replace the characters defined in the action.

Option	Description
<b>Replace Specified characters or words with user defined value</b>	This options gives you the ability to replace any characters or words from the input source with a user defined value. This is useful when you need to be more selective with the characters that are replaced.

## Parameters

Option	Description
<b>Characters to be searched</b>	<p>Define what characters should be replaced. Certain characters need to be entered as escape sequences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Tab</b> - \t</li> <li>• <b>CarriageReturn</b> - \r</li> <li>• <b>LineFeed</b> - \n</li> <li>• <b>VerticalTab</b> - \v</li> <li>• <b>SingleQuote</b> - \'</li> <li>• <b>DoubleQuotes</b> - \"</li> <li>• <b>NullCharacter</b> - \0</li> </ul>
<b>Words to be searched</b>	<p>Define words or Unicode characters to be replaced. All words must be separated by a vertical bar (   ). If you have some Unicode characters you want to replace then you must specify \u.</p> <p>For example to replace a Greek letter you would specify \u03B2.</p>
<b>Replace with</b>	<p>Define the characters or words to replace the unwanted characters or words defined in the <b>Characters to be searched</b> and <b>Words to be searched</b> parameters. Usually this value is left blank.</p>
<b>Ignore Case</b>	<p>Choose whether the words or characters being searched should use case matching.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The default is false.</p>
<b>Maximum Replacements</b>	<p>Specify how many occurrences you want to replace. Setting this value to -1 replaces all occurrences in the input string.</p>

**Replace invalid characters that cannot be part of an Xml Document** - Replaces the &, < and > as well as " or ' (double and single quote) within attributes.

**Replace non-printable characters** - Replaces all non-printable characters such as tab and carriage return.

## Output Actions

**Replace the column data with fixed data** -

**Output the fixed data to a new output column** - The new output column name is **inputcolumn\_output** for example, if the source column is **FirstName** the output will be **FirstName\_output**.

[Additional Information:](#) See the [Task Factory Error Row Handling](#) article for more information about this functionality.

