

Astera ReportMiner vs. Altair Monarch



Table of Contents

Astera ReportMiner – Key Features	3
Astera ReportMiner – Benefits	4
Astera ReportMiner vs Altair Monarch – A comparison	5
Join Leading Organizations That Made the Switch	9
Why Companies Are Making the Switch	9
Customer Success Story: A Government Healthcare Department	10

This document serves as a tool evaluation guide. Are you evaluating different data extraction tools currently? If you are, you might be thinking why should I consider Astera ReportMiner over other technologies available in the market? We have compiled a tool evaluation guide for you. The document discusses key features of Astera ReportMiner and covers the benefits of choosing Astera ReportMiner over other competing technologies – such as Altair Monarch

Enterprise decision making is largely dependent on the insights drawn from business data. However, a considerable amount of this data resides in unstructured formats, such as PDF reports, scanned files, and printed documents.

According to an estimate, around [2.5 quintillion bytes](#) of data is created every day, and a good 80–90% of this data is in unstructured formats.

This data holds immense value for businesses in strategic decision-making and helps them gain valuable insights. However, to achieve that, it is important to liberate this trapped information, to be able to make sense of the enterprise data in its entirety.

Astera ReportMiner is an intuitive, no-code solution that automates document processing, enables businesses to swiftly extract data from structured, semi-structured, and unstructured documents. With built-in AI capabilities, it has both template-driven and template-less data extraction, ensuring quick, accurate results while simplifying complex workflows. The solution provides comprehensive features, including data quality verification, seamless onboarding, multi-channel file exchange, and a sophisticated workflow engine— all within a unified environment. We offer two advanced extraction methods:

Template-Based Extraction (Auto-Generate Layout) – Ideal for documents with a consistent layout, this method uses the AI-powered Auto-Generate Layout (AGL) feature to automatically create data regions and fields, speeding up layout detection and data extraction.

Template-less Extraction (LLM-Generate) – Powered by large language models (LLMs), this approach enables intelligent data extraction from unstructured or varying document formats without requiring predefined templates, offering greater flexibility and adaptability.

One of the most notable things about template-less is that you can process thousands of document layouts through a single flow.

Intelligent Document Processing in Astera ReportMiner

Smart Source

Smart Source is a powerful source object designed to dynamically adapt to variations in document formats and field structures at runtime, simplifying data extraction and integration.

Key Capabilities

Adaptive Layout Handling: Automatically manages differences in document structures such as changing field names, data formats, or schema variations.

Intelligent Field Matching: Supports exact matching, synonym dictionaries, and AI-driven semantic matching to align extracted fields with target layouts.

Multi-Format Compatibility: Seamlessly processes JSON, CSV, Excel, delimited files, TXT, and more by auto-detecting the input format, parsing the data, and mapping it to the target schema.

Flexible Data Processing: Allows users to define expressions and calculations based on incoming data or metadata hints for enhanced customization.

Astera ReportMiner – Key Features

- User-friendly design
- Template-Based Data Extraction (Auto-Generate Layout)
- Template-less Data Extraction (LLM Generate)
- End-to-End Integration & Connectivity (Unified environment, wide connectors, robust import/export).
- Single-click preview
- Supports hierarchical data extraction
- OCR-Based Text Conversion
- Data Quality & Transformations
- Workflow Orchestration
- Scheduling & Monitoring

Astera ReportMiner – Benefits

Native Support for a Wide Range of Unstructured Data Formats

Capable of handling any source or format including PDFs, PDF forms, TXT, CSV, XLS/XLSX, DOC, RTF, XML, JSON, HTML, Markdown, images, and scanned documents — with native compatibility and AI-powered extraction.

ETL Functionality

Leverage the extracted data using ReportMiner's extended ETL functionality to transform and write the data to a variety of file formats.

Real-Time Verification or Instant Data Preview

The single-click preview enables users to view extracted data and identify any conversion or validation errors in real-time while creating report models.

Reusability

A single report model created in ReportMiner can be used to process multiple files in bulk.

High-Speed Performance

High-performance, parallel-processing architecture, powered by Astera's industrial-strength integration server can process large data volumes efficiently.

Flexible Extraction Options

Create extraction templates manually, automatically using AI, or a combination of both.

OCR-Based Text Conversion

Convert scanned PDFs and image-based documents into machine-readable text with built-in OCR.

Scalable Batch Processing

Scale operations efficiently by processing large document batches with minimal manual effort.

Automated Scheduling

Schedule the data extraction pipeline for automatic runs on preferred frequencies.

End-to-End Lifecycle Management

Manage the entire document lifecycle—from extraction to validation and integration— within a unified platform.

