

Access/Excel/Outlook/VBA/VSTO/SharePoint

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I have a huge assignment and right now I am doing research. I need to design basically a business tracking set of tools, either in Visual C++ or C# or Basic; or just Office with VBA. Basically we start a job, and then when it is complete, I need to have it so someone can just click a button and set a status, and then have email sent out to responsible parties, and once they finish their analysis, they click a button and metrics are auto generated. Metrics that display status and turn around time.

It started as an Access database, the metrics were in excel. So the way I thought it would work is set up a job in access, then set the status, have access send out emails via outlook, with a button embedded in the e-mail that can be click upon completion, that will time stamp the completion send an e-mail back and update the excel metric or the database, then have the database auto generate the metric and charts. I thought the button would work kinda like how Outlook accepts meeting invitations or how you can select between the fish or chicken.

So I was looking into VBA, then I heard about VSTO, the new VBA and SharePoint, SharePoint might be useful because people could interface with the database and set up jobs and view the stage the job was in without have Microsoft products via a web site. VSTO looks like it's the future of VBA, but I have heard mostly negative things about it.

Please anyone offer insight to which way I should go with this, and any references that will explain how to do the things I want to do with Office and VBA or VSTO, I have looked at a lot of books and they don't really get deep enough or specific enough into what I want to do. I know a little about all these tools but not much about any of them.

Thank you.

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