**Excel-to-Word Document Automation Add-In**

Update/create Word and PowerPoint content (text, tables, and charts) based on Excel data and calculations.



Advanced Features Template and How-To Guide

This document demonstrates select “advanced” capabilities of the add-in

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Section | Worksheets (Data Source) | Description |
| [Text, Lists, and Paragraphs](#_Text,_Bullet_Lists,) | Text & Lists | Excel-sourced text can be incorporated into documents in a variety of ways. This section shows how to: * Add text to various document content types (titles, paragraphs, shapes, etc.)
* Incorporate/update data within text
* Dynamically create lists and paragraphs (based on Excel formulas)
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| [Tables](#_Tables_–_Merged) | Tables | The add-in was designed to support a variety of table updating scenarios. This section describes/demos key table features:* Source Excel data can be based on named ranges or tables (data tables)
* Table formatting set in Word/PowerPoint will not be modified after the update
* Supports tables with merged cells
* Tables automatically resize to match source (Excel) table size
* Updates of specific cells can be disabled
* Tables can be configured to hide rows if hidden in Excel
 |
| [Image of Ranges](#_Image_of_Ranges) | Range Image | Transfers the image of the named range, just as it appears in Excel. The range can include SparkLines, product images, Maps, SmartArt, people photos, and Conditional Formatting in cells. |
| [Charts](#_Charts_/_Graphs) Images | Chart Images | Essentially any chart type is supported and charts can contain a variety of added content (text, images, etc.) |
| Charts from Tables | Charts | Updates Word charts based on a range or table in Excel. Updates must be done through Word Cloud Updates. See examples on our template page “AnalysisPlaceWordCharts”  |
| [HTML](#_HTML) | HTML | Enables inserting HTML content into Word. Format text (bold, colors), add hyperlinks, insert images from URLs, etc. HTML can be created dynamically. |
| [Layout Options](#_Layout_Options) | Misc | Dynamic content can be incorporated in a variety of ways (not just in-line), enabling great-looking documents/presentations.Content can also be updated in headers and footers (Word) and PowerPoint master slides |
| [Conditional Sections (Document Assembly)](#_Conditional_Sections_(Document) | Conditional Sections | Describes how the add-in can include/exclude document sections, similar to "Document Assembly". Conditional Sections automatically removes un-needed Word sections or PowerPoint slides. |
| [Mail Merge](#_Mail_Merge) | Mail Merge | Shows how to quickly update multiple documents (one at a time) based on a table or database of information. Typically each row/record would contain data to update each document. |
| Localization – Currency | Currency | Shows how to change currency symbols and exchange rates in your Excel and destination documents  |
| Localization - [Language](#_Language_Switching) | Language | Shows how to switch languages. Typically users have a destination document for each language and Excel is used to update the dynamic content in the destination document. |
| [Import Data](#_Import_Data_-) (getting data into Excel) | Misc | Users commonly import data from external sources into Excel, so it can then be analyzed and updated in Word and PowerPoint documents. Common data sources include website data; databases; Azure; CRM/ERP systems, such as Salesforce; other Excel workbooks, web services, XML/JSON data, etc.  |

# Introduction

This document along with the “AnalysisPlace Advanced Features.xlsx” workbook (and if desired, “AnalysisPlace Advanced Features.pptx”) shows how the add-in can enable a variety of advanced data-focused document automation scenarios.

To use this document:

1. Activate the add-in in the “AnalysisPlace Advanced Features.xlsx” workbook and this document.
2. Make changes to any of the tan input cells in the workbook in one or more of the desired worksheets
3. “Submit Content” in the workbook add-in
4. “Update Document” in the add-in in this document. You should be able to see the changes, based on your Excel modifications

Most of the features also work with Cloud Updates (requires an Enterprise license). Some features (Conditional Sections) only work with Cloud Updates.

You are welcome to modify and use the content in these documents for your own use.

If you are not already familiar with the basic features of the add-in, first see: See https://analysisplace.com/Document-Automation/Get-Started

# Text, Bullet Lists, and Paragraphs

Excel-sourced text can be incorporated into documents in a variety of ways.

Single-cell named ranges update text items (e.g. titles, paragraphs, parts of text, lists) in Word/PowerPoint.

