

IPI International

Working with C++ DLLs

Name : multiplyBy
Type : C++ DLL
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Date Created : 15/01/2020
Date Updated : 30/01/2020
Function : Multiplies 2 variables passed in by each other and returns the result

Introduction

When writing Excel VBA code at work I have often wondered if some missing function could be written in another language and compiled to a DLL that VBA code can then make use of. Again, currently learning R Programming the idea keeps coming up.

Starting simple, a multiplication function would allow me to develop and test code in other programming languages loading the compiled DLL. At first I only developed console connect functions in R and Python; a VBA inputbox and msgbox in Outlook VBA; and VBA Functions that could be used to calculate row data as formulae in Excel and Ms Access.

After developing a PowerShell Windows Form I then re-addressed Outlook, Python and then R by amending their code to create GUIs similar to the PowerShell form. But the actual order of the forms development was:

- PowerShell Windows Form
- Outlook User Form using a Listbox
- Java JFrame and JTable Classes
- Python Tkinter GUI
- R Programming TCLTK GUI

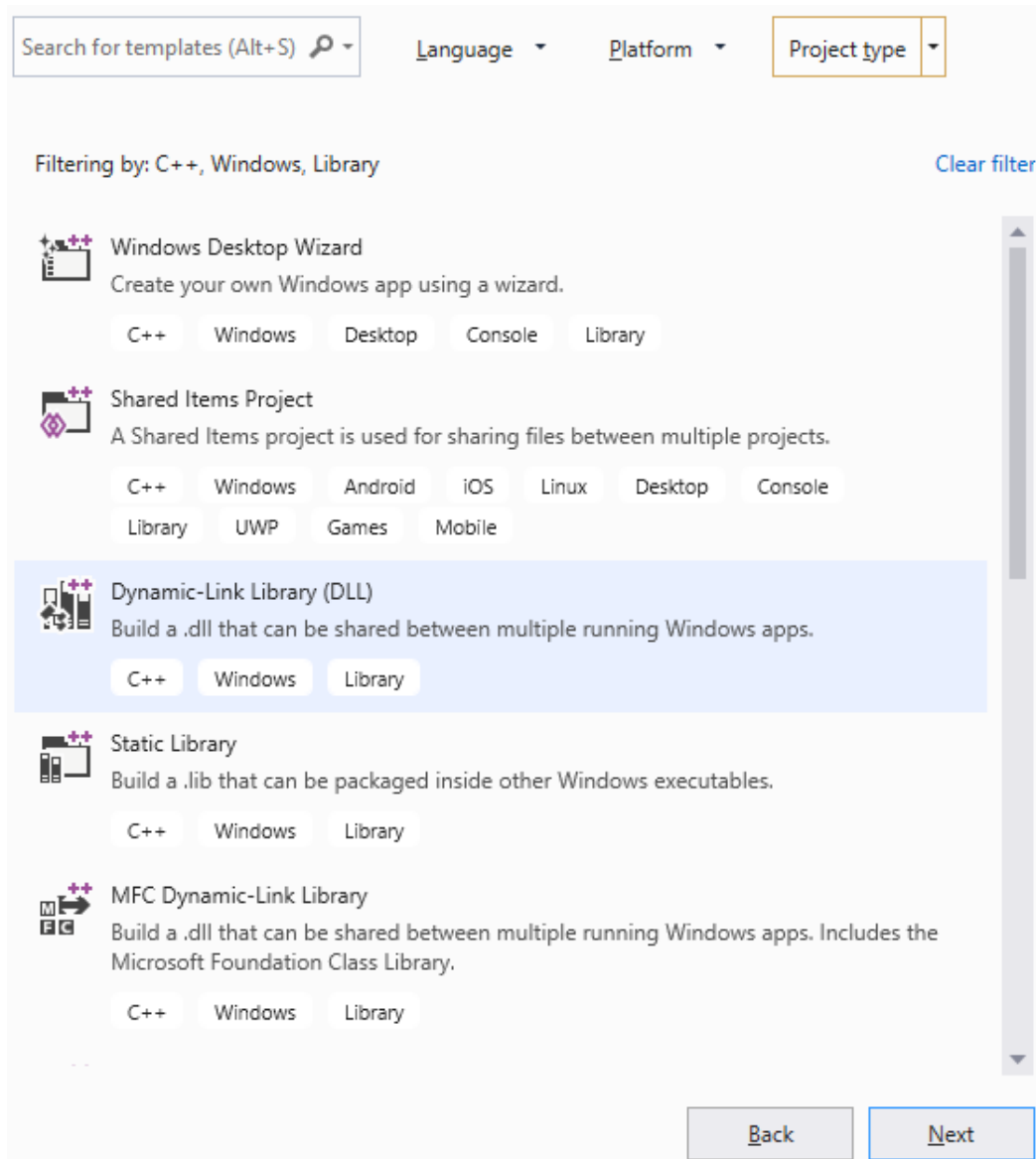
Package Structure

The C++ Project files have been copied to the cpp subfolder
multiplyBy C++ Project has been compiled to both 32 and 64 bit DLLs and the files copied to the dll subfolder

Each programming language script of file that access multiplyBy have been copied to subfolders named after their extensions

Create New Project

- Using Visual Studio 2019 you can create a new C++ Dynamic-Link Library project



- Once created you can copy the multiplyBy.cpp file to the Source Files directory in your project. You will also need to replace the framework.h file with the one provided. These are the only two files altered by me when following the same process
