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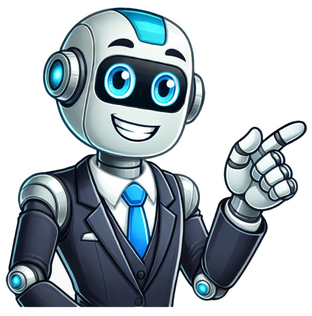

All BlogsExcel ResourcesAdd-ins in ExcelData Analysis and ToolsAdd-InsAdd-ins in ExcelAnalysis ToolPak In ExcelData ConsolidationConsolidate Function In ExcelData Analysis and ToolsGET: WSM ALL COURSES ACCESSDownload FREE Add-ins Excel Template and Follow Along!Add-ins Excel Template.xlsxTable Of ContentsAn add-ins is an extension that adds more features and options to Microsoft Excel. Providing additional functions to the user increases the power of Excel. An add-in needs to be enabled for usage. Once enabled, it activates as Excel is started.For example, Excel add-ins can perform tasks like creating, deleting, and updating the data of a workbook. 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An add-in is an Excel file that contains VBA modules. The file extension is “.xla” (in earlier Excel versions) or “.xlam” (in Excel 2007 and above). In most cases, an add-in is a ribbon-controlled application. You can use the main functions through custom buttons, tabs, and drop-down lists. After the successful installation, the add-in will start when Excel is opened. Using custom UI and a little XML manipulation, you can design graphical user interfaces like this: No matter the name, every Excel add-in is installed similarly. Just follow these simple steps for any add-in installation. Installing an add-in is not rocket science; you must follow the simple steps below. If the package has a .zip extension, extract it. We recommend creating a folder named “DataXL” (or whatever you want). After that, copy or move it to your preferred folder, for example, your Documents folder. Go to the ribbon and click the Developer tab. Click the Excel add-ins button. A new window will appear. Optional step: Learn how to enable the Developer tab on the ribbon if you have not seen it. Click Browse and locate the add-in file. Open the File Explorer and navigate to the folder containing your add-in file. Select the file and click “OK” to add it to the list of available add-ins. Once the file is selected, it should appear in the list of available add-ins. Make sure it is checked, then click “OK” to enable it. If you are in a hurry, watch our video about how to install the add-in quickly. We have to make two side notes here. After the successful installation, you have to move the add-in to a trusted location unblock the add-in (for security reasons) DataXL is a free productivity suite for Excel with many time-saving solutions. DataFX is our latest project. We’ve just picked the best Excel user-defined functions and implemented them into one efficient tool. Additional resources How to fix the disappearing add-in ribbon? 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We want to quickly create a visual reference that will display this information. There are plenty of Excel Add-ins we can utilize for data visualization. There are basically two ways to install and use an Add-in in Excel. Let’s start with the most straightforward method: Got to the Home tab in the Excel Main Ribbon. In the Add-Ins group, click on Add-ins. From here, you can choose from the most Popular Add-ins. Click on the Add-ins group, then Store. This will take you to the Office Add-ins Store. Browse or search for the add-in you want, then click on it. In our case, we will search for the People Graph Add-in. Click on Add to install the Add-in. Confirm, then click on Continue. As you can see, you will be given the option to customize the functions and appearance of the Add-in. Click on the Add-in window. A cog icon will appear, indicating access to the Settings. Select the Table icon to incorporate your data. Highlight your data and click Create. As you can see, the Add-in has helped us create a quick illustration of the data. Installing Third-Party Add-ins Go to the website of the Add-in maker. In our example, we will go to extendoffice.com. Click on Download Now to download it to your computer. Locate the downloaded file in your computer and extract. Double-click on the file to Open. Accept the License Agreement and Install the file. Click on the File tab in Excel. Select Options. Go to Add-ins on the left. Select Manage at the bottom, then select Excel Add-ins. Click Go. Click the Browse button. Locate the downloaded file on your computer. Click OK to install. Confirm that you want to install the Add-in. As you can see, the Add-in has been successfully integrated to Excel. Unblocking an Excel Add-in File Some users may have trouble accessing the Add-in even after successfully installing it and adding to the Ribbon. This is because Windows might have deemed the file to be a security risk. To unblock a file, follow these steps: Search for the Excel Add-in file you want to unblock. Make sure that the Add-in file is located in the Documents folder. Click on the File tab in Excel. Select Options. Go to the Trust Center. Click on Trust Center Settings. Then, Trusted Locations. Go to Add new location. Click on Browse to choose the folder. Click OK. Tick the Subfolders of this location are also trusted checkbox. Click OK. Close and reopen Excel. As you can see, Excel has recognized the file without any restriction. Fortunately, you only have to unblock a file once. Note: Some Add-ins from less than reputable sites may carry viruses. Do your due diligence and download only from trusted websites. Removing