
Subject: Re: Looking for IDL code to read Excel spreadsheet

Posted by [jmcfee](#) on Thu, 12 Jul 2001 18:03:47 GMT

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Keywords:

Thanks to everyone for their help. I'll export as .csv files. The less fooling around with MicroSoft, the better!

John McFee

In article <9ij05q\$2j68\$1@agate.berkeley.edu>,
mperrin+news@arkham.berkeley.edu (Marshall Perrin) writes:

...

|> > I use data from Excel all the time, but I always export them to a .CSV

...

|> > Alternatively, you could study one of the files with a hex editor to figure out

|> > where the data that you want actually starts and how the files are structured, and

|> > then use binary reads. Good luck -

|>

|> Don't even think about trying to do it in binary - .xls files, like .doc and

|> the rest of the MS Office file formats, are in an extremely complicated format

|> called DocFile, which basically is an entire file-system-in-a-file, complete

|> with FAT tables, directory structures, and balanced red-black trees wrapped

|> around all the actual spreadsheet data. You *don't* want to have to write a

|> parser for that mess in IDL. Stick with the CSV export - fast and easy.

|>

|> - Marshall

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