

6. Source Transformation / File Specification Editor

<https://cms.pilotfishtechology.com/data-conversion-tutorial-pilotfish-integration-engine>

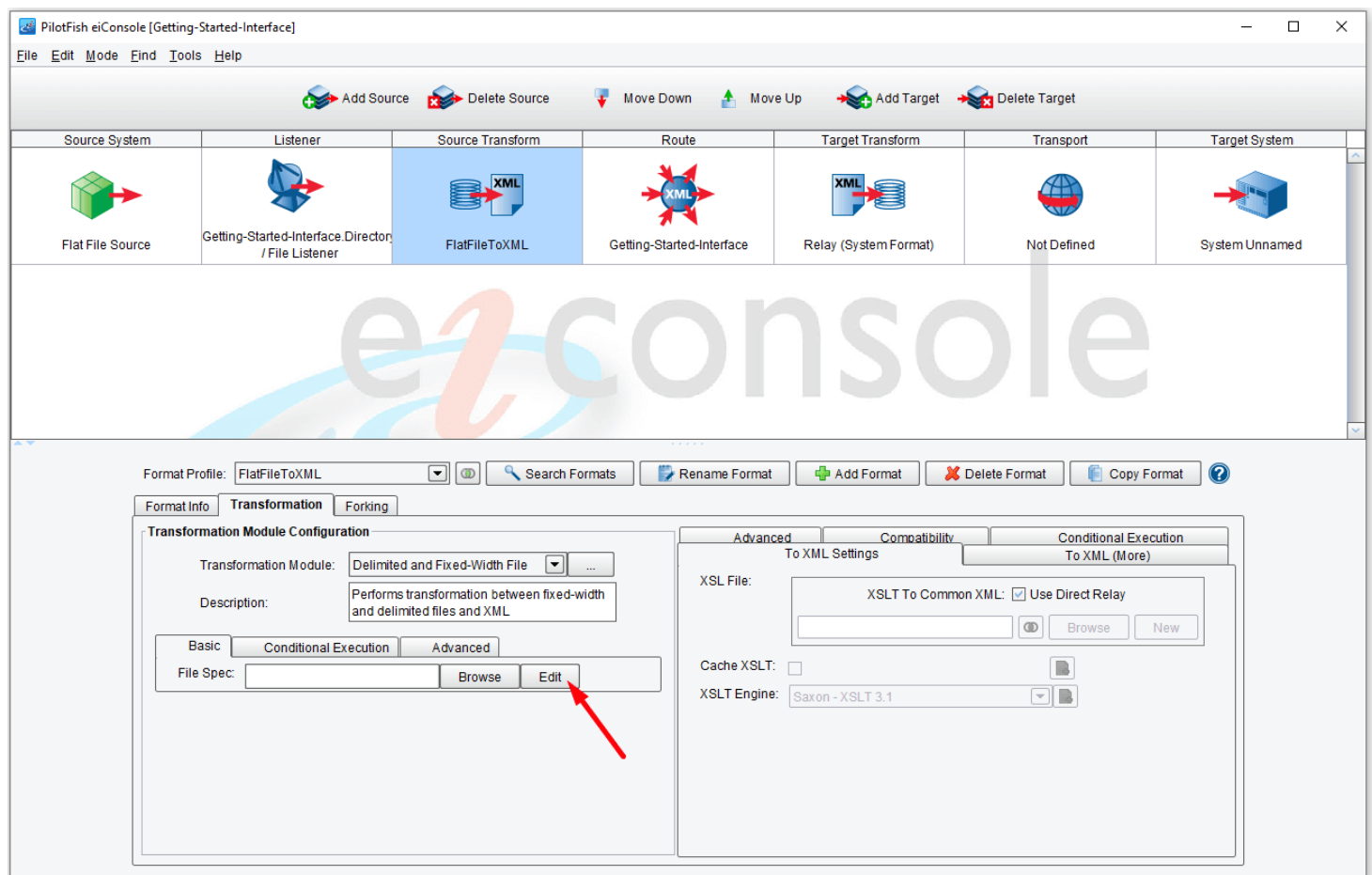
eiConsole v.24R1
Tutorial 60 mins

eiConsole Foundation Tutorial

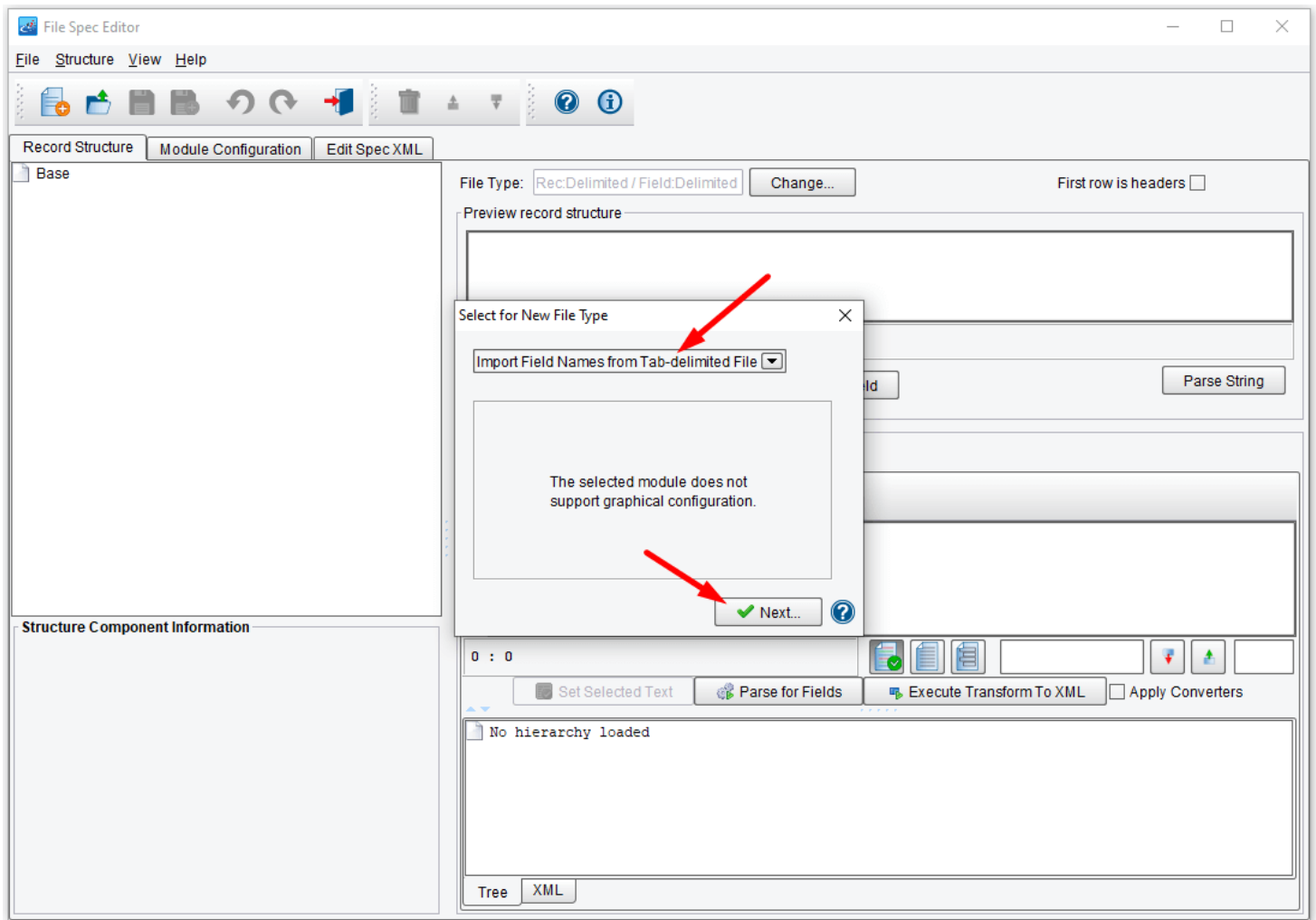
Using the File Specification Editor for Source Transformation

You will need to navigate to the Working Directory **c:\Users\{USER_NAME}\PilotFish eiConsole Working Directories\Foundation** where {USER_NAME} is the user's name which was included in the sample files you downloaded in the first Foundation Tutorial – [Creating a Working Directory](#).

