
☑ Checkboxes on the grid!! Plus, Copilot is Python's new best friend

Fri, Oct 6, 2023 at 12:29 PM



Hello %Subscriber:first_name%

After 38 years of existence (completed on September 30th,) Excel keeps evolving and improving daily, and I'm thrilled to share some of the latest advancements with you. Learning Python and writing Python code is now easier without leaving Excel. There are also several Excel events coming up where you can delve deep into Excel's potential and level up your skills.

[This newsletter issue and its previous ones are also available at solveandexcel.ca/excel_news/]

WHAT I'VE BEEN UP TO

My training program on **automating recurring reporting procedures in Excel** is [open for registration](#).

GUEST PRESENTER

I will be presenting at the **Excel Virtually Global**, one of the biggest Excel events in the industry, delivered entirely online and priced as "donate what you can to a charity of your choice."

"The SPILL effect – can't live without it!" is the topic of my presentation on **Tuesday, October 10th, at 11:00 PM UTC**. I will explore how dynamic array functions work and present several examples that I have applied in several of my Excel projects.

EXCEL IMPROVEMENTS AND NEW FEATURES

[Data Validation Autocomplete](#) [Excel for Windows] [Excel for Mac – Insiders]

The Autocomplete feature for data validation dropdown lists has been one of the most wanted features for years. After being available in Excel for the Web, Mobile devices and the Beta channel for a long time, it is finally being rolled out to all [Microsoft 365 desktop users](#) - Current channel and for [Windows and Excel for Mac Insiders](#).

Autocomplete Data Validation speeds up data entry and validation by suggesting possible values for dropdown lists.

[Python in Excel](#) [Excel for Windows – Insiders Beta]

Python in Excel is a new feature that enables users to perform complex data analysis and machine learning tasks directly from Excel, without leaving the familiar Excel environment. **It is now available to all Enterprise, Business, Education, and Family and Personal users running Beta Channel on Windows (build 16.0.16818.20000 or later)**. Python in Excel runs securely on the Microsoft Cloud and leverages the best of Python analytics via Anaconda, making it a powerful tool for analysts and data scientists alike.

[Python Editor from Excel Labs](#) [Excel for Windows – Insiders Beta]

The Python Editor in Excel Labs is a new tool that allows you to write and edit Python formulas in Excel. It has features like syntax highlighting and code completion, and it can also be used to write longer sections of code and to debug your code.

[Copilot Support for Python in Excel](#) [Excel for Windows]

Copilot is the new AI engine supporting most apps in the Microsoft 365 environment. In Excel, Copilot will support Python, and we can use it to write code to analyze data. It can help you access popular Python libraries and visualizations and can be used to break down complex problems iteratively. It is especially useful for data scientists and analysts who need to use Python. Copilot support for Python in Excel will be available in preview later this year, starting with Excel for Windows in English.

I am convinced that Copilot will soon change drastically the way we work in the Microsoft 365 environment. You can read more about [Microsoft's vision for Copilot's integration](#) with the several tools we use, [when it will become available](#), [pricing](#) and [how to get started](#) with Microsoft 365 Copilot.

[Workbook links](#) [Excel for Windows]

Linking Excel files has always caused issues; with this new feature though, it is much better managed and easier to control. The “Edit Links” pop-up on the Data tab has been replaced with the more intuitive “Workbook Links” pane, which is more robust in finding links and breaking them if need be. Also included with this update is that copy and paste across workbooks is less likely to bring external links with them, including aspects such as Data validation or Conditional formatting. David Benaim explains it in detail [here](#).

[Catch up](#) [Excel for the Web]

When co-authoring a workbook, you will now see “Show changes” on the top right of the screen. This will unveil the “Show changes” pane, which will give you all the changes made by other collaborators on a cell-by-cell basis since you last opened the workbook.

[Power Query Web by examples](#) [Excel for Windows]

When importing data from the Web from Excel's Data tab, you can now import non-tabular data using AI. There are two additional enhancements. 1) Web by example: You can start typing in the first entry, and then Excel's Power Query will try to guess and fill in the rest of the column 2) Suggested Tables: Excel will map the data together into some tabular data sets as suggestions.

[Checkboxes](#) [Excel for Windows - Insiders]

Select cells and, on the Insert tab, click the button Checkbox, and you will have checkboxes inside cells. These evaluate to TRUE when ticked and FALSE otherwise. You can also check multiple checkboxes by selecting them and pressing the space bar.

This is one of those “little” improvements with potential use for many scenarios.

A summary of the main new features and a breakdown by Excel version is available [here](#).