- Depending on your system or if you like, you can compile the project for 32 bit, 64 bit or both
- I choose to rename the DLL files appending x86 to the 32 bit file and x64 for the 64 bit
- You can also just use the 2 DLL files I compiled from the subfolder dll

C++ multiplyBy x64.xlsm

- You will have to modify the VBA code declaration path to the location where you store copies of your DLL file

```
cations - C++ multiplyBy x64.xlsm - [IPI_Paul_Excel_CppFunctions (Code)]
Format Debug Run Tools Add-Ins Window Help
Ln 1, Col 1
(General) (Declarations)
Private Declare PtrSafe Function multiplyBy Lib "C:\Users\Paul\Documents\Source Files\dll\multiplyBy x64.dll" (ByRef x As Double, ByRef y As Double) As Double
Function cppMultiplyBy(ByRef x As Double, ByRef y As Double)
    Dim result
    multiplyBy x, y
    cppMultiplyBy = y
End Function
```

- The cppMultiplyBy VBA function can either be used in other VBA code or worksheet formulae
- The **multiplyBy Example** worksheet tab uses the VBA function to as a formula in the end column to calculate the two preceding columns

The screenshot shows the Excel interface with the VBA editor open, displaying the `multiplyBy` function. Below, the 'multiplyBy Example' worksheet is shown with columns A, B, and C. Column A contains 'Number 1', column B contains 'Number 2', and column C contains the results of the `cppMultiplyBy` function. The formula bar shows `=cppMultiplyBy(A2,B2)`.

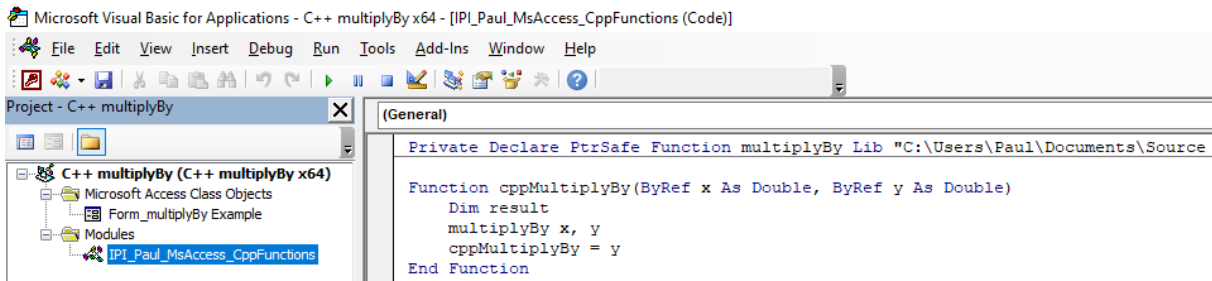
	A	B	C
1	Number 1	Number 2	C++ multiplyBy linked VBA Function
2	2.1	2,324.41	4881.261
3	12.1	2,334.41	28246.361
4	22.1	2,344.41	51811.461
5	32.1	2,354.41	75576.561
6	42.1	2,364.41	99541.661
7	52.1	2,374.41	123706.761
8	62.1	2,384.41	148071.861
9	72.1	2,394.41	172636.961
10			0

