

## Re: Offset/match returns #value error

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Excel/microsoft.public.excel.worksheet.functions/2008-05/msg00925.html>

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- *From:* Geoff <Geoff@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Tue, 6 May 2008 19:56:01 -0700
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Thanks again Biff.

Yes the formula in the original post works fine using INDEX instead of OFFSET. The other formulas come from elsewhere in the workbook and were likewise returning #VALUE! from the OFFSET function – the difference was that they had specified height and width arguments to OFFSET, and so returned an array of cells.

What I was doing in my last post was building an array using INDEX as follows:

INDEX(Array, Row\_1, Column\_1):INDEX(Array, Row\_M, Column\_N)

to return an M x N array of values (In that particular case I used MATCH to determine Row\_1 and then MATCH + 6 to return Row\_7). This worked fine as long as the workbook Array comes from was open, but when it was closed, I got the #REF! error. The interesting thing is that when INDEX is used to return a single value it doesn't matter whether the workbook is open or closed. I'll keep working on it but in the end I may just have to use the original functions, calculate and then copy/paste values. Not ideal but in the interest of getting a result it may be necessary.

Thanks for your responses.

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There are 10 types of people in the world – those who understand binary and those who don't.

"T. Valko" wrote:

None of these formulas look anything like the formula you posted in your original post.

What are you trying to do?

I'm pretty sure INDEX can be used. If you want an array returned then you find the first cell of that array and write the formula to increment the row/column and as you copy you'll get your array.

Re: Offset/match returns #value error

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Biff  
Microsoft Excel MVP

"Geoff" <Geoff@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:FF9A87A2-BFBB-4267-9261-F8C78D93B194@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:FF9A87A2-BFBB-4267-9261-F8C78D93B194@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

Actually, this doesn't work as I thought it would – when the other  
workbook  
is open this works fine, but when it's closed, the formula returns #REF!

Back to the drawing board...

--

There are 10 types of people in the world – those who understand binary  
and  
those who don't.

"Geoff" wrote:

The answer to the question below is yes – here is the formula  
which  
replaces  
the one below using INDEX instead of OFFSET:

=VLOOKUP("Word",INDEX('[0208hi.xls]WKSHT\_NAME'!\$B\$9:\$I\$132,MATCH(\$A7,'[0208hi.xls]WKSHT\_NAME'!\$A\$9:\$A\$132),0),0)

Cheers

--

There are 10 types of people in the world – those who  
understand binary  
and  
those who don't.

"Geoff" wrote:

Thanks Biff

This works really well in most cases.  
However, where OFFSET has been  
used to  
return an array of values rather than a single  
value, can INDEX be used  
the  
same way? For example, in the following  
formula OFFSET is used to

Re: Offset/match returns #value error

return a  
7x8 array.

=VLOOKUP("Word",OFFSET('[0208hi.xls]WKSHT\_NAME'!\$A\$8,MATCH(\$A7,[

I know INDEX can return an entire row or  
column by setting the column  
or row  
argument to 0, but can it take say addresses  
of the top left and bottom  
right  
cell of an array and then return the entire  
array?

Cheers  
Geoff  
--

There are 10 types of people in the world –  
those who understand binary  
and  
those who don't.

"T. Valko" wrote:

Use INDEX instead of  
OFFSET.

I don't know how your row  
offset of MATCH()+4  
relates to C8 but you  
can  
probably figure it out.

--  
Biff  
Microsoft Excel MVP

"Geoff"  
<Geoff@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>  
wrote in message  
[news:9D08836F-AD1E-4566-AD58-64FD7155593D@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:9D08836F-AD1E-4566-AD58-64FD7155593D@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

The  
following  
function  
looks up a  
value in  
another

Re: Offset/match returns #value error

workbook:

```
=OFFSET('PATH\Testing\2008hi\[0208hi.xls]WKSHT_NAME'!$C$
```

Unfortunately when that particular workbook is closed, the function returns a #VALUE! error – so the referenced spreadsheet needs to be open for the formula to be evaluated. I could replace all the formulae with values but I would like to preserve the reference to the other spreadsheet in the cells if at all possible. Any suggestions?

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and  
those who  
don't.