

Migrating to Excel 2007? - Short discussion of some of the changes incorporated into Excel 2007.

The development of Microsoft's Office 2007 has seen many changes and many improvements. The Excel application is part of this new system of performance. Visually the interface is a completely new experience. Even advanced Excel users may have problems, however like with all Windows products, it is only a matter of adjustment before the noteworthy improvements are appreciated. Excel 2007 allows for more data, more calculating, and a far greater overall function for the end user.

The classic menu bars and controls have been replaced by a feature commonly called a "ribbon." This feature gives the user a greater view of the document while tucking the icons for the controls away. This has also caused much apprehension amid Excel fans. The ability to customize the ribbon isn't quite as simple as before. The intention behind this new design was noble. Developers wanted to make the most commonly used tools even more accessible while working.

Since Excel is already such a complex and intricate application there wasn't a great deal for developers to add. The primary goal was to improve on what was already in use. A common estimate states that in reality most users only utilize around 20 percent of Excel's capabilities.

However, there is much to be said about progress within Excel. For example, the number of rows per worksheet has grown from a little over 65 thousand to over a 1 million. The number of columns also increased from around 260 to over 16 thousand.

The amount of space required for the new Excel has also grown from 1 GB to 2 GB to accommodate the enormous leap in capabilities. The recalculation task is virtually limitless in the new Excel. The calculation action is now only limited by available memory and not row numbers. The program can now also sort 64 levels whereas the previous versions only had around 3 levels. Instead of only 4 thousand unique cell styles users can enjoy 64,000. This powerful capability means you can incorporate much more data into your system with no issues.

These aren't the only improved features in the new program. Excel users should also appreciate the extensive attention devoted to the table functions. The new program utilizes the XML language and provides a good amount of file compression. This can be a highly cost-saving feature for those on minimal bandwidth. This virtual compression is also designed to help recover damaged files more quickly and efficiently.

The new interface does present unfamiliar terrain to Excel users, but should not deter them from its use. Excel 2007 promises to be an even greater asset to businesses and management. The new features, along with the improved capabilities, are more polished, streamlined and remain a powerful tool for the modern workplace.

Links:

Video on the topic: (<http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/excel/HA100484501033.aspx?pid=CH101030621033>)

Excel Zone: (<http://www.accountingweb.co.uk/cgi-bin/item.cgi?id=162066&d=1032&h=1033&f=1026>)