IPI_Paul_Excel_CppFunctions_x64.bas or x86.bas

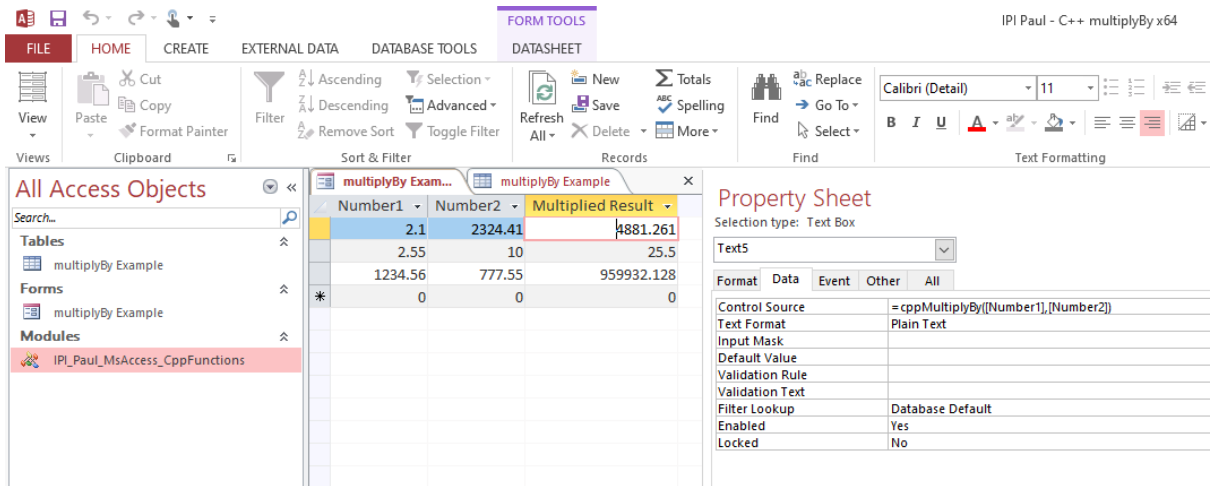
- The above VBA module was exported as these file names and the x86 file was amended to load the x86 DLL file
- You can import these modules in to any VBA Project
- Again, you will need to amend the file location of the DLL

C++ multiplyBy x64.accdb

- Like Excel, you will have to modify the VBA code declaration path



- Like Excel too, you can use the cppMultiplyBy function in both VBA code and field formulae
- A simple Table and Form combination provides an example



IPI_Paul_MsAccess_CppFunctions_x64.bas or x86.bas

- The above VBA module was exported as these file names and the x86 file was amended to load the x86 DLL file
- You can import these modules in to any VBA Project
- Again, you will need to amend the file location of the DLL