Note: The Tutorials in the eiConsole Foundation, 1-13, are modular and are designed to be used in the sequence presented.

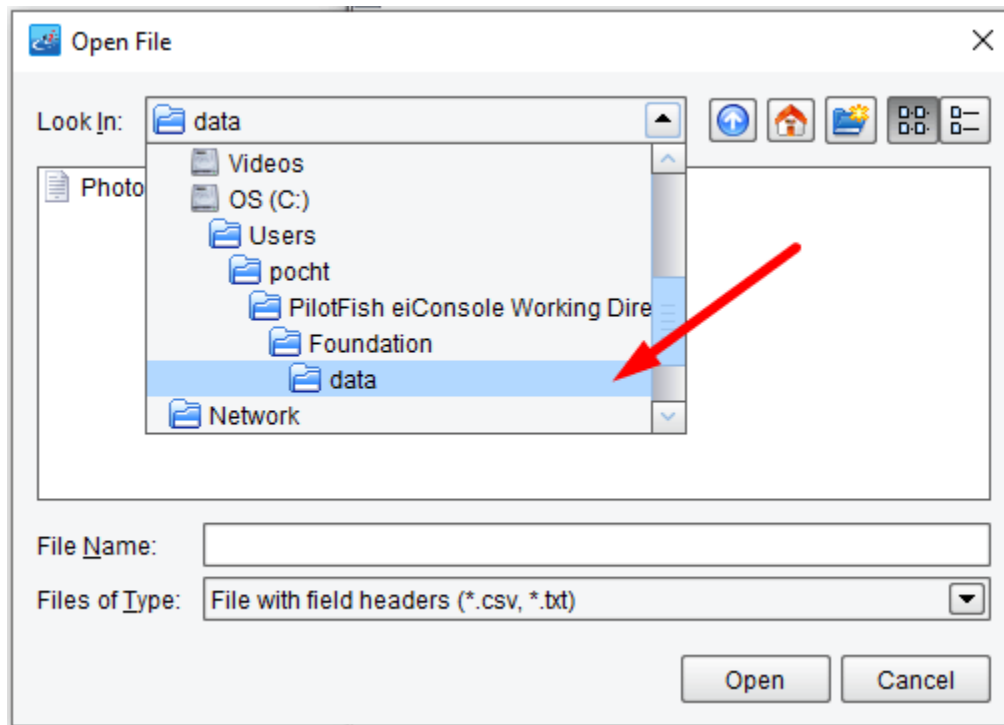


The Delimited and Fixed-Width File [Transformation Module](#) uses file specifications to describe the logical layout of a flat or delimited file. These file specifications are built using a tool in the eiConsole called the File Specification Editor. To launch the File Specification Editor, click the **Edit** button to the right of the **File Spec** configuration item.