an Excel Add-in If you find that you no longer have the need for an Add-in, you can opt to remove it from Excel. To remove an Add-in, follow these steps: Go to the Home tab. Click on Add-ins. Then, Get Add-ins. Go to MY ADD-INS. From here, you will see a list of your installed Excel Add-ins. Click on the one you want to remove. Click on the 3 dots on the upper right-hand corner of the Add-in to access the options menu. Click on the Remove button. Click on Remove to confirm. Deactivate an Excel Add-in If you want to temporarily deactivate an Add-in, follow these steps: Click on the File tab in Excel. Go to Options, then select Add-ins. Go to Manage Add-ins. From there, locate the Add-in you want to inactivate. Untick the checkbox to Deactivate the Add-in. Click OK. Conclusion There you have it! If you followed all the steps above, you should be able to install and use Excel Add-ins with ease. Hopefully you can use the Add-ins to your advantage in your next Excel project. Download our 141 Free Excel Templates and Spreadsheets. 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If you prefer to store add-ins in a different folder, go to the Use a Different Folder section. To find your default Add-ins folder, you can use either of these methods: Browse for the Addin Folder Use my Excel Addin Folder Path Locator file. Browse for the Addin Folder To manually locate the default Excel AddIns folder, follow the steps below. Click the Developer tab on the Excel Ribbon. If it isn't visible, follow the steps here. Click the Excel Add-Ins command (icon is a cog shape) In the Add-Ins window, select any add-in in the list, and click the Browse button. That will open the Browse window, at the AddIns folder. Right-click on the path at the top of the Browse window, and click "Copy Address as Text" Click Cancel, to close the Browse window Click Cancel, to close the Add-Ins window. Open Windows Explorer, and paste the copied address into the address bar, then press Enter How to Use the Excel Addin Folder Path Locator File Download a copy of my Excel Addin Folder Path Locator file. Unzip the file, and store it in a folder on your computer (not the Addins folder) Next, open the file, and enable macros Go to the AddinsFolder sheet Click the Show Addins Folder Location button. In cell B4, the file path will appear. For example, in Windows 10, it might be located here: C:\Users\UserName\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\AddIns Click the Open Addins Folder button Windows Explorer will open, and will show the contents of the Addins Folder. Note: Close Excel before making any changes to the installed Addins How to Install an Excel Add-In Excel 2007 and Later To install an add-in, please follow these steps: In Windows Explorer, open the Microsoft Excel Addins folder on your computer. NOTE: If you aren't sure of the location, you can use the Excel Addin Folder Path file to find it. If you are using a different folder, see the Use a Different Folder section below. Unzip the add-in file, if necessary, to extract the add-in file -- it will probably have an xlam extension Save the add-in file in your Microsoft Addins folder. NOTE: You can store the add-in in any folder, but it's easier to install if it's stored in the Addins folder To allow Excel to open the add-in file automatically, you might need to unblock it. Right click on the add-in file and click Properties If the following warning appears, click the Unblock box, to add a check mark -- "This file came from another computer and might be blocked to help protect this computer" Click OK Open the Excel program In Excel: On the Ribbon, click the Developer tab (if you don't see that tab, follow the instructions here to show it) Click the Excel Add-Ins command (icon is a cog shape). In the Add-in dialog box, add a check mark to add-in's name. Note: If you do not see the add-in in the list, click the Browse button. Navigate to the folder where you saved the xlam file, and select the add-in file Click OK, to close the window. A new tab for the add-in might appear on the Ribbon, or a new command might appear on one of the existing tabs -- check the add-in notes, for help in locating it. If you don't see a button on the Ribbon, you can add icons to the Quick Access Toolbar, to run the macros. Use a Different Folder to Store Add-ins Instead of storing your Excel add-in in the default Micrsoft Excel Addins folder, you can use an other folder on your computer. To prevent problems, follow these steps to set that folder as a Trusted Location: In Excel, click the File Tab, and click Options In the list at the left, click Trust Centre Click the Trust Center Settings button In the list at the left, click Trusted Locations If your folder is not list there, click the Add New Location button Click the Browse button Find and select your folder, and click OK Click OK again, and your folder should appear in the Trusted Location list. Click OK, twice, to close the windows. Add-in Custom Tab Not Showing Due to Microsoft security updates, some Excel add-ins (mine and others) might not load correctly, and their custom tabs don't appear on the Excel Ribbon. Here are a few solutions you can try. -- Unblock the Add-in File -- Use a Trusted Location -- Check the Ribbon Unblock the Add-in File This is the most common solution to the missing add-in tab. Follow the steps below, to unblock the file, and it should open