

Re: Help – Does value exist in range of CLOSED workbook?

Source:

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Excel/microsoft.public.excel.worksheet.functions/2007-04/msg00947.html>

- *From:* "c mateland" <chuckmateland@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 16 Apr 2007 08:54:33 -0700
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Harlan, thank you very much for doing that research. At least I know to stop trying now.

I ended up with a routine that opens and copies the external source data into this workbook, which my formulas then work off of. It adds a few seconds to the opening of the file, but a benefit is that after copy, I don't have to worry about continual connectivity to the external file as I change criteria variables.

–Chuck

On Apr 16, 3:19 am, "Harlan Grove" <hrln...@xxxxxxxx> wrote:

"T. Valko" <biffinp...@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote...

It may have something to do with available memory.

...

Not necessarily.

Opened a new file. Entered this simple formula:

```
=VLOOKUP(A1,'C:\TV\[test.xls]Sheet1'!A:B,2,0)
```

It works just fine as long as TEXT.XLS is open. When I close TEXT.XLS I get a popup message to the effect: Excel cannot complete this operation with available resources.....

Excel passes '[test.xls]Sheet1'!A:B as a reference to a range in an

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open workbook. OTOH, Excel passes 'C:\TV\[test.xls]Sheet1!A:B as an array (perhaps as a reference to an array), but to do so it needs to create that array by reading the values from the closed workbook. Since Excel 2003 & prior can't handle arrays spanning 65536 or more rows, Excel can't handle this operation referencing a closed file.

This operation fails if you use A1:B65535. Heck, it fails if you use A1:B16376. *BUT* it works without complaining if you use A1:H16375. So it seems to me this is an old Excel 5 & prior limitation on array size (number of rows) returned by external references into closed workbooks that was never updated for the larger grid size in Excel 97 and later. It has nothing to do with available memory, since most PCs, even those bought around 2000, would have page files large enough to store arrays of a hundred thousand rows by a dozen columns. This limitation is hardcoded into Excel's own source code, just like 7 nested function calls in cell formulas, 30 arguments in function calls, 255 characters to define names.

IOW, buy a new machine with more RAM, and you'll still have this problem.