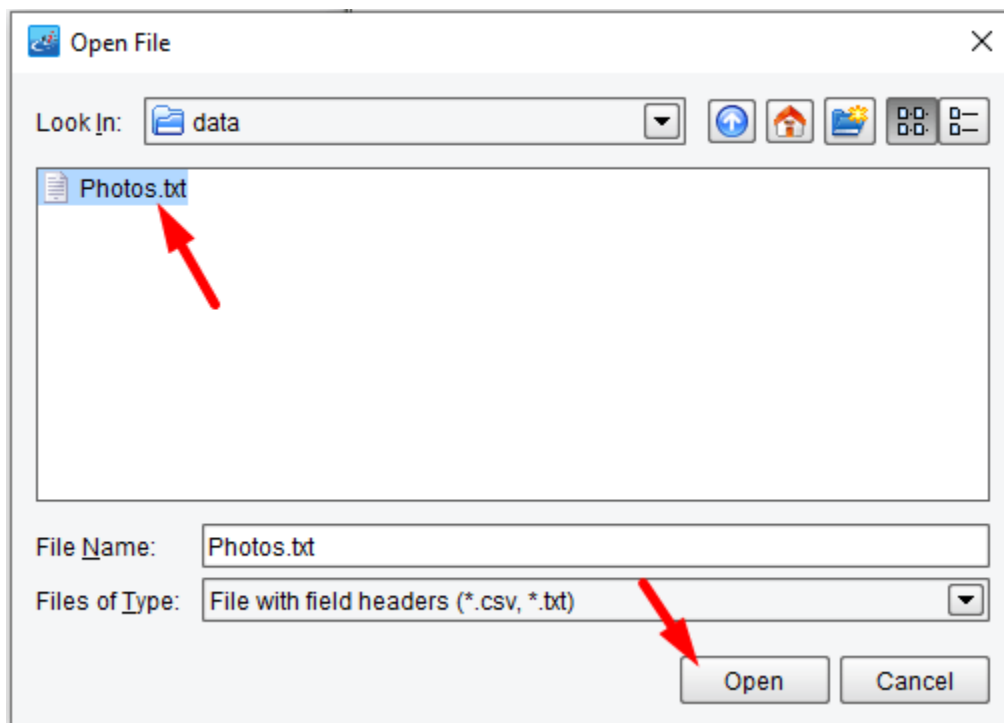


This will launch the File Spec Editor (File Specification Editor). Here the developer will describe the logical structure of the inbound file so it can be parsed and translated into XML. When you create a new file specification, you can import the file description from several different [formats](#). In this case, leave the pre-selected **Import Field Names from Tab-delimited File** option selected.

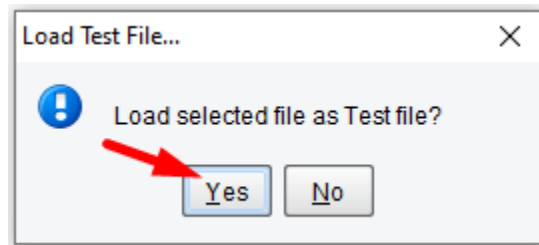
Take a moment to click the down arrow to see the other available options, for example, Import From Cobol Copybook Definitions. After you do this, set it back to **Import Field Names from Tab-delimited File** and click **Next**.



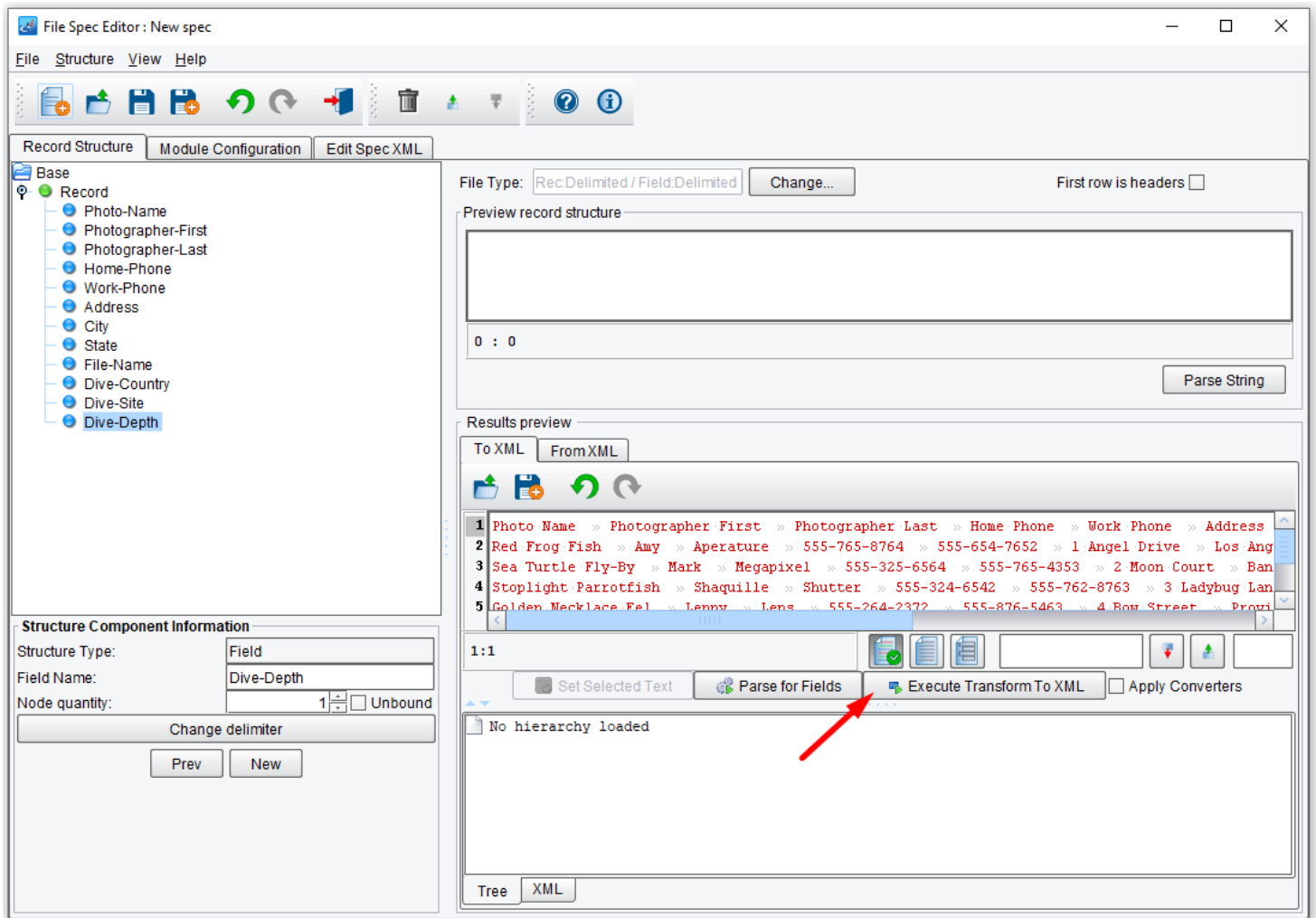
You will be presented with an **Open File** dialogue that allows you to point the File Spec Editor at a sample tab-delimited file. Navigate to the **data** folder of your [Working Directory](#). In this case, it is **c:\Users\{USER_NAME}\PilotFish eiConsole Working Directories\Foundation\data**.



