

## Re: why>?

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- *From:* [dbahooker@xxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:dbahooker@xxxxxxxxxxxx)
  - *Date:* 31 May 2006 12:24:58 -0700
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re:

For doing repetitive, low-level stuff. The big difference between you and me is that for what you do, one task is pretty much the same as the

next one. Not for me. Each account I review requires different treatment because they don't all do the same thing and they operate in different places with different numbers of and relationships between subsidiary entities. I can't afford to take a cookie-cutter approach to

what I do. But when I need customer data from my own company's databases, I do query those databases. I just don't limit myself to using ONLY the database tools.

you can't afford to take a cookie-cutter approach then some enterprising Indian lad will automate the fuck out of your job.

In this world; there is room for 2 kinds of people:

- a) people that automate
- b) people that work in india.

which do you want to be Harlan??

You can't take a cookie-cutter approach.

Shit buddy— tell that to your boss... ok?

Say 'oh these cases are all different— they can't FIT in a database'

fucking dipshits.

your virulent bullshit is better off in a different newsgroup.

'oh but my data is too complex to fit into a database'

fucking dipshit

'oh but it all comes in XML'

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fucking dipshit

'oh but they email me XLS data'

fucking dipshit; dont you realize that Access can utilize Excel data better, faster, stronger than Excel can?

Access and Excel are both applications and mediums for storing data.

Excel has no value for either a data-storage format; nor for reporting on data.

Not everything you do is soooooooooooooo complex Harlan.  
Not all databases need to be properly normalized.

Bend some rules--- imagine an automated world.

your job--- sitting around and building contracts; or negotiating interest rates--- or whatever the fuck you think that you do---

your job is so fucking repetitive it makes me sick.

and you sit there and do the same damn thing week in and week out.... i mean--- where do you get off; actually billing your company for spending time playing video games?

that's all that excel is to me--- video games.

let's see who can copy and paste these cells the fastest.

fucking dipshits go eat shit for breakfast

Harlan Grove wrote:

dbahooker@xxxxxxxxxxxx wrote...

when you use formulas to validate entries; what are you comparing against..

A DATABASE?

...

Wrong again, as usual. Most of the data I work with as well as most of the people in my department come FROM customers. I'll be explicit because you've been easily confused about this before: DATA IS PROVIDED \*BY\* CUSTOMERS, \*\*NOT\*\* DATA \*ABOUT\* CUSTOMERS FROM MY

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DATABASES. So, nope, validating entries against e-mails or other spreadsheet, PDF, Word and plain text files usually. One customer (among a few hundred) sends MDB files, but the tables aren't normalized nor do they have primary keys.

can you leverage 10,000 spreadsheets into something valuable?

...

Don't try. That's not what properly conceived spreadsheet models do well. Granted! (And I've never denied this.) I wouldn't want to move tons of coal with minivans, but I wouldn't want to use Mack trucks (or trains) as ambulances.

However, \*IF\* similar data is located in consistent locations, it's not all that difficult (well, for me, not you) to collect it using macros. But I have an advantage: I can focus on getting the job done even when I use Excel; once Excel appears in the mix, you can't concentrate on anything other than your own pet peeves. Have you consider counselling? Or Prozac? Or maybe just some tranqs?

you CAN'T AUTOMATE excel like i can automate SQL. I mean---- don't you even fucking try to compare the 2.

If I were doing the repetitive, low-level stuff you do, I'd be using databases more. But I don't, so I don't.

for starters, MSDE comes with a full job scheduler.

...

For doing repetitive, low-level stuff. The big difference between you and me is that for what you do, one task is pretty much the same as the next one. Not for me. Each account I review requires different treatment because they don't all do the same thing and they operate in different places with different numbers of and relationships between subsidiary entities. I can't afford to take a cookie-cutter approach to what I do. But when I need customer data from my own company's databases, I do query those databases. I just don't limit myself to using ONLY the database tools.

You make a virtue out of your own inadequacies.

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Windows— your desktop— the basic task scheduler is a piece of shit; and it doesn't work for half of the things that you need it to do.

?

You mean look at the clock then run something manually?

Anyway, I don't produce reports, regularly scheduled or otherwise. I provide a handful of numbers that go into contracts. No doubt you'd consider those contracts to be nothing more than reports, and it's one of my fondest hopes that you actually make the mistake of treating some of your own contracts that way so you can learn from experience from some lawyers about such foolishness.

have a spreadsheet open up and refresh a couple of named ranges... and  
SEND AN EMAIL IF IT FAILS.

...

Who sends e-mails when INTERACTIVE users make entry errors? Well, you might, but sensible people would display error/warning messages directing the user to fix the error and how to do so/what's expected.

This is like the difference between running a train network vs a fleet of cabs. The train operator needs to know when any section of track becomes unusable, and they need to stop all trains heading towards those tracks, and then they'd need to figure out the optimal way to reroute them. For taxis, if one cab gets a flat tire, the dispatcher can send another cab for the passengers and a wrecker (if necessary) for the first cab. Or (make a better metaphor), if an accident closes a bridge, the dispatcher can radio that to the drivers, and they can radio back for info on alternative routes.

Maybe a poor metaphor, but my point is that the larger the system, the larger the support infrastructure and warning mechanisms need to be. Spreadsheets are not ideal for building large systems, but they are good for smaller subsystems and ad hoc analysis. You can't understand that. Too bad.

you couldn't do that if your life depended on it.

...

Couldn't or wouldn't? I certainly wouldn't, but does Excel provide Calculate event handlers? Why, yes, it does. Can event handlers, including the Calculate event handler, check the values of formulas, even validation formulas? Why, yes, they can! Can event handlers then send e-mails? Yes, but depending on the user's e-mail program it may

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require automation (e.g., in companies, such as mine, which use Lotus Notes).

have a spreadsheet open up and refresh a couple of named ranges... and  
SEND AN NET SEND IF IT FAILS.

you couldn't do that if your life depended on it.

...

What? Use VBA's Shell command to run net send? You believe you need to be a DBA to figure out how to do that?

take a backup of a spreadsheet WHILE the spreadsheet is being changed.

...

Here you show a fundamental lack of understanding of a critical difference between spreadsheets and databases. Spreadsheets, for good or ill, are loaded entirely into memory before they function. You could backup the file on disk while it's loaded in memory (or if you can't, it's the OS rather than Excel that prevents open files from being accessed by other processes). But if changes had already been made in the spreadsheet, either the file will be saved, in which case the file on disk is obsolete so not worth backing up, or the file won't be saved, in which case if anything it's the OS that prevents the backup process from opening it.

make a copy of a spreadsheet 'without any data in it'

Gosh, you mean use a macro to iterate through all worksheets, clearing all unlocked cells in the UsedRange, then saving the file under a different filename? Yeah, I must not even have thought how to do it, much less done it before.

**SORT A SPREADSHEET BASED ON VARIABLES AND  
CALCULATIONS**

you have to go through and make a new column; add the formula and then sort the whole worksheet.

...

Why? You're the one making reports. Maybe you have to sort recordsets repeatedly, but I don't do much sorting.

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this can frequently break other worksheets; so be careful lol

...

If you don't know what you're doing and have formulas elsewhere that refer to individual cells in tables that could be sorted, then you get what you deserve. On the other hand, if you refer to values in tables using VLOOKUP(.,.,.,0), no unpleasant surprises.

copy and paste is the same as PEN AND PAPER

...

Granted, but somehow pen and paper built the modern world. Databases, at least if there were more of you running them, would unmake it.