



Better Skills Training – Because We All Need Better Skills

Macros: Writing Procedures, Using Control Structures and Data Variables

If you've recorded your own macros and found that they don't always work, it could be necessary to go into the code and make some edits; but where do you begin? Excel macros use Visual Basic for Applications, (VBA), code and it's stored in the Visual Basic Editor, (VBE). In order to make edits you will need to recognise keywords within procedures and add some control structures such as If-Then-Else controls or Select Case controls; you will more than likely need to introduce some variables into the code to store some temporary information while the code runs. This short module will introduce you to these ideas using simple examples which can then be adapted for your own usage. At the end of this session we will have developed a small quiz where the answers and scores are calculated by the macro and output onto a scoresheet. Delivered by Mike Derham, Microsoft User Specialist and ICS-Skills Expert User.

Topics:

Working with Methods and Properties – Methods are actions such as adding a sheet, while Properties are options that can be assigned to a method, for instance the sheet name is a property of the sheet.

Adding Arguments to Methods – Arguments make methods more powerful, such as adding a sheet before or after a particular sheet that already exists.

The With... End block – Coding with less typing and with better structure.

The Offset property – Getting around various cells by offsetting from a fixed starting point.

Working with a Runtime Error – Simple debugging options when an error occurs.

Using an If-Then-Else control – Carry out a logical test and take a path based on the result.

Using Elself – Perform extra testing within an If-Then-Else control for when multiple paths are possible.

Using the Select Case control – Allows a decision to be made based on a test with multiple outcomes.

Using a Do Loop statement – Loop a block of code until a condition is met.

Creating Variables – use variables to store values temporarily within your code.

Should You Attend This Module?

Maybe... you do need to be a fairly good user of Excel, you need to have recorded macros before, along with doing simple code editing. This module focusses in on the coding essentials of keywords used in procedures, using control structures such as the If-Then-Else control, along with creating and using variables and why you need to do so. You don't need to know any specific coding language as all the code used in the session will be explained, however any previous experience is an advantage to understanding why code works. You won't be an expert at the end of this short session, but you will have more tools at your disposal to develop your macros to a better level.

Schedule

08:45 – 12:15 with a break for breakfast

