

Re: How can I automate a mail merge from Excel data & have it update every time?

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*Source:*

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/Word/microsoft.public.word.mailmerge.fields/2008-07/msg00245.html>

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- *From:* MagGyver <maggyver@xxxxxxxx>
  - *Date:* Wed, 23 Jul 2008 09:21:46 -0700 (PDT)
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Wow, Peter, that's quite a mouthful. Thanks ever so much for the quick response. To be honest I've never seen the VB editor in action before and quite frankly am having a hard time figuring out how to customize the code you provided, where I need to insert my own paths etc. When I talked about recording a macro, I was doing so in MS Word, visually using the macro recorder, rather than on the backend of the code through VB editor. I'm not entirely sure I have the knowledge or skills to operate on this level. I will show this to a programmer friend of mine, but in the meantime, is there any way you can see that someone could use the macro recorder in Word to accomplish what I'm after?

Thanks :)

On Jul 23, 2:19 am, "Peter Jamieson" <p...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

You can use an Excel macro such as the following. But please see the notes afterwards.

```
Sub mergeme()  
Dim bCreatedWordInstance As Boolean  
Dim objWord As Word.Application  
Dim objMMMD As Word.Document  
On Error Resume Next  
bCreatedWordInstance = False  
Set objWord = GetObject( "Word.Application")  
If objWord Is Nothing Then  
    Err.Clear  
    Set objWord = CreateObject("Word.Application")  
    bCreatedWordInstance = True  
End If  
  
If objWord Is Nothing Then  
    MsgBox "Could not start Word"  
    Err.Clear  
    On Error GoTo 0
```

Re: How can I automate a mail merge from Excel data & have it update every time?

```
Exit Sub
End If

' Let Word trap the errors
On Error GoTo 0
' During testing. make sure we can see what we are doing
objWord.Visible = True

Set objMMMD =
objWord.Documents.Open("C:\Users\pjj.DOMAINX\Documents\mergefromxl.docx")
objMMMD.Activate
With objMMMD
    .MailMerge.OpenDataSource _
        Name:=ActiveWorkbook.FullName, _
        sqlstatement:="SELECT * FROM [" & ActiveSheet.Name & "$]"
' Set this as required
    .MailMerge.Destination = wdSendToNewDocument
    .MailMerge.Execute
End With

' If you need to work with the output document,
' it is now the ActiveDocument, unless there were errors
objWord.ActiveDocument.SaveAs "my output document 2.docx"
objWord.ActiveDocument.Close savechanges:=wdDoNotSaveChanges

' Close the Mail Merge Main Document
objMMMD.Close savechanges:=wdDoNotSaveChanges
Set objMMMD = Nothing

' If you have dealt with the new document and want
' to close Word, use something like this...
If bCreatedWordInstance Then
    objWord.Quit
End If
Set objWord = Nothing

End Sub
```

Notes.

1. In the Excel VB Editor, with the relevant Excel document open, you need to use Tools->Reference make a reference to the Microsoft Word 12.0 Object Library
2. You should create the Mail Merge Main Document and go through the usual steps of connecting to the data source then laying out the labels. Then you should see the document back to being a "Normal Word Document", then select the Labels option and (probably) cancel the dialog. Do not reconnect the data source, because...
3. ...you need to save the Mail Merge Main Document with no data source

Re: How can I automate a mail merge from Excel data & have it update every time?

attached.

4. You probably also have to make the registry change described in

<http://support.microsoft.com/kb/825765/en-us>

5. The OpenDataSource code above assumes you want to open the currently selected sheet. If you want to open a specific named range or some other sheet, you will need to modify this line:

```
sqlstatement:="SELECT * FROM [" & ActiveSheet.Name & "$]"
```

You may also have to deal with other security issues, the business of how your friend initiates the macro, etc. etc.

Not much, eh? :-)

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Peter Jamieson <http://tips.pjmsn.me.uk>

"MagGyver" <maggy...@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message

<news:21b7efad-47b3-4dda-a62f-97401377d6a7@xx>

I know I must be just a step or two away from resolving this thing – let's hope this one's easy for someone out there.

My friend has an Excel 2007 spreadsheet for a mailing list she keeps. She updates this spreadsheet once or twice a month and wants to print labels from it using mail merge, but would like it as automated as possible. I'm assuming this must be done with a macro.

I can get the mail merge to work correctly if I do it manually; however if I record a macro of the merge process, it seems to freeze the spreadsheet in time to that moment and any subsequent updates to the list are not reflected in the next mail merge.

After perusing this newsgroup a bit and Googling for various results, I've tried a few things but cannot get it to work. I've tried creating an ODBC data source from the spreadsheet (which was missing a key field when I tried to link to it) and I've tried importing the data into Access or Outlook instead (not going to work either).

Re: How can I automate a mail merge from Excel data & have it update every time?

Once I solve this issue of the data not being updated in the merge, then I need to make the merge creation process as streamlined as possible for my friend (a computer novice). The advice I found on the Web was to create a Word shortcut using the /t and /m switches to load a new file and start the macro. I'm envisioning this to be the simplest way for her to access her labels. Does that sound about right?

Many thanks for any feedback you can offer. I'm banging my head against the wall on this one.