retCPPMultiplyBy

- This was the initial test, offering an inputbox where the user enters the 2 numbers separated by a space. A message box then displays the answer and prompts the user to choose between entering another combination or quitting

```
M - [IPI_Paul_Outlook_CppFunctions (Code)]
n Tools Add-Ins Window Help
Ln 1, Col 1

eneral)

Private Declare PtrSafe Function multiplyBy Lib "C:\Users\Paul\Documents'

Public Function cppMultiplyBy(ByRef x As Double, ByRef y As Double)
    Dim result
    multiplyBy x, y
    cppMultiplyBy = y
End Function

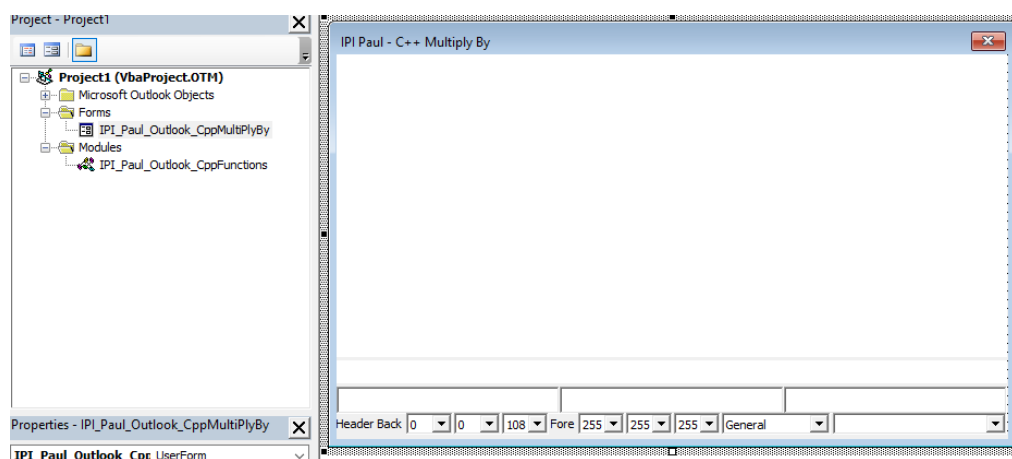
Function normVal(val)
    For Each itm In Array(", ", "'")
        val = Replace(val, itm, "")
    Next
    normVal = val
End Function

Sub retCppMultiplyBy()
    Dim x As Double, y As Double
    0:
    vals = InputBox("Please enter the two values to multiply separated b
    If vals > "" Then
        vals = Split(normVal(vals), " ")
        x = vals(0)
        y = vals(1)
        If MsgBox(x & " * " & vals(1) & " = " & cppMultiplyBy(x, y) & vb
    End If
End Sub

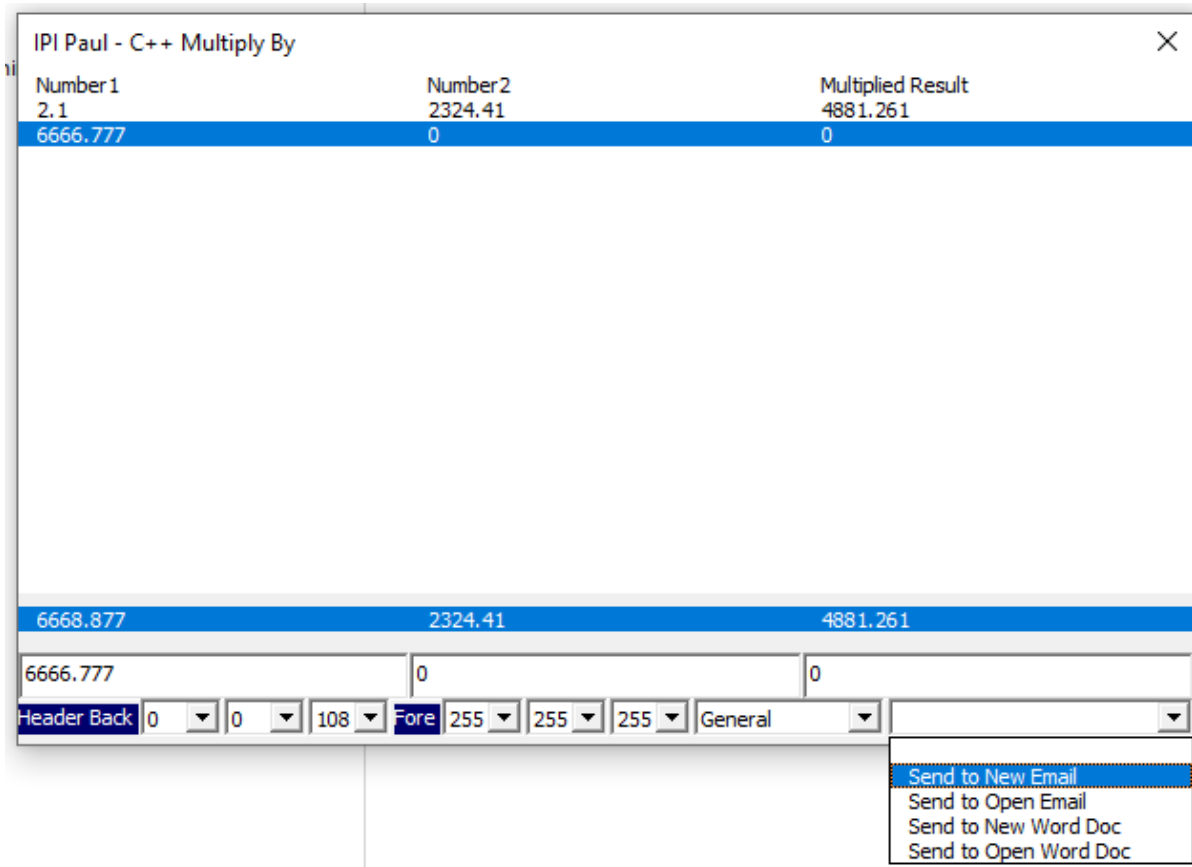
Sub viewForm_CppMultiplyBy()
    IPI_Paul_Outlook_CppMultiPlyBy.Show 0
End Sub
```