All linked content in Word is included in Content Controls. You can hide the Content Controls (e.g. before sending to customers) by selecting “Hide” at the bottom of the “Link” tab in the add-in.

## Add Text to Various Document Content Types

Linked text can include or can be within: paragraphs, titles, text boxes, most shapes, WordArt, headers/footers, or a table cell. You can style the text as desired (colors, bold, font, etc.) and the style will remain after the update.

 This example shows the linked text within a shape:

**Customer XYZ**

## Combining Text and Data

Data can easily be combined with text using the text() formula in Excel:

Customer XYZ will save $900,000.

## Lists and Paragraphs

The add-in can create lists that change based on formulas in Excel. List are based formulas in a single cell.

* Lists from Excel (a single link/control) can be styled as bullets or numbered lists.
* Alt-enter is typically used for manually created lists.
* Char(10) is used if you want to list to change dynamically (part of a formula).
* In cloud-created reports (PowerPoint or template-based Word reports), you can add multiple levels (indents) to your bullet lists by adding a greater-than symbol ">" to the start of the line in Excel. Add 2 ">>" for level 2 or ">>>" for level 3 indents. These can be added dynamically to formulas.

This example shows a dynamically created (based on an Excel formula) **bullet list**:

1. **Project Summary**
* Customer XYZ will save $900,000.
* Payment must be received by May 26, 2021.
* The customer will be happy.

In this example, the items are an automatically **numbered list**:

1. **Project Scope**
2. Basic Features
3. Management Module
4. Implementation Services
5. Maintenance
6. Support Services

This example shows dynamically created (Excel-sourced) **paragraphs**:

1. **Legal Details**

Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, ei cum apeirian voluptaria. Lorem debitis liberavisse ex cum, fugit consulatu consequuntur eam eu. Te sea oratio utinam qualisque, inani numquam eruditi quo ei. Choro fierent cu eos, ex omnis eruditi nec. Graece consetetur consectetuer qui an.

Ut ludus omittam mea, eu has harum cotidieque, te per libris minimum rationibus. Dolore vituperata honestatis vim ei, erat decore blandit ea usu. Vero invenire eos ne, duo ea oporteat scribentur, essent volutpat eum ei. Ex eos ceteros invenire, timeam omnesque constituam ut mea. Cum integre epicurei comprehensam et, an cum iudico nominati interesset. Cu nam sanctus laoreet, ad ignota tibique tacimates eum.

Quas nonumes fuisset te pro, mei ad dolores vivendum, vim ei tantas dolorem. Id mentitum qualisque sit. Id mel quot delectus. Tibique perpetua vix te, vim assum senserit cu. At his quis sumo simul, apeirian forensibus eam ut. At sale repudiandae mel, vis cu ullum placerat iracundia. In vis quis labores apeirian, liber tempor qui cu, sea ut graeci instructior consectetuer.

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# Tables

The add-in was designed to update Word/PowerPoint tables for a variety of scenarios, including updating large/complex tables, such as financial reports.

This section describes/demos key table features. Also, see the companion workbook for Excel-specific instructions.

## Named Ranges Vs. Data Tables

Source Excel data can be based on **named ranges** or tables (**data tables**). They both can update Word/PowerPoint tables the same way. The first and third tables below are based on named ranges; the second is based on an Excel table.

## Create and Format Tables

In Word, you can link tables in 3 ways (first Add-in > Link > “Get Excel Source Data” > Select your table source from the drop-downs):

1. **Insert a new table**: (Ribbon > Insert > Tables > Table); format the table (Ribbon > Table Tools > Design); select the entire table by clicking the icon above/left of the table; then link the table (Add-in > Link > “Insert Content / Update Link”).
2. **Link an existing table**: select the entire table, then “Insert Content / Update Link“ button. The table should have the same number of rows/columns as the source Excel table/range.
3. **Insert and Link**: put the cursor where you’d like the table, then simply click the “Insert Content / Update Link“ button.

You can style tables (Table Styles, borders, font, colors, etc.) and the style will remain after the update (only the text will update).

## Automatic Table Resizing (Insert/Delete Rows/Columns)

The add-in will try to resize Word/PowerPoint tables to match the size of the source Excel table/range. For example, if the Excel table has 7 rows and the Word table has 4, the add-in will insert 3 rows. The next-to-the-last row/column will be used for the format template for the inserted rows/columns.