Choosing a Self Service, Data Extraction Tool

Astera ReportMiner Vs Altair Monarch – A Comparison

Capability		
Extraction Capabilities		
Visual drag-and-drop designer	✓	✓
Support for complex hierarchical reports	✓	✓
Template-less data extraction	AI-powered and template-optional	✗
Auto-determine field names and lengths	✓	✓
Built-in OCR for images and scanned PDFs	Yes, with multiple OCR options	Limited or not natively available
Report schema browser	AI-assisted	Manual
Multi-column data regions	✓	✓
Regular expression patterns	✓	✓
Formula fields	✓	✓

Capability		
Performance and Processing		
High-performance parallel processing engine	✓	✓
Intelligent document processing	✓	✗
Automation and Workflow		
Workflow automation	Full pipeline orchestration	Basic
Job scheduling	Built-in scheduler with alerts	Limited
Flow designer	✓	✓
Visual dataflow with built-in transformations	✓	✓
Process automation	End-to-end	Extraction only
Record-level error tracking	Yes	✗
AI and template handling		
AI-assisted extraction	Built-in AI engine	✗
AI-powered template detection	✓	✗
AI layout detection	Automatic	✗
Intelligent document classification	✓	✗

Capability		
Smart data mapping	AI-suggested mappings	Manual
Data preparation		
Data transformation	Integrated ETL pipeline	Limited
Built-in data quality rules	Built-in validation	Post-processing only
Single-click data preview	Instant preview	✓
Date and time format support	✓	✓
Validation and Data Quality		
Real-time data preview	✓	Post-processing
Confidence scoring	Built-in	✗
Data health checks	Pre-delivery validation	✗
Error logging and alerts	Comprehensive	Basic
Enterprise Integration		
Data sources supported	Excel, PDF, images, websites, databases, APIs, and more	Limited sources
Export destinations	Databases, Excel, XML, JSON, and delimited files in multiple encodings	Limited database destinations
API connectivity	REST and SOAP	Limited
ERP, CRM, cloud, and API integration	Supported	Primarily CRM integration

Capability		
Licensing and Deployment		
Data sources supported	Excel, PDF, images, websites, databases, APIs, and more	Limited sources
Export destinations	Databases, Excel, XML, JSON, and delimited files in multiple encodings	Limited database destinations
API connectivity	REST and SOAP	Limited
ERP, CRM, cloud, and API integration	Supported	Primarily CRM integration
Licensing and Deployment		
Per-machine licensing	✓	✓
Per-client licensing	✓	✗
Multiple clients per licence	✓	✗
Tiered pricing	✓	✓
Full product trial with support	✓	Partial or limited support
Pricing stability	Consistent pricing	Frequent price changes

Join Leading Organizations That Made the Switch

Thousands of former Monarch users have already chosen Astera ReportMiner. Businesses, both large and small, have completed a seamless migration. These include:



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

Maverik DCAA



Why Companies Are Making the Switch

Astera ReportMiner has become the go-to choice for thousands of former Monarch users. Organizations of every size—from small businesses to large enterprises—have made a seamless transition to our platform. Their reasons?

- **Zero-Risk, Zero-Cost Migration:** With Astera's AI-driven converter, your Monarch models and workflows can be converted in just hours, not weeks. Switching is fast, simple, and there are no hidden costs.
- **Modern, Flexible Platform:** Astera ReportMiner is a next-generation, AI-powered solution that works across Windows and Mac. You get a future-ready toolset that grows with your needs.
- **Award-Winning Support:**
- Our 24/7 live customer support is consistently recognized with industry awards for responsiveness and expertise, so you are never on your own.



See our latest awards here.

<https://www.astera.com/awards-and-recognitions/>

Customer Success Story: A Government Healthcare Department



A Government Healthcare Department Used Astera ReportMiner to Reduce Their PDF Conversion Time to Under a Minute

This department collaborates with 1,255 medical institutions to provide healthcare services to 9 million military veterans each year. They needed an efficient way to extract data from PDF files, convert it into a format compatible with SQL Server, and automate the entire reporting process.

Here's what they have to say:

"We migrated to ReportMiner from Monarch a few years back. The main reason to switch was that it required a lot of manual data extraction work, which mainly defeated the purpose of having a tool. ReportMiner is much more flexible."

| Pharmacoeconomist at the VISN 9

"Before ReportMiner, it used to take anywhere between 30 minutes to a couple of hours to process a single invoice. Now, it takes less than a minute."

| Pharmacoeconomist at the VISN 9

"With ReportMiner, I have a tool that does everything for me and does it flawlessly. It is like hiring a competent data assistant and training them once to do the work for you without having to review it ever again."

| Pharmacoeconomist at the VISN 9

Check out the case study [here](#).

Choosing an intuitive, end-to-end solution for data extraction can be challenging, especially when your aim is to create and implement a repeatable, automated extraction process, save time, and minimize dependence on technical resources.

Astera ReportMiner is a complete, feature-rich solution, designed for technical and non-technical users alike. It not only helps extract data from unstructured file formats but also allows you to transform, validate, and write your data to a wide range of formats, through its built-in ETL functionality. Looking for a self-service, code-free solution for enterprise data extraction

Ready to learn more or see a live demo?

We'd love to show you how easy it is to switch and why so many companies have already made the move.

Contact us to schedule a personalized demonstration, discuss your migration, or ask questions. We're here to make the transition effortless.

[Contact Us Today!](#)



Astera

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