IPI_Paul_Outlook_CppMultiPlyBy

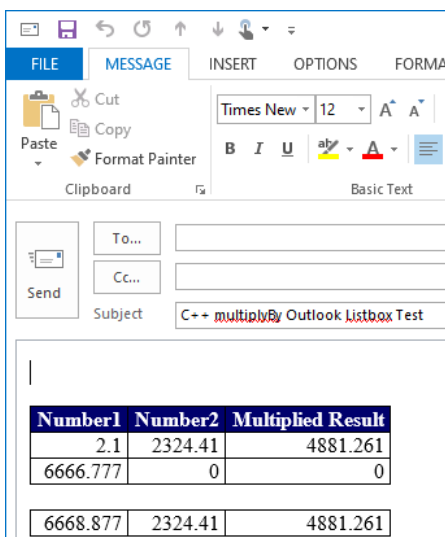
- This user form comprises of two list boxes, the main one displaying the row data and the bottom one showing the totals



- Clicking on the main list box will set each of the three text boxes below the totals list box to the values of that selected row. Changing the entries in the text boxes will update the main list box entries
- Pressing Ctrl+C will put the Main and Totals list in to the clipboard as Tab Delimited Values which can then be pasted in to Excel or a TSV Text file
- Double Clicking the first text box will add a new row in the main list box



- There are 3 combos each for the Header background and fore colours, representing Red; Green; and Blue. Altering these will update the label colours and any exported list header
- A Drop down menu offers the chance to export the list to an Email or a Word Document. When Open ... is selected, the table is inserted at the current cursor position of an open message/document



- Because html is used to populate the email, the table layout automatically sizes to the content widths
- Sending to a New Word document will set up the Page to be landscape, with 1.75 cm margins
- Further coding could be done to the Word export function to size the resulting table, but, as this is meant to be a simple example the generated table sizing is left as is

Number1	Number2	Multiplied Result
2.1	2324.41	4881.261
6666.777	0	0
6668.877	2324.41	4881.261

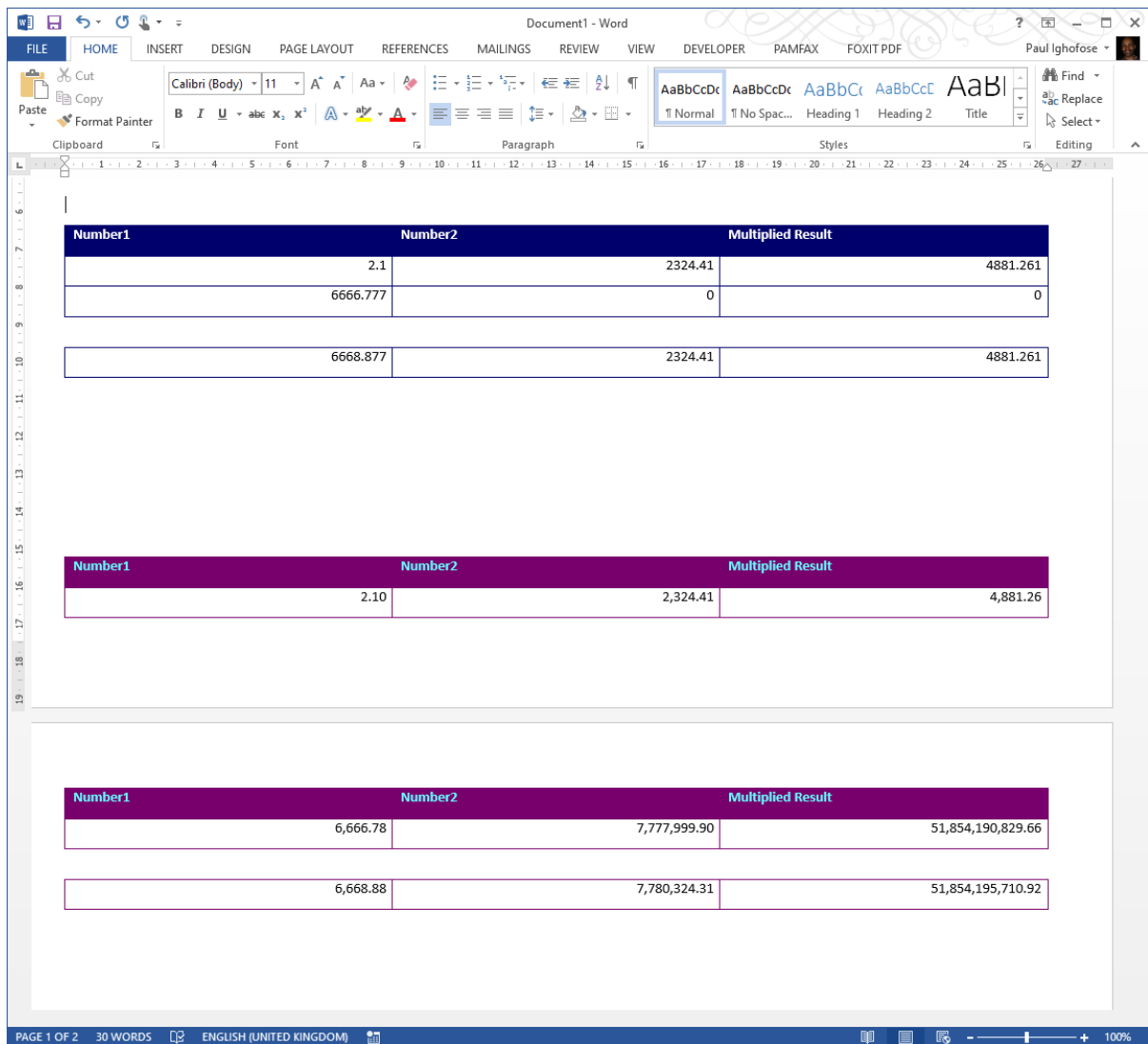
- Changing the Format combo will set the email number formats

