

Re: multiple pick from drop-down list

Source: <http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Excel/microsoft.public.excel/2008-07/msg00413.html>

- *From:* johnrb7865 <johnrb7865@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 10 Jul 2008 11:04:13 -0700
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Hi Rick, we now have figured out code to create a list box and select multiple items. We do not know how to get the selected items to populate rows, one below the next, along the left side in Excel. Any thoughts?

"Rick Rothstein (MVP - VB)" wrote:

Yep, MicroStation is what we were (they still are) using when I retired in 2002. As I recall, Version 8 had just come out (we hadn't begun adopting it as of then); I'm pretty sure we were using Version 7.something. Of course, I go back to when NJDOT first first got into electronic design with an Intergraph CADD system (a predecessor to MicroStation before Intergraph acquired an interest in Bentley and prior to Bentley splitting back away from Intergraph) running on a DEC mini-computer. I wrote a large, comprehensive FORTRAN IV program (similar to what you are working on) back in 1989-1990; it was my first and only FORTRAN program (I learned FORTRAN while developing this project). I called it EDQ (for Estimate and Distribution of Quantity, the name of the physical contract set sheets it replaced) and it was a pretty "spiffy" program for its day. This program had a component that automatically generated the entire Estimate and Distribution of Quantity sheet for incorporation into the contract set when it was compiled.

Okay, enough history.<g> The reason I had any concern is because in New Jersey, we had over 3500 Standard Items that could be included in a project... the Drainage section of the item list made up probably 30-40% of that list (there was an individual Standard Item for every size of everything!)... it is hard to imagine an Item list that is as small as the one Colorado seems to work with. Anyway, sure, send a copy of what you have and I look at it to see if I get any ideas that might help you out.

Rick

"johnrb7865" <johnrb7865@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:E85FC1D6-A647-4D4B-A01A-9B5029A7D558@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Hi Rick, wow, small world. We are actually a consultant working on the CADD

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systems for the Colorado DOT. These quantity calculation spreadsheets all feed a printable sheet that gets linked to MicroStation so the user can place it in the standard border and plot with their plan set. If you like I can send you a copy of one we have done so you could see what we are trying to get to. As to your suggestions, I don't think the user will have to worry about overwriting data as these are broken up by discipline. For example, we have one for drainage with inlets and culverts, etc. and a different one for bridge and even within disciplines we break them down to surfacing and guardrail, etc. Each sheet will have anywhere from a couple pay items up to 30. Probably not much more than that. Does that help?

Thanks,
John

"Rick Rothstein (MVP - VB)" wrote:

I'm retired now, but I worked 32+ years for in the New Jersey Department of Transportation as an engineer in Road Design. Out of curiosity, which DOT are you with (wouldn't it be cool if you said NJDOT)?

Alright, I'm not 100% sure how I would invoke its appearance yet, but I'm leaning to suggesting a modeless UserForm (so it can remain visible and still allow the user to interact with the worksheet) with a ListBox and CommandButton on it. The only concern I have with this overall multi-item selection model is the accidental over-writing of existing data. What if the user wants to replace 3 items, but accidentally selects 4 items from the list? Obviously, this is all doable in code, but I think the effort to control everything might get kind of large... do you warn the user about all over-writes (even if there are 100 of them)?... do you maintain some kind of undo buffer?... and so on. These issues don't come up with the

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single-cell
drop-down model... the user sees what he/she is changing.

Rick

"johnrb7865"
<johnrb7865@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in
message
news:931654DD-131A-4BFE-9815-B3E90E3D78BA@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Hi Rick, we are building a spreadsheet to handle pay items and quantities for a department of transportation. For example, the spreadsheet has a 10 digit pay item code, then a description, then a unit (like linear feet of guard rail or tons of asphalt). We have setup drop-down lists through data validation that allow the user to pick a single pay item and it will automatically populate the description and unit and setup the columns to calculate the quantity based on the unit. Typically we have a drop-down in the top row and once selected everything is calculated based on that selection. Now a user wants to be able to select multiple items and have it place each one in a cell across the top. Then our formula's will take off from there. So, obviously the drop-down list we are using to set each pay item individually won't work. Any other thoughts on how to do this would be great.

Thanks,
John

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"Rick Rothstein (MVP - VB)" wrote:

Drop-downs do not lend themselves to multiple selections (what should be shown in the text area when the drop-down is not dropped down? You would probably be best off using a ListBox (it supports multiple selections). Can you give a more detailed description of what you want to do?

Rick

"johnrb7865"

<johnrb7865@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

wrote in message

news:DD85C389-6AFC-4BC1-907E-9F60A0336E6F@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Does anyone know how to setup a drop-down type (or other type) list where I could pick multiple selections from the list and have it populate each selection in a different cell?

Thanks,

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John