There are some limitations, for example, the Word add-in cannot insert/delete columns if there are merged cells in the table.

## Table Merged Cells

The add-in supports most Word/PowerPoint table merged cell scenarios. The table below contains 2 merged cell areas in the 1st row.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   |   | **Initial One-Time** | **Annual On-Going** |  |
| **Description** | **Units** | **Qty** | **Cost Each** | **Total** | **Qty** | **Cost Each** | **Total** | **3-Year Total** |
| Product A User Licenses | Licenses | 95 | $200  | $19,000  | 95 | $50  | $4,750  | $33,250  |
| Product A Server Licenses | Server CPUs | 4 | $4,000  | $16,000  | 4 | $1,000  | $4,000  | $28,000  |
| Implementation Services | Person-days | 6 | $1,600  | $9,600  | 0 | $1,600  | $0  | $9,600  |
| Training Services | Days | 10 | $2,000  | $20,000  | 3 | $2,000  | $6,000  | $38,000  |
| Support Services | Incidents | 0 |  | $0  | 10 | $1,000  | $10,000  | $30,000  |
| **Total** |  |  |  | **$64,600**  |  |  | **$24,750**  | **$138,850**  |

If the add-in does not place content in the desired Word cell, try adding a space to the empty Excel cell to the left of the data that ends up misplaced.

## Disable Specific Table Cell Changes

To avoid updating individual table cells in Word/PowerPoint tables: In the desired table cell in Excel, enter a "!~" (without the quotes) at the start of your cell text/formula. Or use UNICHAR(8205) at the start of your formula (which is an invisible character). The Word/PowerPoint add-in will not update cells if the source cell text from Excel starts with those characters.

This is useful to avoid updating content that will never change or if you have cells with mixed formatting that you do not want to be replaced.

It is also useful for multi-lingual reports/outputs -- if you have a single Excel workbook/tool and multiple-output reports (one for each language). This will enable you to update the numbers in Word/PowerPoint tables without overwriting the text (e.g. row/column headers) in the cells. For cells that contain mixed numbers and text, you could add the multi-lingual text to formulas based on lookups.

## Hide Table Rows

To include visible rows/columns only: in Excel, add the suffix "\_visible" (or "\_vis") before the range or table name. Hidden, filtered, or grouped rows will not appear in your Word/PowerPoint table. Can be combined with \_body.

The table below demonstrates this – it only includes visible rows in the source Excel table. The table is resized to match the Excel table visible row and column counts.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Merchant | Date | Category | Amount |
| The Phone Company | 5/26/2021 | Communications | $120.00 |
| Best For You Organics Company | 5/24/2021 | Groceries | $27.00 |
| Coho Vineyard | 5/23/2021 | Restaurant | $33.00 |
| Trey Research | 5/21/2021 | Other | $135.00 |
| Best For You Organics Company | 5/20/2021 | Groceries | $97.00 |

## Table Updating Speed and Limits

Word table updating performance can become slow when the document contains dozens of large tables. Update performance is significantly faster if the user's cursor is at the top of the document and no/few large tables are visible. Slow update speeds are related to native Word display updating, not the add-in. Cloud reporting (Enterprise version) is fast, even for very large/complex documents.

Currently, the Word add-in can only update 49 tables in a document per update. Cloud reporting (Enterprise version) does not have this limit and can be substantially faster.

For more details, see <https://analysisplace.com/Resources/Technical-Limits>

## Simple Financial Statement Example

This example demonstrates that the destination content appearance can be very different from the source Excel format.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | 5/26/2021 | % of Revenue |
| Total Revenue | $800,000,000  | 100% |
| Cost of Revenue | $440,000,000  | 55% |
| Gross Profit | **$360,000,000**  | **45%** |
| Operating Expenses |  |  |
| Research and Development | $104,000,000  | 13% |
| Sales, General and Admin. | $160,000,000  | 20% |
| Non-Recurring Items | $16,000,000  | 2% |
| Other Operating Items | $8,000,000  | 1% |
| Operating Income | **$72,000,000**  | **9%** |
| Add'l income/expense items | $8,000,000  | 1% |
| Earnings Before Interest and Tax | **$80,000,000**  | **10%** |
| Interest Expense | $8,800,000  | 1% |
| Earnings Before Tax | **$71,200,000**  | **9%** |
| Income Tax | $21,360,000  | 3% |
| Net Income | **$49,840,000**  | **6%** |

# Image of Ranges

This feature transfers the image (PNG) of the named range, just as it looks in Excel.