Number1	Number2	Multiplied Result
2.1	2324.41	4881.261
6666.777	7777999.89855	51854190829.6555
6668.877	7780324.30855	51854195710.9165
6666.777	7,777,999.89855	51854190829.6555

Header Back 0 0 108 Fore 255 255 255 General

General
###,##0.00
###,##0

- When Exporting to Word, a new row is added if the table overlaps pages and each new page is given a header



IPI_Paul_Outlook_CppFunctions_x64.bas or 86.bas

- Like Excel and Access, these are the Exported Modules containing the Declare statement to load the C++ DLL
- These can be imported in to your Outlook Application or any of Excel, Word or Ms Access VBA Projects

IPI_Paul_Outlook_CppMultiPlyBy.frm and .frx

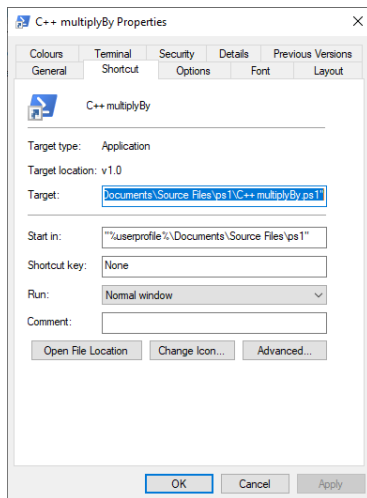
- These files are the Exported user form
- And again, can be imported in to your Outlook Application or any of Excel, Word or Ms Access VBA Projects