You will see **Photos.txt**, which is a sample input file. Select this and choose **Open**.

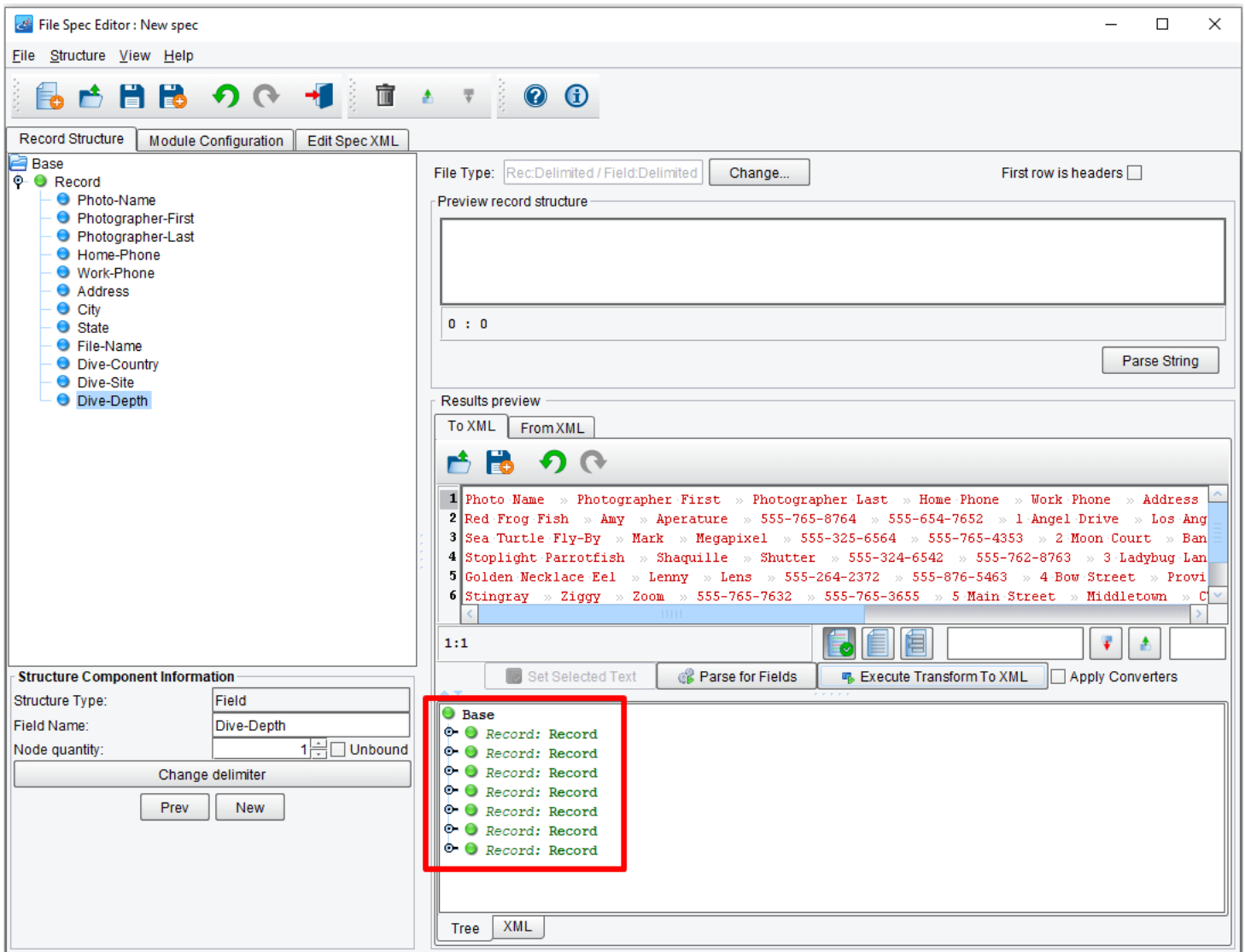


Select **Yes** to load the selected file as a test file.