EXCEL EVENTS

MS Excel Toronto

Nov 8 - ChatGPT & Excel | Steve Kraynak

Do you want to know how ChatGPT can help you get work done in Excel? This session has you covered. Steve we'll give a brief overview of ChatGPT and show a few of the common ways that you can get started with it. He will also point out some aspects of ChatGPT that you need to be mindful of when using it. Then Steve will show and discuss some interesting ways that you might want use it in conjunction with Excel.

Wednesday, November 8, 2023 | 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM EST
Online Event - REGISTRATION IS FREE

ChatGPT & Excel

MS EXCEL
TORONTO

WE CONNECT · WE SHARE · WE LEARN

Steve Kraynak
SumProduct Director

PAST

Oct 4 - How to build an Excel automation machine | Mark Proctor

When it comes to Excel automation, we are all using the same micro actions (e.g. open a workbook, change a cell value, save a PDF, etc). If we place those micro actions into a specific order we create an automated process.

But, what if we had re-usable automation machine already filled with all the micro actions we need? Then all we need to do is put the actions into the right order!

This session explored how to create your own automation machine and how you can use it for building Excel automation processes fast.



Sept 13 - Python in Excel | Ndeyanta Jallow, Chris Gross and Keyur Patel

We are excited to announce a presentation by three members of the Microsoft Excel team on the new Python feature in Excel. Python is a popular programming language used for data analysis, visualization, and machine learning by businesses and students alike. With Python in Excel, you can natively combine Python and Excel analytics in the same workbook. You can type Python directly into a cell, and the calculations will run in the Microsoft Cloud. The results will be returned to the worksheet, including plots and visualizations.



Other Events

[The Active Cell](#)

December 7-9, 2023 – Las Vegas, USA

Whether you're an Excel newbie, a seasoned pro, or somewhere in between, the upcoming Microsoft Excel Conference in Vegas is THE place to be! 🌟

Experience tailor-made workshops, insightful presentations, and exclusive live sessions to level up your Excel game. Get hands-on training from the experts themselves and learn to maneuver Excel like never before! 🚀

And it's not just about learning - it's about connecting! Network with a vibrant community of Excel enthusiasts, make new friends, and who knows - your next big opportunity might just be a conversation away! 🤝

Registrations are filling up fast! So what are you waiting for? Excel awaits you. Grab your spot NOW!

For 10% discount, use the promo code: **celia**

Registration link: [The Active Cell](#)

Excel Virtually Global - October 10 – 12, 2023

Donate what you can to participate. This virtual conference, now in its eighth year, features Excel, Data Platform and PowerPoint MVPs, and other acknowledged experts from Microsoft and / or around the globe to present, answer questions and demonstrate the future of Excel and how it will make your life easier, personally and professionally.

Subjects covered include Excel, financial modelling, dynamic arrays, Power Pivot, Power Query and Power BI amongst other topics. There will be sessions in English, Portuguese and Spanish.

Global Excel Summit – February 6-7, 2024 (in-person), February 8, 2024 (online)

Click "Get Early Bird Tickets" and apply coupon code **CELIA10** on checkout for an **extra 10% OFF**. For the best deals and offers, don't forget to shop through our **affiliate link!**

EXCEL RESOURCES

Monkey Tools allows you to create Excel-based parameter table and function to easily use values from your Excel file in your queries. I love this tool! ❤️



RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Power BI for the Excel Data Analyst e-Book by Wyn Hopkins.

Microsoft 365 Excel: The Only App That Matters by Mike Girvin.

Advanced Excel Formulas: Unleashing Brilliance with Excel Formulas Alan Murray

Guerrilla Data Analysis 3rd Edition by Oz du Soliel and Bill Jelen.

See Books

COOL STUFF

Note: I earn a sales commission on some of the products mentioned in this newsletter. It helps support the free content on this newsletter, my social media accounts and my website.

THAT'S A WRAP!

I don't know about you, but I do not foresee Excel to dye anytime soon as some have been declaring. Excel continues to push boundaries, and with the inclusion of Python, the possibilities are limitless.

As we journey through this exciting phase, I'm grateful for your continued support and enthusiasm. A big thank you to David Benaim for his help curating the information in this newsletter.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for my presentation in October, and until then, happy spreadsheeting!

More Excel tips on my [YouTube Channel](#) and [Blog](#) and all the specialized information you need about Excel and Data Analysis at Bill Jelen's Mr. Excel Book store

I hope you found this information useful. If you can think of anyone who could benefit from this newsletter, please take a moment to **forward this email** to that person. **You never know when a piece of information can impact someone's life!**

Please take good care. I'll come back soon with more content!

Cheers



Celia Alves - Microsoft Excel MVP

Creator of Excel Awesomeness for Professionals and Companies

Your Trainer at the [Excel Snap Reports Community](#)



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