

Re: A Challenge

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Excel/microsoft.public.excel.programming/2005-08/msg10155.html>

- *From:* Paul Sheppard <Paul.Sheppard.1ugvmc_1125219927.2575@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 28 Aug 2005 03:54:45 -0500
-

mjones Wrote:

- > Hi,
- >
- > My client is expecting me to perform miracles. I thought I'd throw
- > this one out for those who like a challenge. Many large spreadsheets
- > (so large they have to be split up to get them into Excel) have a name
- > column. An example of the type of data might be:
- >
- > Mary Jane Fox
- > Marg F. Smith
- > Matt Del Sandro
- > Frank George Di Marco
- > Paul Joseph Rental/Storage Ltd.
- > Kim O'Neil
- > Don Jones-St. James
- > Andrew K.G. Black
- > Mr. and Mrs. Albert F. Casey
- > Brown
- > Sisters of the Holly Cross of 3rd Street
- > M Thomas
- > Christine J. Main & Ken Henry
- >
- > My client wants me to separate the last name into its own column so
- > they can run duplicate tests with other files against it and other
- > things. Remember, there could be 65,000 names.
- >
- > As you can imagine, this is very time consuming so anything will help.
- > I have been using space delimited to separate the fields and then
- > doing
- > things like sorting or splitting off the first two characters and
- > sorting what's left to separate out the single initials and then
- > concatenating back again.
- >
- > I know this can't be an exact science, but I'm wondering if a macro
- > can
- > be written to perform some of the work and perhaps stop and ask about
- > questionable names. For example,

Re: A Challenge

>
> – single letters with or without periods would be first names
> – a database of words could show companies and take the whole word as
> last name like Ltd. or Co.
> – a database of words like Di, St., Del, O', or Le could be defined as
> part of the last name
> – one word names are last names
> – take the last of two names and forget the first one
> – stuff like that
>
> When you use text to columns space delimited it puts the first word in
> the first column and second in second column, etc. so depending upon
> how many words are in the name, you never know which column the last
> word will end up in. It would be nice to make it start in the last
> column. We could use Access, too, if that would make any difference.
>
> I don't expect to receive much help on this, but you never know. I
> find some people in this newsgroup have the most amazing ideas.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Michele

Hi Michelle

Try a search for splitting names, this returns a number of threads you might find useful

I asked a similar, not so complex question not long ago and got some excellent help, so try changing the title of your query to something like "Help with splitting names"

In this thread

<http://www.excelforum.com/showthread.php?t=391763&highlight=splitting+names>

Bob Phillips in the 9th post says "I have a RegExp solution for any combination. It gets worse, because you can have name like William A. Carson Jr., or Ian St. John, or even Marquis de Sade." so I am sure he can help or provide more detail about his RegExp solution

—

Paul Sheppard

Paul Sheppard's Profile: <http://www.excelforum.com/member.php?action=getinfo&userid=24783>

View this thread: <http://www.excelforum.com/showthread.php?threadid=399787>

.

Re: A Challenge

- **References:**

- ◆ **A Challenge**

- ◇ *From: mjones*

- Prev by Date: **Re: converting formulas into values using a macro in visual basic edit**

- Next by Date: **Re: inserting a worksheet using visual basic**

- Previous by thread: **Re: A Challenge**

- Next by thread: **selecting rows of data**

- Index(es):

- ◆ **Date**

- ◆ **Thread**