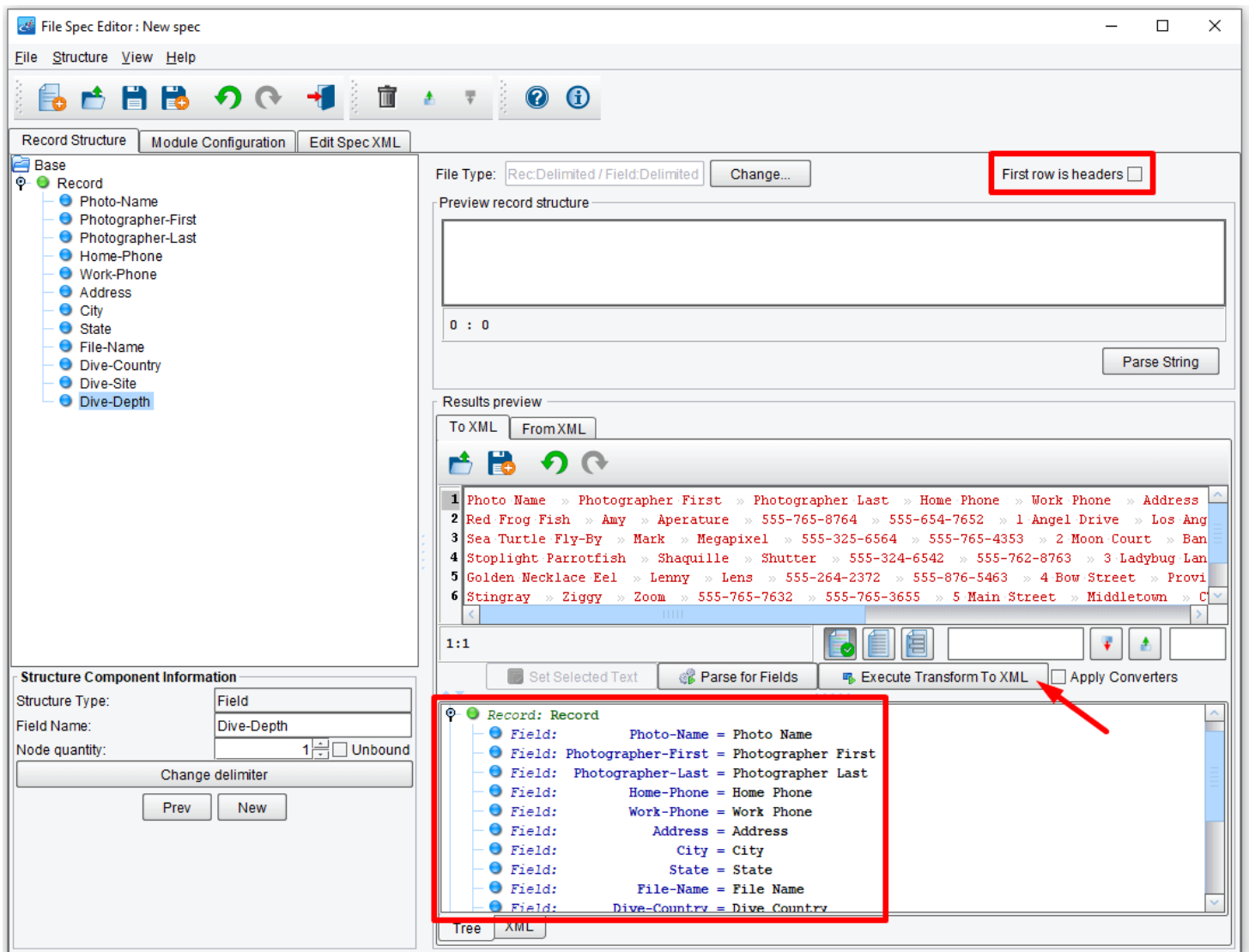


The record structure tree on the left is now populated with a green [node](#) and several blue [nodes](#). Green nodes represent logical records within the file. Blue nodes represent fields underneath that record. The [File Specification Editor](#) processed the inbound tab-delimited file. Notice that the first line contains column headers that can be easily translated into field names.

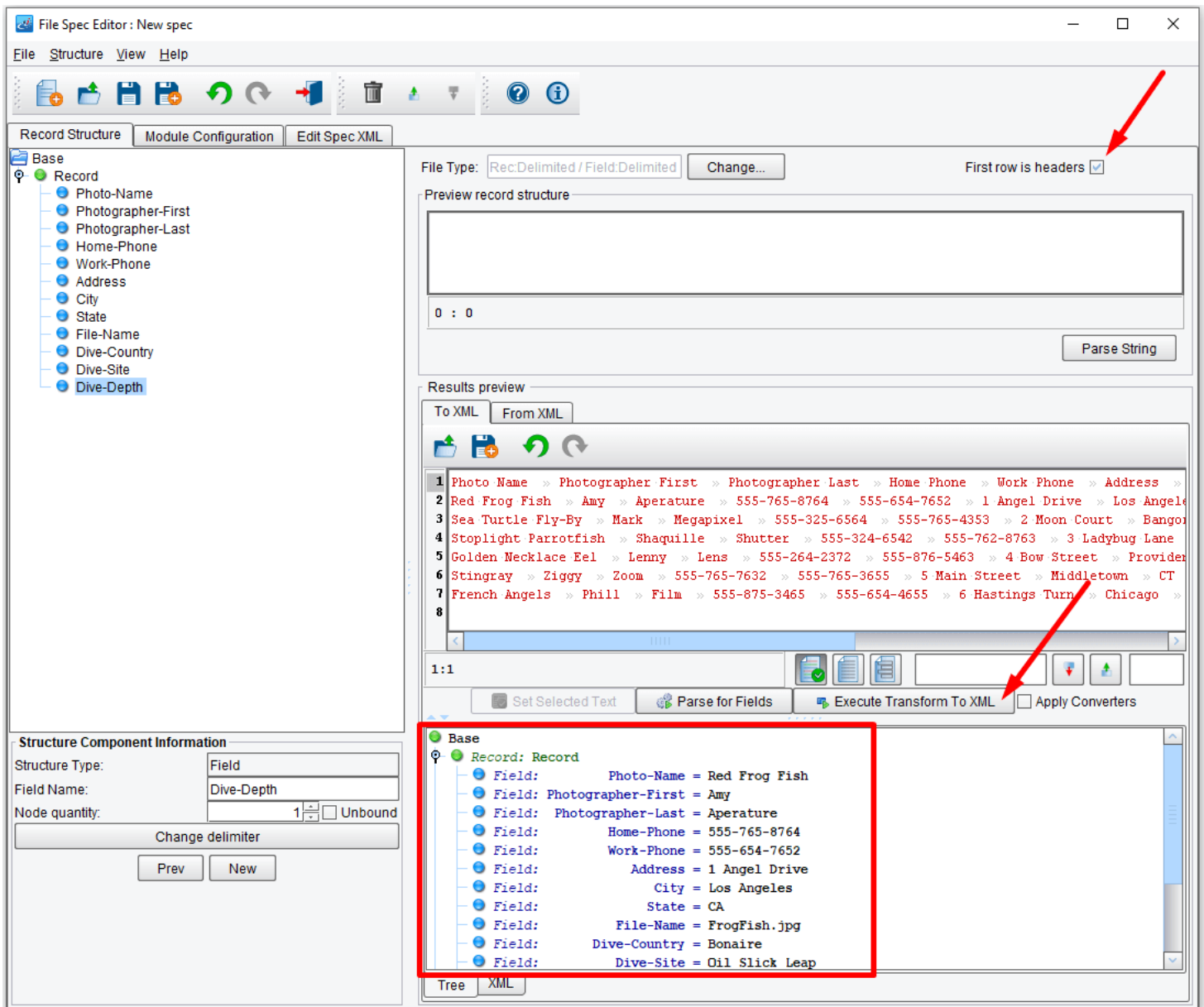
Next, click **Execute Transform to XML** to parse this file into an XML structure.



