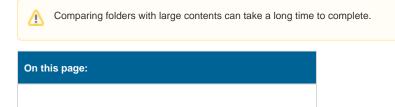# Araxis Compare Files Action

The Araxis Compare Files Compare action uses the preferences set inside the Araxis Merge application to determine comparison options.

> ⚠️ Comparing folders with large contents can take a long time to complete.

## File Compare



### Files

Araxis Merge can compare either two or three files, generating a two- or three-way comparison report.

### File Left

The first file to compare. If opened in the viewer it would appear on the left.

### File Right

The second file to compare. If opened in the view it would appear on the right.

**File Common Origin**

The third file to compare. This should be a common version of the file between the first and second files for comparison. This file is optional, if not specified only a two-way comparison is performed.

## Report

Araxis Merge can optionally save a comparison report in XML, HTML or Diff format. See the Araxis Merge documentation for details on each format.

### Save a report to file

Specify this option to save the report file to a named location and file. The report will be contain all the information about the two-way, or three-way comparison.

### Report format

Specify the format in which the report should be saved.

## Behavior

The action can be set to fail if the files are different, fail if they are the same, or fail only on errors (if neither box is  checked.)

### Fail if the files are different

If any differences are detected the action will fail.

### Fail if the files are the same

If the files are found to be identical the action will fail.