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Subject: Re: write data to an excell file  
Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Wed, 09 Feb 2005 16:27:33 GMT  
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```
tab=string(9b)
openw,10,'C:\RS\IDL56SE\Output-Escompte\MarseilleObservatoi re.xls'
for hour=0,192 do printf,10,hour+tab+xtt[hour]+tab+Tk[hour]
close,10
```

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Subject: Re: write data to an excell file  
Posted by [Vince Hradil](#) on Wed, 09 Feb 2005 16:33:16 GMT  
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Try again: (google didn't work right the first time, "I didn't do it!")

```
tab=string(9b)
openw,10,'C:\RS\IDL56SE\Output-Escompte\MarseilleObservatoi re.xls'
for hour=0,192 printf,10,hour+tab+xtt[hour]+tab+Tk[hour]
close,10
```

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Subject: Re: write data to an excell file  
Posted by [Rick Towler](#) on Wed, 09 Feb 2005 16:44:40 GMT  
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Hello Matthias,

It looks to me that you are simply creating ASCII files with an .xls extension. This really isn't an excel file. I have looked into the .xls format in the past (it was called "biff" at one point) hoping to create an IDL program that could write native .xls files but I never found a published format.

You may find .slk (symbolic link) files are a good alternative. IDL has a built in function to create .slk files called WRITE\_SYLK. In your case you would simply store all of your data in one array (assuming that it was of the same data type):

```
data = [[kk],[xtt],[Tk]]
ok = WRITE_SYLK('C:\test.slk', data)
```

To add more columns you would add in more data.

WRITE\_SYLK will not allow you to write column headers which is an unfortunate limitation. I have modified WRITE\_SYLK so you can pass it a structure which contains your data and the column headers which is nice

since I always forget which column is which when I look at my data in excel! If you are interested I can make it available to you.

Cheers!

-Rick

I can't post to the newsgroup (server problems). Please forward this to the list if you find it useful.

Matthias Demuzere wrote:

```
> Dear,
>
> I have a problem with writing data to an excell datasheet. My aim is to
> write several columns to 1 same datasheet instead of writing the different
> columns to different datasheets.
>
> This is what i did untill now:
> openw,10,'C:\RSI\IDL56SE\Output-Escompte\MarseilleObservatoi re.xls'
> for hour=0,192 do begin
>   printf,10,xtt(hour)
> endfor
> close,10
>
> openw,11,'C:\RSI\IDL56SE\Output-Escompte\MarseilleObservatoi re_T_E.xls'
> for kk=0,192 do begin
>   printf,11,Tk(kk)
> endfor
> close,11
>
> Now I woulf like for example print in the first column the time (hour),
> expressed by kk, going from 0 to 192 hours.
> In the second column of the same datasheet, i would like to write xtt (hour)
> and in the third column of the same datasheet, i would like to write
> Tk(hour)
>
> Can anyone help me with that?
>
> Kind Regard,
>
> Matthias Demuzere
```

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Subject: Re: write data to an excell file

Posted by [KM](#) on Wed, 09 Feb 2005 18:29:04 GMT

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> .xls extension. This really isn't an excel file. I have looked  
> into the .xls format in the past (it was called "biff" at one  
> point) hoping to create an IDL program that could write native  
> .xls files but I never found a published format.

I think the best place to get this is through OpenOffice.org or  
StarOffice, or the other open source MS-Office-like apps that can  
read/write MS formats.

-k.

<http://spacebit.dyndns.org/>

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Subject: Re: write data to an excell file

Posted by [Jonathan Greenberg](#) on Wed, 09 Feb 2005 20:14:51 GMT

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Is there a reason you are bothering to write directly to XLS file? Just  
write a .csv or .txt (Dave Fanning has a nice little program to do this for  
you, so you don't need to reinvent the wheel:  
[http://www.dfanning.com/tip\\_examples/write\\_csv\\_data.pro](http://www.dfanning.com/tip_examples/write_csv_data.pro)) A .csv file, in  
fact, you can just double click from a PC or Mac and Excel is usually set to  
just open it right up.

--j

On 2/9/05 10:29 AM, in article

Pine.OSX.4.61.0502091327350.20752@gouda.local, "Ken Mankoff"

<mankoff@yahoo.com> wrote:

>  
>> It looks to me that you are simply creating ASCII files with an  
>> .xls extension. This really isn't an excel file. I have looked  
>> into the .xls format in the past (it was called "biff" at one  
>> point) hoping to create an IDL program that could write native  
>> .xls files but I never found a published format.  
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> StarOffice, or the other open source MS-Office-like apps that can  
> read/write MS formats.  
>  
> -k.

> <http://spacebit.dyndns.org/>  
>

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Subject: Re: write data to an excell file  
Posted by [Ralf Schaa](#) on Fri, 11 Feb 2005 11:12:39 GMT  
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Hi there,

to write excel sheets I use the good old spawn:

I spawn a perl script which reads all the stuff from a text file which is previously created by idl.

When you need a lot of excel files it is quite nice to do it this way.

take a look at [cpan.org](http://cpan.org):  
Spreadsheet::WriteExcel

Cheers  
-Ralf

Rick Towler wrote:

> Hello Matthias,  
>  
> It looks to me that you are simply creating ASCII files with an .xls  
> extension. This really isn't an excel file. I have looked into the  
> .xls format in the past (it was called "biff" at one point) hoping to  
> create an IDL program that could write native .xls files but I never  
> found a published format.  
>  
> You may find .slk (symbolic link) files are a good alternative. IDL has  
> a built in function to create .slk files called WRITE\_SYLK. In your  
> case you would simply store all of your data in one array (assuming that  
> it was of the same data type):  
>  
> data = [[kk],[xtt],[Tk]]  
> ok = WRITE\_SYLK('C:\test.slk', data)  
>  
> To add more columns you would add in more data.  
>  
> WRITE\_SYLK will not allow you to write column headers which is an  
> unfortunate limitation. I have modified WRITE\_SYLK so you can pass it a

> structure which contains your data and the column headers which is nice  
> since I always forget which column is which when I look at my data in  
> excel! If you are interested I can make it available to you.  
>  
> Cheers!  
>  
> -Rick  
>  
>  
> I can't post to the newsgroup (server problems). Please forward this to  
> the list if you find it useful.  
>  
>  
>  
>  
> Matthias Demuzere wrote:  
>  
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>>  
>> I have a problem with writing data to an excell datasheet. My aim is  
>> to write several columns to 1 same datasheet instead of writing the  
>> different columns to different datasheets.  
>>  
>> This is what i did untill now:  
>> openw,10,'C:\RS\IDL56SE\Output-Escompte\MarseilleObservatoire.xls'  
>> for hour=0,192 do begin  
>>   printf,10,xtt(hour)  
>> endfor  
>> close,10  
>>  
>> openw,11,'C:\RS\IDL56SE\Output-Escompte\MarseilleObservatoire\_T\_E.xls'  
>> for kk=0,192 do begin  
>>   printf,11,Tk(kk)  
>> endfor  
>> close,11  
>>  
>> Now I would like for example print in the first column the time  
>> (hour), expressed by kk, going from 0 to 192 hours.  
>> In the second column of the same datasheet, i would like to write xtt  
>> (hour)  
>> and in the third column of the same datasheet, i would like to write  
>> Tk(hour)  
>>  
>> Can anyone help me with that?  
>>  
>> Kind Regard,  
>>

>> Matthias Demuzere

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