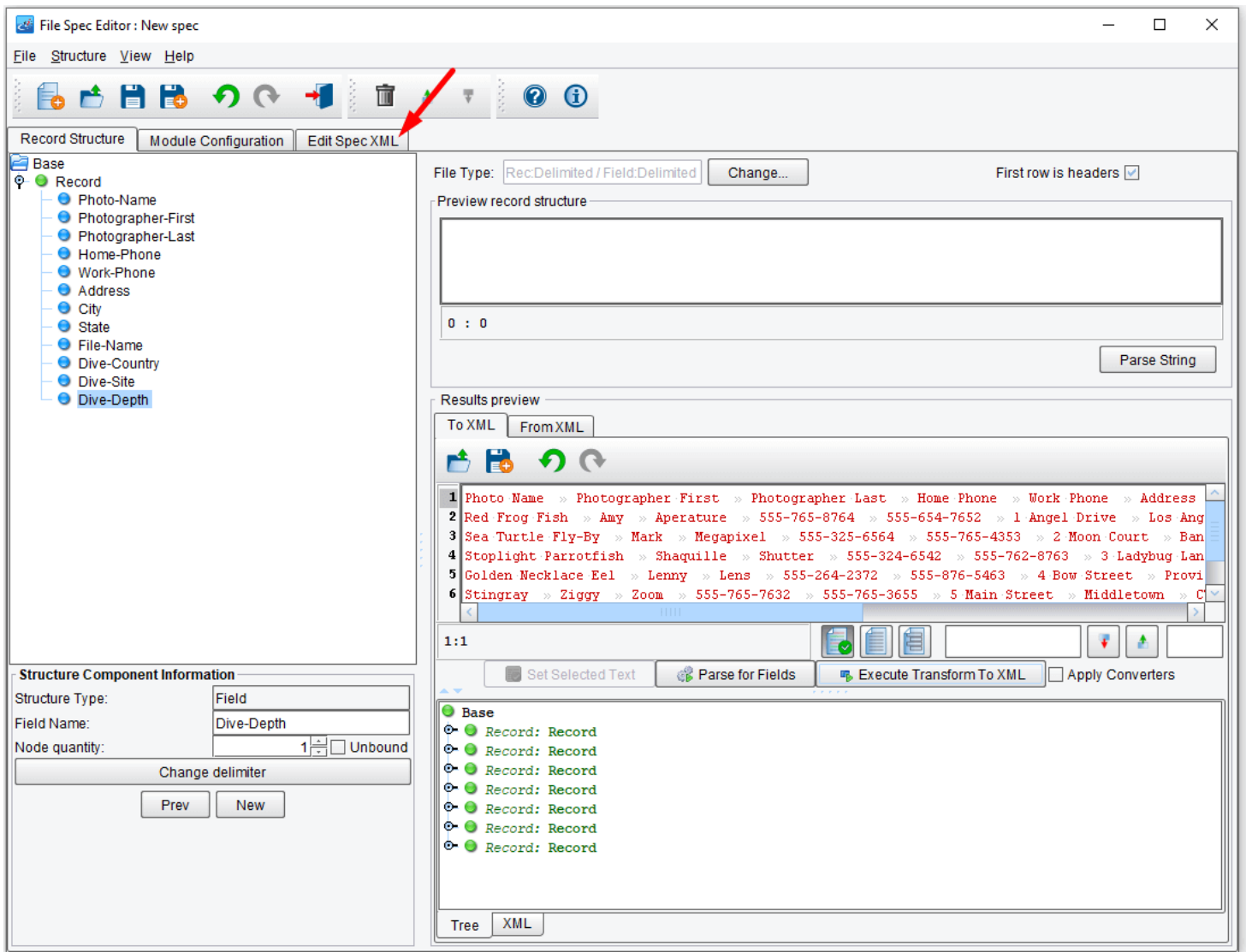
You will see that the file has been parsed into a set of logical records.