PowerShell

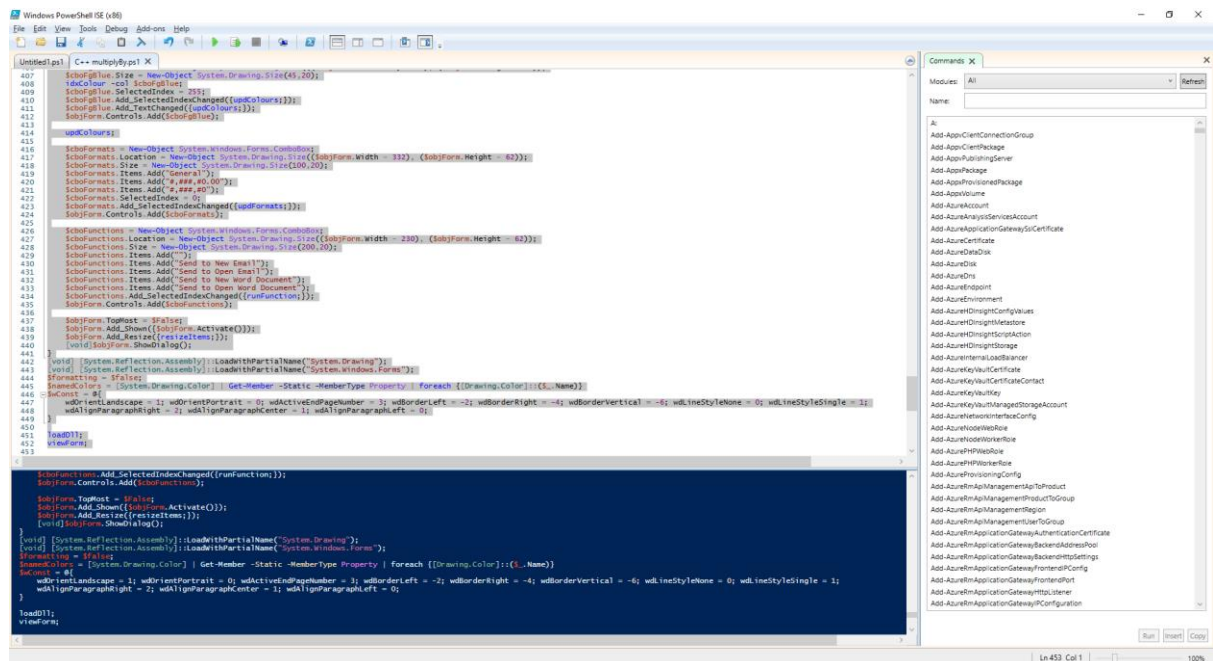
C++ multiplyBy.ps1

- There are two ways to run the Script
- You can either create a Windows Shortcut like

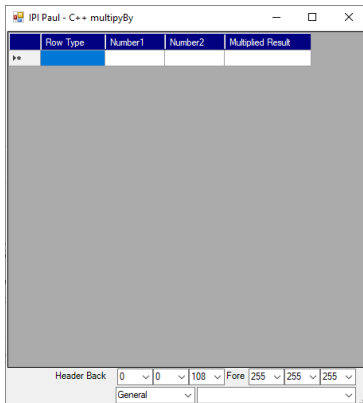
C:\Windows\System32\WindowsPowerShell\v1.0\powershell.exe -WindowStyle Hidden -ExecutionPolicy Unrestricted -File "%userprofile%\Documents\Source Files\ps1\C++ multiplyBy.ps1"



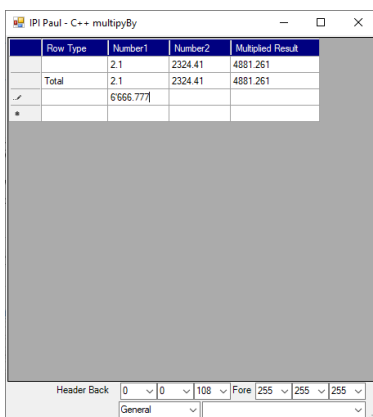
- Do not use Advanced, Run As Administrator as Outlook will need to be opened using Elevated Privileges for the two to communicate
- Or you can open the script in PowerShell and copy and paste it in to the console, then run it by pressing enter



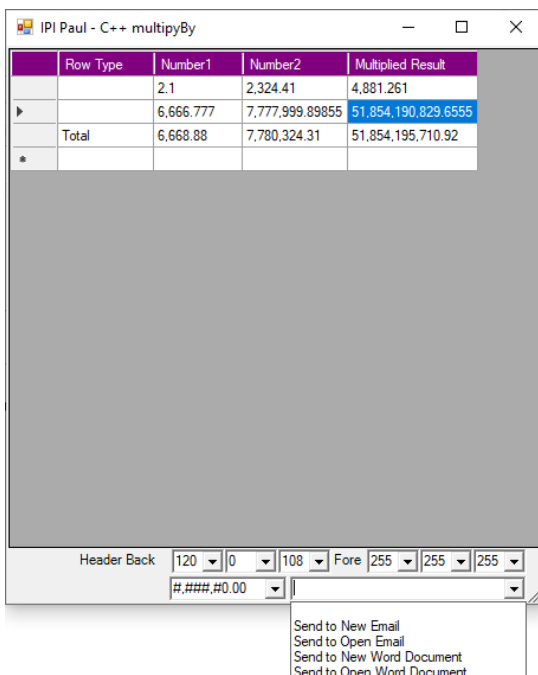
- Once loaded, start by inserting a value in the Number1 cell of the new record row



- The first column is disabled and is used by the script to indicate to itself which is the Total row

