



Excel 2007 VBA Programmer's Reference

By John Green, Stephen Bullen, Rob Bovey, Michael Alexander



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This book is aimed squarely at Excel users who want to harness the power of the VBA language in their Excel applications. At all times, the VBA language is presented in the context of Excel, not just as a general application programming language.

The Primer has been written for those who are new to VBA programming and the Excel object model. It introduces the VBA language and the features of the language that are common to all VBA applications. It explains the relationship between collections, objects, properties, methods, and events and shows how to relate these concepts to Excel through its object model. It also shows how to use the Visual Basic Editor and its multitude of tools, including how to obtain help.

The middle section of the book takes the key objects in Excel and shows, through many practical examples, how to go about working with those objects. The techniques presented have been developed through the exchange of ideas of many talented Excel VBA programmers over many years and show the best way to gain access to workbooks, worksheets, charts, ranges, and so on. The emphasis is on efficiency—that is, how to write code that is readable and easy to maintain and that runs at maximum speed. In addition, the chapters devoted to accessing external databases detail techniques for accessing data in a range of formats.

The final four chapters of the book address the following advanced issues: linking Excel to the Internet, writing code for international compatibility, programming the Visual Basic Editor, and how to use the functions in the Win32 API (Windows 32-bit Application Programming Interface).

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Editorial Review

From the Back Cover

Get ready to take your Excel applications to the next level by harnessing the power of the VBA language. This comprehensive resource will help you gain more control over your spreadsheets by using VBA while also showing you how to develop more dynamic Excel applications for other users. From introductory concepts to advanced developer topics, it guides you through every aspect of Excel 2007, including the Ribbon and the XML file formats.

In order to master all of the new features of this program, you'll find an introduction to VBA and details on how to use it to enhance Excel. You'll then learn how to work with the key objects and uncover the best ways to gain access to workbooks, worksheets, charts, and more. And you'll find out how to write code for international compatibility, program the Visual Basic Editor, and use the functions in the Win32 API, which will expand your Excel VBA programming skills.

What you will learn from this book

- How to write code that is readable, easy to maintain, and runs at maximum speed
- Tips for utilizing the Visual Basic® Editor and its multitude of tools
- Techniques for accessing data in a range of formats
- Ways to set up your applications and convert them to add-ins
- How to manipulate the Office XML file formats
- A thorough explanation of RibbonX
- Best practices for managing external data and using OLAP data sources
- Methods for effectively debugging your application
- Tips for packaging and distributing customized applications to other users

Who is this book for?

This book is for Excel users and programmers from beginning to advanced. You should have a reasonable working knowledge of Excel and a full installation of the software.

Wrox Programmer's References are designed to give the experienced developer straight facts on a new technology, without hype or unnecessary explanations. They deliver hard information with plenty of practical examples to help you apply new tools to your development projects today.

About the Author

John Green lives and works in Sydney, Australia, as an independent computer consultant, specializing in Excel and Access. He has 35 years of computing experience, a Chemical Engineering degree, and an MBA. He wrote his first programs in FORTRAN, took a part in the evolution of specialized planning languages on mainframes and, in the early '80s, became interested in spreadsheet systems, including 1-2-3 and Excel. John established his company, Execuplan Consulting, in 1980, specializing in developing computerbased planning applications and in training. He has led training seminars for software applications and operating systems both in Australia and overseas.

John has had regular columns in a number of Australian magazines and has contributed chapters to a number of books including *Excel Expert Solutions* and *Using Visual Basic for Applications 5*. He also co-authored

Professional Excel Development with Stephen Bullen and Rob Bovey.

From 1995 to 2005 he was accorded the status of MVP (Most Valuable Professional) by Microsoft for his contributions to the CompuServe Excel forum and MS Internet newsgroups.

John Green contributed the Introduction, Chapters 1–11, 13, 15–17, and 19 to this book.

Stephen Bullen lives in Woodford Green, London, England, with his partner Clare, daughter Becky, and their dogs, Fluffy and Charlie. He has two other daughters, Jane and Katie, from his first marriage.

A graduate of Oxford University, Stephen has an MA in Engineering, Economics, and Management, providing a unique blend of both business and technical skills. He has been providing Excel consulting and application development services since 1994, originally as an employee of Price Waterhouse Management Consultants and later as an independent consultant trading under the names of Business Modelling Solutions Limited and Office Automation Limited. Stephen now works for Barclays Capital in London, developing trading systems for complex exotic derivative products.

The Office Automation web site, www.oaltd.co.uk, provides a number of helpful and interesting utilities, examples, tips and techniques to help in your use of Excel and development of Excel applications.

As well as co-authoring previous editions of the *Excel VBA Programmer's Reference*, Stephen co-authored *Professional Excel Development*.

In addition to his consulting and writing assignments, Stephen actively supports the Excel user community in Microsoft's peer-to-peer support newsgroups and the Daily Dose of Excel blog. In recognition of his knowledge, skills and contributions, Microsoft has awarded him the title of Most Valuable Professional each year since 1996.

Stephen Bullen contributed Chapters 14, 18, 24–27, and Appendix B to this book.

Rob Bovey is president of Application Professionals, a software development company specializing in Microsoft Office, Visual Basic, and SQL Server applications. He brings many years' experience creating financial, accounting, and executive information systems for corporate users to Application Professionals. You can visit the Application Professionals web site at www.appspro.com.

Rob developed several add-ins shipped by Microsoft for Microsoft Excel and co-authored the *Microsoft Excel 97 Developers Kit* and *Professional Excel Development*. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree from The Rochester Institute of Technology and his MBA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE) and a Microsoft Certified Solution Developer (MCSD). Microsoft has awarded him the title of Most Valuable Professional each year since 1995.

Rob Bovey contributed Chapters 20–22 to this book.

Michael Alexander is a Microsoft Certified Application Developer (MCAD) with more than 14 years' experience consulting and developing office solutions. He parlayed his experience with VBA and VB into a successful consulting practice in the private sector, developing middleware and reporting solutions for a wide variety of industries. He currently lives in Frisco, Texas, where he serves as a Senior Program Manager for a top technology firm. Michael is the author of several books on Microsoft Access and Excel, and is the principle behind DataPig Technologies, where he shares Access and Excel knowledge with the Office community.

Michael Alexander contributed Chapters 12 and 23 and Appendices A and C to this book.

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