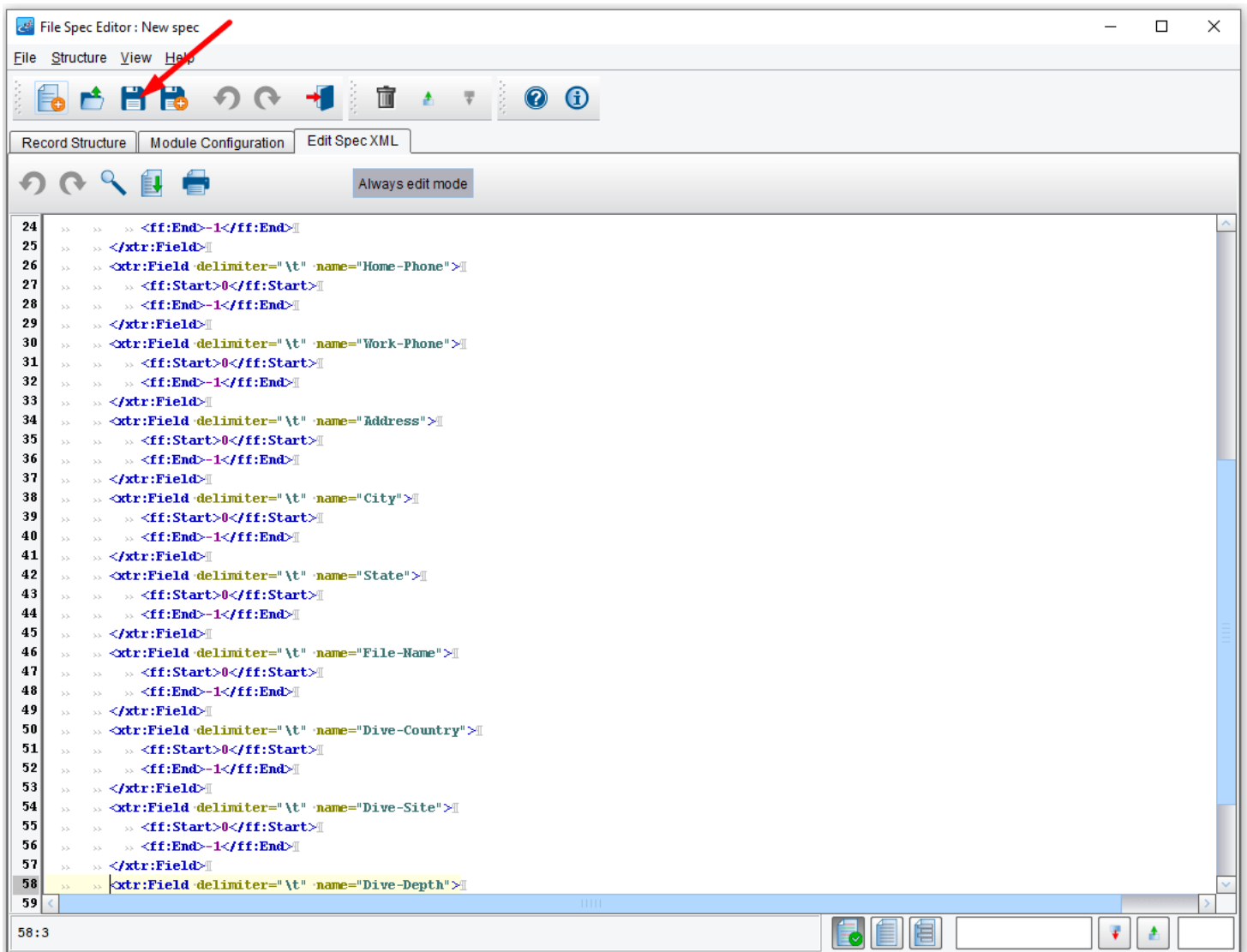
Double-click the nodes to expand the record. Scrolling and expanding each record, you can see the information it pulled from each field. You can see that the tool has recognized the first line in the file, which in fact, contains headers as data.



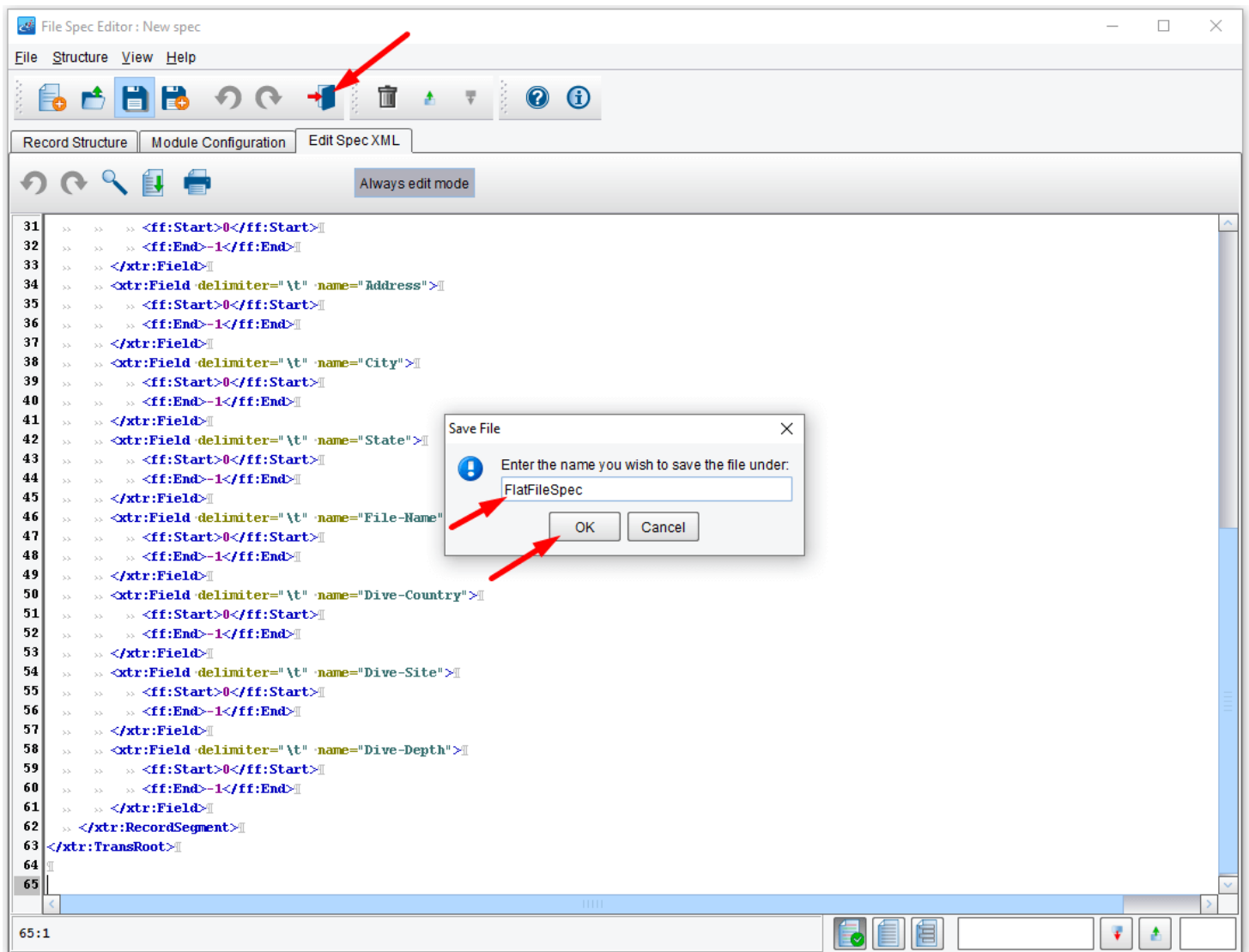
To change this, select the **First Row is Headers** checkbox at the top of the panel and then click **Execute Transform to XML** again. Now you will see that the tool correctly recognizes the records within the file.