Name the cell or range of cells (starting with the prefix and ending with "\_img"). Include any content in the range (conditional formatting, sparklines, images, shapes, text boxes, smart art, dynamic items, etc.) The image (PNG) of all content in the range will be transferred to your Word/Ppt document just the way it appears in Excel.

Some users choose to transfer images of tables instead of updating text within each cell. This may be easier than formatting tables in Word/PowerPoint, however, it will significantly increase transfer size and will make the Word/PowerPoint file much larger.

Note: Currently, this is only compatible with Office for Windows. It is not yet compatible with Macs. In Office Online, it only transfers content within the range (including conditional formatting), but not items added on top of the range (such as images). The same image content can be transferred to Word/PPT by putting the content on charts, then submit the chart image (this works on Macs).

## Image-based on range containing a variety of formula-based elements

This example shows sparklines, conditional formatting, and a chart in a range. The source of the image below is a named range in Excel.



## Image updated based on user selection or cell formula

The example below displays a flag image based on a country that is selected from a drop-down list in Excel. It shows an image that appears in a single cell in Excel.

This technique is commonly used to display product images based on selected/configured solutions. Some common examples include customized logos and personalized photo.

Country Selected: **Andorra**



Depending on your needs, there are also many ways to use VBA macros (and other add-ins) to modify the image displayed in the cell (which can be updated in Word/PowerPoint).

Images could also be based on a URL from a remote website.

# Charts / Graphs

Charts can be updated in two ways in Word. The way described in this document is that the chart image (PNG) will be transferred to your Word/PowerPoint document. So format them in Excel the way you want them to look in your document.

In the Word and Excel documents titled “AnalysisPlaceWordCharts”, we describe the second way of updating, which is by linking the chart to a table in Excel and updating it through the cloud. Those templates can be found in our resource guide. https://analysisplace.com/Resources/Templates

You can use essentially any type of chart/graph.

## Image Size, Quality, and Resolution

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| You can change the image size and resolution. Higher-resolution charts appear sharper in Word/PPT, but also increase transfer size and Word/PowerPoint file size.To Resize Chart Images: append your chart name with '\_h' and the desired height in pixels or '\_w' and the desired width in pixels. For example, 'rpt\_Chart\_w250' creates the image so it is 250 pixels wide (8.8 cm / 3.5 inches). The non-specified dimension scales so the aspect ratio remains the same.In Word, you can constrain the image size by placing the image within a container, such as a text box or a table with the cell Auto-Fit set to "Fixed Column Width". If you don’t contain it, by default, its size in Word/PowerPoint will be the same as its size in Excel. The image above is within a text box to control the image size. |  |

## Charts with Added Content

You can include other content to your charts, such as dynamic text, images, shapes, etc.

This feature can enable very powerful/flexible content automation capabilities.

The chart below contains formula-based text and an image which will update based on the growth rate:



# HTML

This feature enables extensive added formatting/content options, for example:

* Format text via header tags, like <h1>
* Format content via the style= attribute. For example, change font size and color
* Insert images from a URL via the <img> tag
* Hyperlinks: <a> tag
* Lists: <ol><li> and <ul> tag
* Tables: <table> tag
* Emphasize text via the <b>, <strong>, <u>, <i>, and <em> tags

The HTML content in the source Excel cell can be created via formula or programmatically (VBA macros, other add-ins, or external applications).

The name of the Excel cell must end with “\_html” to insert the content as HTML.

Some HTML content is not compatible: for example: </br>, CSS styling

Note: when creating reports via Word Cloud (Enterprise Feature), the image will not appear until the opens the document and clicks “Enable Editing”.

**This example inserts text and a table with basic formatting:**

HTML formatting examples: **bold**; red.

