



The Limits of Excel

Excel provides great tools to analyze data. Embedded functions and charts make easy work of summarizing report data. However, when the amount of data i.e., the number of rows or columns, is unknown ahead of time, the standard Excel tools do not produce the desired results because they depend heavily on being configured to a fixed number of rows/columns.

An example of when the number of rows/columns is unknown would be a report that is created when the user selects a time period of interest.

XLReporter overcomes the limitation of the standard Excel functions by providing management tools. These tools are designed specifically to deal with data ranges of varying size.

Management Connections

The worksheet management routines are a suite of functions that re-calibrate Excel objects. They are usually invoked after all the data has been brought into the report.

Management is configured by using **XLReporter's** Management connection menu in Excel.

Since the number of rows/columns is not known, during template design the standard Excel functions are configured to the top row or leftmost column. Management connections are then added to the template to make **XLReporter** aware that certain Excel functions need re-calibrating.

Invoking Management

Management connections are executed using the same commands that execute Data connections in the report, e.g., UpdateBook, UpdateSheet, etc.

As a general rule, Management connections are processed after the data connections brought data into the report.

Custom Routines

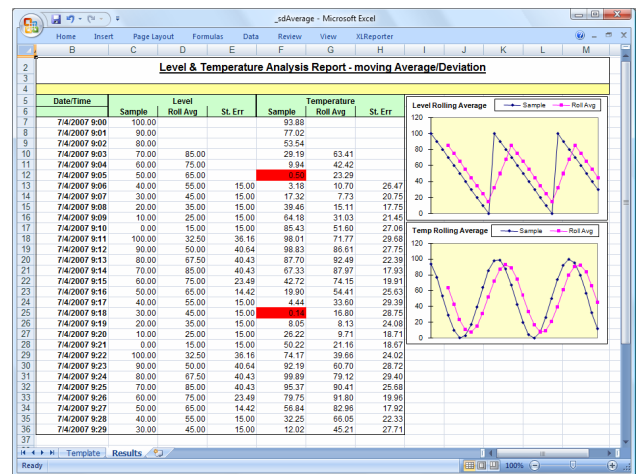
Any requirement that cannot be satisfied by standard management routines can be custom written in Visual Basic and integrated into **XLReporter**.

Report Example

As an example, suppose we have an interactive report that requires the user to enter the start and end date. As part of the report we include some summary calculations and a chart to graphically display the data.

Use standard Excel to setup the summary formulas, pointing them to where the top row of data will appear in the report. Set up the chart the same way; set each series to the top row of data.

Finally, set up Formula Range and Chart Range management connections.



The Complete Report

Other routines include applying custom formatting, color coding "out of bound" values, cutting and pasting data to different areas of the report and much more.

Statistical Analysis

As part of the Management suite, a set of routines have been provided to derive statistical information from report data. These statistical calculations have been developed to adjust to the actual the amount of data in the report.

Calculations such as covariance, correlation, moving average, frequency distribution and much more are all available.

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