

TOOL BUILDING AUTOMATION

504 gcb



Time to Update ICPI Tools

How long does it take to update your tool (other than time to download and upload tool to PEPFAR Sharepoint?

Tool/Tool Set Name

Your answer

Time to update

- < 0.5 hours
- 0.5 2 hours (quarter day)
- 2-4 hours (half day)
- 4-8 hours (full day)
- 8+ hours (more than one day)

How long does it take to update your tools each quarter?



AUTOMATE THE BORING STUFF

PRACTICAL PROGRAMMING

AL SWEIGART



Purpose:

Discuss what automating a tool and its production looks like and how to streamline your own processes



What is automation?



What parts of the tool building process slow things down?

Updating static tables

Limited resources (staff and software)

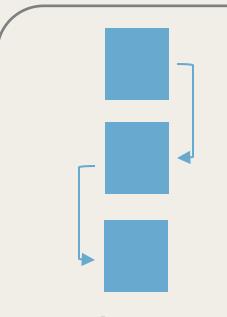
Working across multiple platforms (eg SAS & Excel)

Complexity of calculations

Multiple stakeholders

Need to better understand the program

Changing data structure



Manual copying and pasting within and between original, intermediate and final dashboard files.



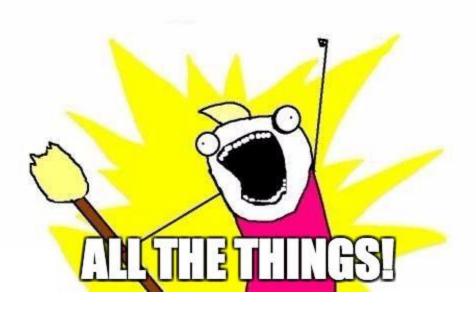
Lots of manual steps to follow on each OU's file

Static text in sheets instead of formulas



Heavily reliant on point and click to update each OU file

Areas for improvement

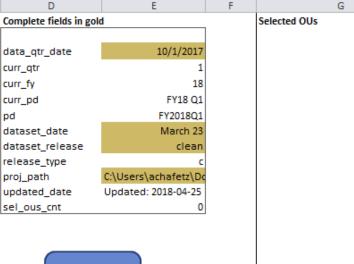




```
2
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6
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8
9
```

Use of R

- Package/function to work in any period, no updating necessary
- Apply official names
- Create TX_NET_NEW & cumulative variable
- Subsetting & aggregation to limit dataset size
- Generate csv for each OU (seconds per OU)
- 1 line of code:
 genPPR("~/ICPI/Data")





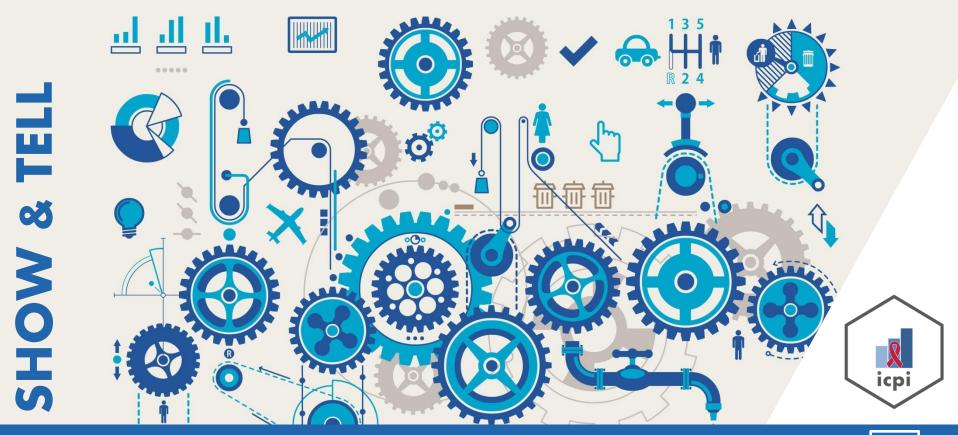
Automated/Auto-Updating Excel Template

- ~ 90% formulas, 10% hard coded
- Reliance on reference tables and Pivot tables
- Dynamic ranges
- Generic column headers for periods
- Change 3 cells in the tool to update

```
Application.ScreenUpdating = False
'set directory
    Set proj path = Range("proj path")
    compl fldr = proj path & "Reports\"
' set template
    Set tmplWkbk = ActiveWorkbook
'unhide sheets
    Sheets("RawData").Visible = True
    Sheets("rs"). Visible = True
'add dates for saving and release type (initial or clean)
    Sheets("rs").Activate
    Set pd = Range("pd")
    Set release type = Range("release type")
    rng = Range("sel ous cnt"). Value + 1
    Set SelectedOpUnits = Sheets("rs").Range(Cells(2, 7), Cells(rng, 7))
    For Each OpUnit In SelectedOpUnits
        OpUnit ns = Replace(Replace(OpUnit, " ", ""), "'", "")
    'create OU specific folder
        OUpath = compl fldr & "PPR " & OpUnit ns & pd
        If Len(Dir(OUpath, vbDirectory)) = 0 Then MkDir OUpath
        OUcompl fldr = OUpath & "\"
    ' open csv
        Workbooks.Open Filename:=
             proj path & "ExcelOutput\PPRdata_" & OpUnit & "_" & pd & ".csv"
        Set dataWkbk = ActiveWorkbook
    'count rows to import over
        LastRow = Range("A1").CurrentRegion.Rows.Count
        LastCol = Range("A1").CurrentRegion.Columns.Count
    'copy over rows to bring in from csv to template
        Range (Cells (2, 1), Cells (LastRow, LastCol)). Select
        Selection.Copy
        tmplWkbk.Activate
        Sheets ("RawData") . Activate
        Range ("A2") . Select
        ActiveSheet.Paste
    'hide background tabs
        Sheets("RawData").Visible = False
        Sheets("rs"). Visible = False
    'refresh all pivot tables
        ActiveWorkbook.RefreshAll
    'open to main page
        Sheets ("Info") . Select
        ActiveSheet.Unprotect
    'hard code date updated & protect
        Range("C57"). Value = "Updated: " & VBA. Format(Now, "yyyy-mm-dd")
        Application.CutCopvMode = False
        Range ("C1") . Select
        ActiveSheet.Protect DrawingObjects:=True, Contents:=True, Scenarios:=True
        ActiveSheet.EnableSelection = xlNoSelection
```

VBA to populate individual tools

- GUI form to interact with
- No updating to code necessary
- Generates & zips reports by operating unit (seconds per OU)



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Notes and Attribution

- Prepared for the ICPI/DIV "Show and Tell" on "Tool Building Automation" (DC), April 26, 2018
- Image Sources
 - Cover http://www.globalfreepress.com/why-implementing-automation-tools-willchange-your-business/
 - Automate the boring stuff https://www.amazon.com/Automate-Boring-Stuff-Python-Programming/dp/1593275994
 - The New Yorker www.newyorker.com/magazine/2016/12/19/our-automated-future
 - Snail https://pawelurbanek.com/slow-rails-queries
 - Automate all the Things https://engineering.upside.com/upside-engineering-diary-14-automate-all-the-things-e66ddf4a8637?gi=998fa3523149

