

## Re: Importing a .txt file issues

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*Source:* <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Excel/microsoft.public.excel.misc/2006-01/msg04864.html>

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- *From:* "Dave O" <CycleZen@xxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* 26 Jan 2006 08:08:03 -0800
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I've done a lot of this type of work in the past, and have used Visual Basic to great success. I'm guessing since you even know of the existence of the DOS command prompt FTP program you can write code, or at least figure it out— you can also do this with the VBA compiler that is native to Excel.

It sounds like the report contains information you want and header / footer / whitespace information that you do not want. You are manually deleting that stuff already, so the trick is to figure out what makes the useful information different from the useless information and translate that difference into a decision the computer can make. For instance— the useful information contains a + sign delimiter. Does the header contain that? If it does not, you could write a quick program to open the source file, read each line, and write only the lines that contain a + to a separate file. Then import the "plusses only" file to Excel. Or, the header line may contain the word "Date: ", so you could write the program to exclude lines that contain that text string.

Assume for the moment that the headers do NOT contain a + sign. To pursue this solution, you could run code that looks like this to "condition" the data into a useable format. This code is written for Excel VBA, in case you do not have a Visual Basic compiler on your computer. The apostrophe within the code indicates a comment.

```
Sub Kill-Headers()  
'declare variables  
Dim File_Line As String  
  
Open "c:\FTP_File.txt" For Input As #1 'Open the source file  
Open "c:\No-Headers.txt" For Output As #2 'Create a file for data only  
  
Do While Not EOF(1) 'Process the source file through to the end  
Line Input #1, File_Line 'read a line from the source file into  
memory  
If InStr(1, File_Line, "+") <> 0 Then Print #2, File_Line 'write the  
line to the output file if it contains a +  
Loop  
  
Close #1
```

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Close #2  
End Sub

The output file would then be free of headers, and ready for import to Excel. You could also expand this code to write the information directly into Excel instead of an output file, but this may be an easier first step.

Let me know what you think– I'll be glad to help revise this sample code to match your situation.

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