correctly. Close Excel, if it is running Open Windows Explorer, and open the folder where you stored the add-in file, usually the Microsoft Addins folder. NOTE: If you aren't sure of the Addins folder location, you can use the Excel Addin Folder Path file to find it. Then, close Excel again. To allow Excel to open the add-in file automatically, you might need to unblock it. Right click on the add-in file and click Properties If the following warning appears, click the Unblock box, to add a check mark -- "This file came from another computer and might be blocked to help protect this computer" Click OK Then, start Excel, and the custom tab for the add-in should appear on the Excel Ribbon Use a Trusted Location If your add-in is not stored in the defaault addins folder, the tabs could be missing because your folder is not a Trusted Location. Follow the instructions above, that show how to use a different folder as a Trusted Location for your add-in files. Check the Ribbon In one case that I've heard of, there was a problem with the Excel Ribbon. Try these steps, if the other solutions don't fix the problem. Right-click on an empty part of the Excel Ribbon, and click Customize the Ribbon In the list at the right, you should only see one tab named Developer If there is a second one, named Developer (Custom), uncheck that tab Then, close the Customize window, and close and restart Excel. Free Add-ins I use a few free add-ins that make Excel even better, and asked other people what free add-ins they use, and would recommend. I compiled a list, starting with my favourites. Maybe you'll see a few that you can download and install, and make working in Excel a bit easier. Click here to see my list of recommended free add-ins. Save a File as an Add-in You can create your own add-ins, by storing macros in a file, then saving it as an add-in: Record or create one or more macros in the file On the Excel Ribbon, click the File tab, and click Save As Click the Browse button, to open the Save As window (stay in the selected folder) At the bottom, type a File Name In the Save As Type drop down, select Excel Add-In (*.xlam) The AddIns folder should be automatically selected Click Save, then close Excel To use your add-in file, follow the steps above, to install it To remove an Excel add-in that you stored in the Addins folder, follow these steps. A) Open the Add-ins Window Use one of these methods to open the Add-ins window: If the Developer tab is showing on your Excel Ribbon, click that, then click the Excel Add-ins command. OR, click the File tab, then click Options, and click the Add-Ins category. At the bottom of the window, in the Manage drop down list, choose Excel Add-ins, and then click Go B) Inactivate the Add-in After the Add-ins dialog box opens, follow these steps to inactivate the add-in: In the Add-Ins available list, click on the add-in that you want to inactivate -- its description will appear below the list. Read that, to make sure that it's the add-in that you want to remove Then, remove the check mark beside the Add-in's name Next, click OK, to close the Add-ins window. C) Remove the Add-in Next follow these steps to remove the add-in file: Close Excel Go to the Addins folder (follow the steps to find it), or the folder where you stored the Excel add-in that you want to remove Delete the add-in file, or move it to a different folder, so it won't open automatically, when Excel starts. Restart Excel, and the add-in will no longer appear. Get Monthly Excel Tips! Don't miss my monthly Excel newsletter! You'll get quick tips, article links, and a bit of fun. Add your email, and click Subscribe. Next, when you get my reply, click the Confirm button. I add this step to protect you from spam! Related Links Free Excel Add-ins All BlogsExcel ResourcesAdd-ins in ExcelData Analysis and ToolsAdd-InsAdd-ins in ExcelAnalysis ToolPak In ExcelData ConsolidationConsolidate Function In ExcelData Analysis and ToolsGET: WSM ALL COURSES ACCESSDownload FREE Add-ins Excel Template and Follow Along!Add-ins Excel Template.xlsxTable Of ContentsAn add-ins is an extension that adds more features and options to Microsoft Excel. Providing additional functions to the user increases the power of Excel. An add-in needs to be enabled for usage. Once enabled, it activates as Excel is started.For example, Excel add-ins can perform tasks like creating, deleting, and updating the data of a workbook. Moreover, one can add buttons to the Excel ribbon and run custom functions with add-ins.The Solver, Data Analysis (Analysis ToolPak), and Analysis ToolPak-VBA are some essential add-ins.The purposes of activating add-ins are listed as follows: -To interact with the objects of ExcelTo avail an extended range of functions and buttonsTo facilitate the setting up of standard add-ins throughout an organizationTo serve the varied needs of a broad audienceIn Excel, one can access several Add-ins from “Add-ins” under the “Options” button of the "File" tab. In addition, one can select from the drop-down “Manage” in the “Add-ins” window for more add-ins.By default, it might hide some add-ins. One can view the unhidden add-ins in the "Data" tab on the Excel ribbon. For example, it is shown in the following image.If Excel is not displaying the add-ins, they need to be installed. The steps to install Excel add-ins are listed as follows: First, click on the “File” tab located at the top left