

Is Your Spreadsheet Overweight?

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10 signs that your spreadsheet is ready for a FileMaker database makeover

LONDON, UK – February 22, 2005 – The love affair between businesses and their spreadsheets is threatened by a weight problem. Excellent in their original use of managing financial and other numerical information, spreadsheets have become overweight as they are used for many tasks and business processes better suited for a database, such as customer information, schedule management, inventory tracking, order management and resource allocation.

To help Microsoft Excel users get the most from their data, FileMaker, Inc. offers a web-based version of a “data spa” at www.filemaker.com/technologies/excel.html, where users can go and find out when a spreadsheet is “carrying too much weight” and should be converted to a database solution.

The website provides a “Drag, Drop and Go” demo that shows how easily Excel users can convert spreadsheet information into a ready-to-use database by simply dragging a spreadsheet icon onto a FileMaker Pro icon. Also available is a free 16-page guide on using FileMaker Pro together with Excel, written by noted technology author Maria Langer. The web site features tips and techniques for exchanging data between Excel and FileMaker Pro applications, plus everything you need to know to easily transform Excel spreadsheets into rich, powerful solutions that can be customized.

“FileMaker Pro 7 provides overweight spreadsheets with a fast and painless data diet plan,” said Ryan Rosenberg, vice president of marketing and services, FileMaker, Inc. “Spreadsheets can focus on crunching numbers and forecasting for individual users while the rest of a company’s data can get in competitive shape by taking advantage of a database’s capabilities to manage and share multiple types of information.”

“Excel spreadsheets continue to be great for financial information, but spreadsheets become overweight when they are used for handling non-numerical information that should be managed by a database,” said Maria Langer, who has authored several books on Microsoft Excel, FileMaker Pro and Quicken. “FileMaker is an excellent companion to Excel in data applications. In fact, many companies actually use a FileMaker Pro database to store and manage all their spreadsheets.”

10 Signs That Your Spreadsheet May Be Overweight

There are several indications when a spreadsheet is carrying too much of a data load and should be converted to a database, including:

1. When you are tracking your customers or managing a contact list and you would like to send them emails automatically or send letters using address labels from within the application
2. When data queries are important
3. When the data needs to be shared with others
4. When data integrity (the need to keep data protected from being changed) is critical
5. Searching and sorting data without changing the value or formula related to the data
6. Controlling access to files
7. Publishing data to the web
8. Organizing data that has multiple relationships
9. Whenever more than one person is updating data
10. Organizing large amounts of data

About FileMaker, Inc.

FileMaker Pro is used by millions of individuals and workgroups around the world to be more productive and efficient. Business, education and government customers rely on FileMaker to manage people, projects, images, assets and other information. In addition to being the number one-selling easy-to-use database software, the award-winning FileMaker product line also includes two software server applications, mobile database products, low-cost Applications that automate basic business tasks, ready-to-use Starter Solutions, and tools to create and share solutions from the desktop to the web. FileMaker, Inc. is a subsidiary of Apple Computer, Inc. (NASDAQ: AAPL).

CUSTOMER CONTACT

For information on where to purchase FileMaker products please call:

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