Table:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Month** | **Savings** |
| January | $100 |
| February | $125 |

**This example inserts lists:**

Ordered List:

1. Coffee
2. Tea
3. Milk

Unordered List:

* Coffee
* Tea
* Milk

**This example inserts an image (a fantastic company’s logo) with a hyperlink:**

## AnalysisPlace



**This example dynamically (based on a user selection and Excel formulas) creates HTML with a title, an image, text, and a hyperlink:**

## Jaguar E-Type



The Jaguar E-Type, or the Jaguar XK-E for the North American market, is a British sports car that was manufactured by Jaguar Cars Ltd between 1961 and 1975. Its combination of beauty, high performance, and competitive pricing established the model as an icon of the motoring world. The E-Type's 150 mph (241 km/h) top speed, sub-7-second 0 to 60 mph (97 km/h) acceleration, monocoque construction, disc brakes, rack-and-pinion steering, and independent front and rear suspension distinguished the car and spurred industry-wide changes. The E-Type was based on Jaguar's D-Type racing car, which had won the 24 Hours of Le Mans three consecutive years beginning 1955, and employed what was, for the early 1960s, a novel racing design principle, with a front subframe carrying the engine, front suspension and front bodywork bolted directly to the body tub. No ladderfame chassis, as was common at the time, was needed and as such the first cars weighed only 1315kg (2900lb).

[Learn More](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jaguar_E-Type)

# Layout Options

Dynamic content can be incorporated in a variety of ways (not just in-line) enabling great-looking documents/presentations.

## Word

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Merchant | Date | Category | Amount |
| The Phone Company | 5/26/2021 | Communications | $120.00 |
| Best For You Organics Company | 5/24/2021 | Groceries | $27.00 |
| Coho Vineyard | 5/23/2021 | Restaurant | $33.00 |
| Trey Research | 5/21/2021 | Other | $135.00 |
| Best For You Organics Company | 5/20/2021 | Groceries | $97.00 |

The content controls can be placed in-line with text (the default) or you can insert the controls within containers, such as text boxes, and these containers can be placed anywhere (not just in-line with text). This enables very powerful/flexible layout options, such as updatable dashboards, infographics, and great-looking personalized branded marketing/sales material.

In the example to the right, a table is placed inside a text box and the text box wrapping style is set to square.

## PowerPoint

All PowerPoint content is shape-based. Shapes can be titles, text boxes, tables, images, etc. Shapes are tagged (with the link code in the shape’s alt-text property) and updated by the add-in. Shapes can be placed anywhere on a slide (including overlapping). A slide can contain many shapes. Slides and shapes can be copied/pasted and will retain their links.

## Headers, Footers, and Master Slides

In Word, linked text can be placed in headers and footers.

In PowerPoint, master slides can contain linked content.

# Conditional Sections (Document Assembly)

Only compatible with Word Cloud Reports (Enterprise Feature) – would delete document content in add-in updates.

AnalysisPlace can not perform "Document Assembly" per se, but it can do the equivalent: It can automatically delete un-needed sections from the template. So include all needed content in your Word or PowerPoint templates, then configure your workbook to automatically indicate (e.g. based on formulas) which sections to delete, depending on the user scenario.

In Excel, The "ReportSectionsToDelete" table (if it exists), determines which sections of created Word or PowerPoint reports will be deleted when updated on the server.

Common examples of “optional” content (which can be deleted based on the scenario):

* Industry-specific case studies: case studies for all industries are included in the master Word/PowerPoint document, then all but the desired industry case study are deleted when the report is created/updated for a specific customer.
* Report (e.g. proposal) sections: all sections are included in the master document, then when the report is created/updated for a customer, unneeded sections are deleted.

In Word, “sections” are defined by Bookmarks (in the Office ribbon: Insert > Links > Bookmark). Bookmarks can define small (a word) or large (pages) areas. Bookmarks can be nested.

The sections below demonstrate how this feature works. Sections will be deleted depending on the Scenario selected in the “Conditional Sections” input cell in Excel. In the template, there are/were 7 sections below:

SectionName

 Section content

CostAnalysis

 Section content

CaseStudyA

 Section content

CaseStudyB

 Section content

FinancialAnalysis

 Section content

AppendixA

 Section content

AppendixB

 Section content

# Mail Merge

Mail merge is defined as the automatic addition of names and addresses from a database to letters and envelopes to facilitate sending mail, especially advertising, to many addresses.

The add-in was not designed for high-volume automated mail merge and it should not be used as a replacement for Word’s native “Mailings” (Mail Merge) features.