corner of Excel. Click “Options,” as shown in the following image. The “Excel Options” window opens. Select “Add-ins.” There is a box to the right of "Manage" at the bottom. Click the arrow to view the drop-down menu. Select "Excel add-ins" and click "Go." The “Add-ins” dialog box appears. Select the required checkboxes and click “OK.” We have selected all four add-ins. The “Data Analysis” and “Solver” options appear under the “Data tab” of the Excel ribbon. The types of add-ins are listed as follows:Inbuilt add-ins: These are built into the system. One can unhide them by performing the steps listed under the preceding heading (how to install add-ins in Excel?).Downloadable add-ins: These can be downloaded from the Microsoft website (www.office.com).Custom add-ins: These are designed to support the basic functionality of Excel. They may be free or chargeable. ChartExpo is an example of a custom add-in, offering advanced charting tools to enhance Excel's data visualization capabilities. The "Data Analysis Tools" pack analyzes statistics, finance, and engineering data.The various tools available under the "Data Analysis" add-in are shown in the following image.Generally, an add-in is created with the help of VBA macros. Let us learn to create an add-in (in all Excel files) for a custom function. For this, first, we make a custom function.Let us consider some examples.We want to extract comments from specific cells of Excel. Then, create an add-in for the same.The steps for creating an add-in and extracting comments from cells are listed as follows: Step 1: Open a new workbook. Step 2: Press the shortcut “ALT+F11” to access the “Visual Basic Editor.” The following image shows the main screen of Microsoft Visual Basic for Applications. Step 3: Click “Module” under the “Insert” tab, shown in the following image. Step 4: Enter the following code in the “module” window. Function TakeOutComment(CommentCell As Range) As StringTakeOutComment = CommentCell.Comment.TextEnd Function Step 5: Once the code is entered, save the file with the type “Excel add-in.” Step 6: Open the file containing comments. Step 7: Select " Options " in the "File" tab and select "Options." Choose "Add-ins." In the box to the right of "Manage," select "Excel Add-ins." Click "Go." Click the "Browse" option in the "Add-ins" dialog box. Step 8: Select the add-in file that had been saved. Click “Ok.” We saved the file with the name "Excel Add-in." Step 9: The workbook's name (Excel Add-in) that we had saved appears as an add-in, as shown in the following image. This add-in can be applied as an Excel formula to extract comments. Step 10: Go to the sheet containing comments. The names of three cities appear with comments, as shown in the following image. Step 11: In cell B1, enter the symbol "equal to" followed by the function's name. Type "TakeOutComment," as shown in the following image. Step 12: Select cell A1 as the reference. It extracts the comment from the mentioned cell. Since there are no comments in cells A2 and A3, the formula returns “#VALUE!.”We want to hide Excel worksheets except for the active sheet. Create an add-in and icon on the Excel toolbar for the same.The steps to hide worksheets (except for the currently active sheet) and, after that, create an add-in and icon are listed as follows: Step 1: Open a new workbook. Step 2: In the “Visual Basic” window, insert a “Module” from the Insert tab. The same is shown in the following image. Step 3: Copy and paste the following code into the module. Sub Hide_All_Worksheets_()Dim As WorksheetFor Each Ws In ActiveWorkbook.WorksheetsIf Ws.Name ActiveSheet.Name ThenWs.Visible = xlSheetVeryHiddenEnd IfNext WsEnd Sub Step 4: Save this workbook with the type “Excel add-in.” Step 5: Add this add-in to the new workbook. For this, click “Options” under the “File” tab. Select “Add-ins.” In the box to the right of “Manage,” select “Excel add-in” Click “Go.” In the “Add-ins” window, choose “Browse.” Step 6: Select the saved add-in file. Click “Ok.” We have saved the file with the name “Hide All Worksheets.” Step 7: The new add-in “Hide All Worksheets” appears in the “Add-ins” window. Step 8: Right-click the Excel ribbon and select “Customize the Ribbon.” Step 9: The “Excel Options” window appears. Click “Quick Access Toolbar.” Under the drop-down of “Choose commands from,” select “macros.” In the box following this drop-down, choose the name of the macro. Then, click “Add” followed by “OK.” The tasks of this step are shown with the help of black arrows in the following image. Step 10: A small icon appears on the toolbar. Clicking this icon hides all worksheets except for the currently active sheet. If we want to unhide the sheets hidden in the preceding example (example #2). Create an add-in and toolbar icon for the same.The steps to unhide the sheets and, after that, create an add-in and toolbar icon are listed as follows: Step 1: Copy and paste the following code to the “Module” inserted in Microsoft Visual Basic for Applications. Sub UnHide_All_HiddenSheets_()Dim Ws As WorksheetFor Each Ws In ActiveWorkbook.WorksheetsWs.Visible = xlSheetVisibleNext WsEnd Sub Step 2: Save the file as “Excel add-in.” Add this add-in to the sheet. Right-click the Excel ribbon and choose the option "Customize the ribbon." Then, in the "Quick Access Toolbar," select

authors Thanks to all authors for creating a page that has been read 645,429 times.