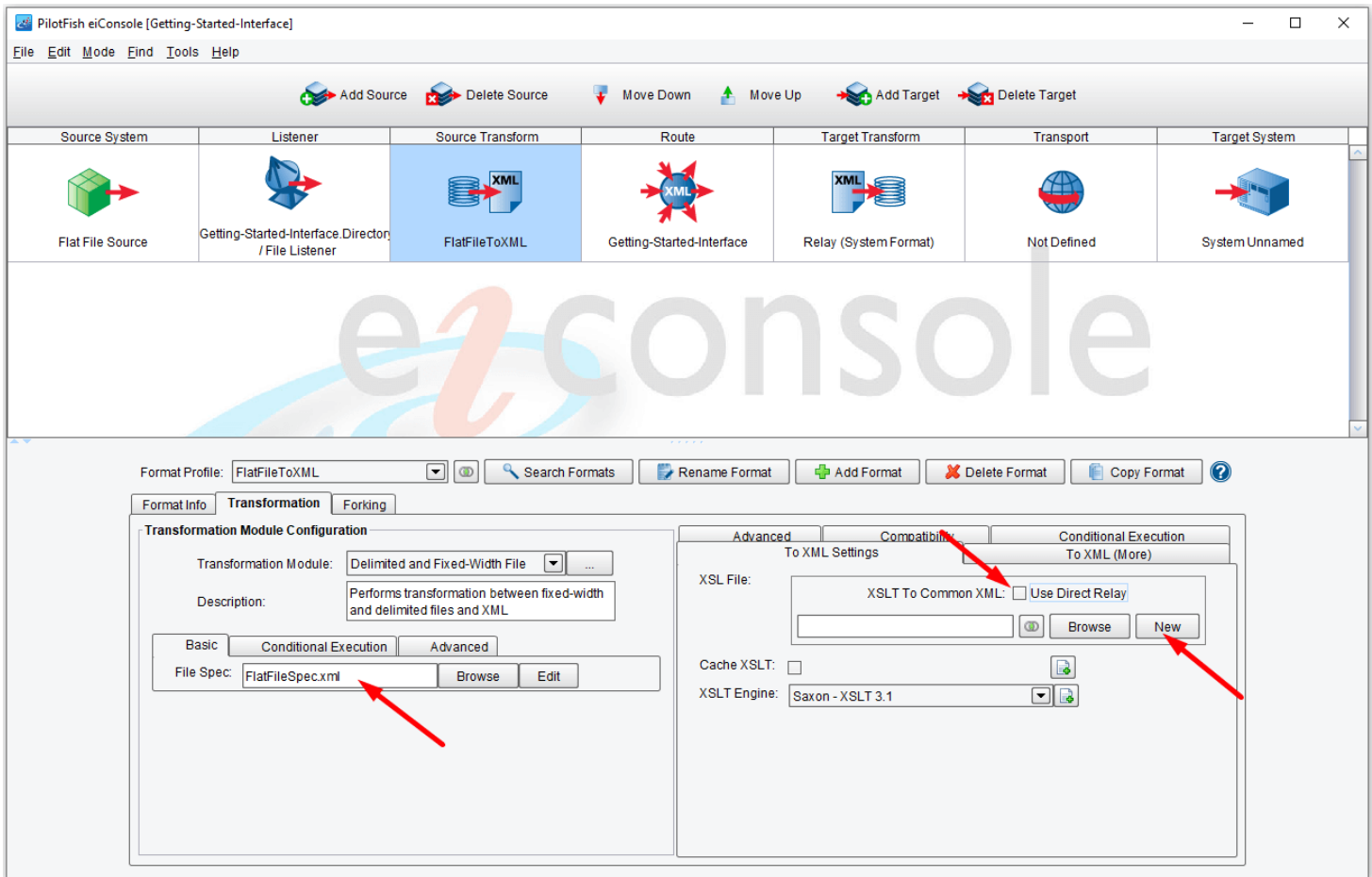
Under the covers, the File Specification Editor saves this information in an XML file. Click the **Edit Spec XML** tab.



After you have clicked the Edit Spec XML tab, you will be presented with this window. Since the tool correctly processes the file, no additional work is needed. Click the **Save** icon at the top.



Give the file specification a name: **"FlatFileSpec"**, then click **OK**. Next, click the **Return to Console** icon at the top.



You will now see that the Delimited and Fixed-Width File Transformation Module is now configured to point at the **FlatFileSpec.xml**.

The next step is to develop the logical data transformation between the XML output of the File Specification Engine and your chosen XML schema. To do this, first, unselect the **Use Direct Relay** checkbox and then select **New** (in the [XSLT](#) Configuration right panel) to move on to the next step - Source Transformation - Data Mapping.