The add-in can effectively be used to lookup recipient data from a list/table, calculate results, then update Word/PowerPoint templates. This enables the rapid creation of personalized data-intensive documentation. However, unlike Mail Merge, the documents must be updated one at a time.

The example below looks up company data from an Excel table based on a drop-down list, calculates results, then updates text, a table, and a chart in Word/PowerPoint. This process would have to be repeated for each recipient.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Based on our analysis, we believe Berkshire Hathaway could save $351 billion by purchasing our solution. Act today and you can purchase it for only $75 billion.**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Per Employee | Company Total (Billions) |
| Our Savings |  $930  |  $350.6  |
| Competitor Savings |  $300  |  $113.1  |
| Solution Cost |  $200  |  $75.4  |

 |  |

# Localization (Currency and Language)

It is often important to be able to easily localize (currency and language) assessment tools and results documents. For example:

* supporting users who are located in different regions
* creating documents for customers located in other countries

## Currency Switching (currency symbols and exchange rates)

This example shows how to change currency symbols and exchange rates (via a drop-down selection) in your Excel and destination documents.

See Excel Worksheet: Currency Switching

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Your net benefit is expected to be ¥25,630.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | One Time | Annual Recurring | Project Total |
| Total Investment | ¥11,391 | ¥2,278 | ¥22,782 |
| Total Benefits | ¥5,696 | ¥8,543 | ¥48,412 |
| Net Benefit |  |  | ¥25,630 |

 |  |

## Language Switching

The example below shows how to change language (via a drop-down selection) in your Excel and destination documents. It also changes currency.

ソリューションビジネスバリューアセスメント

私達の分析に基づいて、私達はあなたの会社が救うことができることを信じる ¥22,782億ドルのソリューションを購入しています。今日の行為は、あなただけのためにそれを購入することができます¥25,630億。

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 一回 | 年間定期 | プロジェクト合計 |
| 総投資額 | ¥11,391 | ¥2,278 | ¥22,782 |
| 合計特典 | ¥5,696 | ¥8,543 | ¥48,412 |
| 純利益 |  |  | ¥25,630 |

 |  |

Often organizations have a destination document template for each language and a single Excel workbook is used to update the dynamic content in the destination documents.

This is often combined with the Excel table “Disable Cell Updates” feature. Table row/column header text is left unchanged in each document (which are in different languages) and only the cells with data are updated. This avoids the need to transfer the text (in each language) from Excel to the Word/PowerPoint tables.

The “Cloud Reporting” in the Enterprise version is also very helpful with this scenario: the user selects the region (currency/language) in an Excel drop-down, completes their assessment, then simply selects the desired report template (there would be one for each language) from a drop-down in the add-in and they download the personalized report in the customer’s preferred language/currency.

# Import Data - Importing external data into Excel

Users commonly import data from external sources into Excel, so it can then be consolidated/analyzed in Excel and then updated in Word and PowerPoint documents. Common data sources include website data; databases; Azure; CRM/ERP systems, such as Salesforce; other Excel workbooks, web services, XML/JSON data, etc.

Here are a few Microsoft resources that may be helpful:

* [**Import data from external data sources**](https://support.office.com/en-us/article/import-data-from-external-data-sources-power-query-be4330b3-5356-486c-a168-b68e9e616f5a) (Use Excel's Get & Transform (Power Query) experience to import data into Excel from a wide variety of data sources. You can then use the Query Editor to edit query steps to shape or transform data.)
* [**Get & Transform in Excel**](https://support.office.com/en-us/article/get-transform-in-excel-881c63c6-37c5-4ca2-b616-59e18d75b4de) Get & Transform enables you to connect, combine, and refine data sources to meet your analysis needs.
* [**Overview of connecting to (importing) data**](https://support.office.com/en-us/article/overview-of-connecting-to-importing-data-c0ad7aec-ff1a-4e48-9c21-dc18a102433f) This reference article discusses importing and connecting data. You will learn about tasks like importing, updating, securing, and managing data.

Most major software/app vendors provide ways for users to securely import data into Excel. There are also many 3rd-party solutions, including other add-ins, to help connect Excel to apps and other data sources. Microsoft’s Power BI is also commonly used to import and analyze enterprise data.

The Enterprise version also contains a “Data Refresh” feature that can automatically update frequently updated data (such as pricing and exchange rate data) every time the workbook is opened.