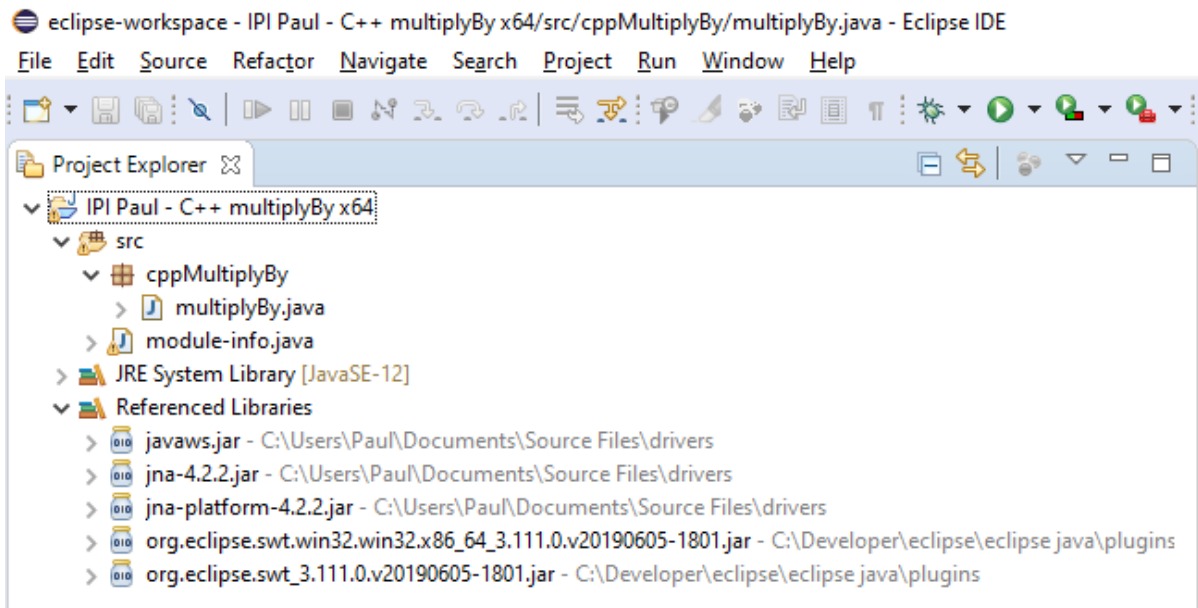


- When adding new rows or after updating cell values, the Totals row is deleted and then re-inserted at the bottom of the DataGridView with the calculated column totals
- Although sorting may change the row levels, amending the values in a cell will cause the Totals row to be removed and re-inserted at the bottom
- Changing the values in the RGB comobo boxes will update the DataGridView Header colour
- The DataGridView will automatically resize with resizing of the Forms window



multiplyBy.java

- I used eclipse IDE when developing this GUI and also tested it in Netbeans
- You will need to download the following dependency jar files and store them in a folder of your own choosing



- You can then create a new project and copy the multiplyBy.java file I have provided in to the src folder
- The OLE driver was a bit challenging to understand
- DefaultTableCellRenderer occasionally fails to capture update events. Meaning that the C++ multiplyBy function is not called and the result not calculated. This is remedied by moving back and forth from one row to another and pressing the Return or Tab keys for the row requiring calculation
- Again, like the PowerShell Form, the first and last columns are not editable. The word New is used to indicate where rows can be added. Editing the second cell of the row indicated as new will move that row directly above the Totals row (or when New and Totals is sorted to the top, move it to the last row)

The screenshot shows a window titled 'C++ multiplyBy Table Test'. It contains a table with four columns: 'Type', 'Number1', 'Number2', and 'Multiplied Result'. The table has three rows: 'Total' (0, 0, 0), 'New' (2.1, empty, empty), and an empty row below. The 'Type' column is not editable. The 'Number1' and 'Number2' columns are editable. The 'Multiplied Result' column is not editable.

Type	Number1	Number2	Multiplied Result
Total	0	0	0
New	2.1		

- Like the Outlook List box and the PowerShell Form, changing the Formats combo selection will reformat the display of the Totals values which stops any values being displayed as an Exponential

C++ multiplyBy Table Test

Table Header Background Colour Header Fore Colour

Type	Number1	Number2	Multiplied Result
	2.1	2324.41	4881.261
	6'666.777	7,777,999.89855	5.185419082965547E10
. Total	6668.877000	7780324.308550	51854195710.916470
New			

General

General
#,###,##0.00
#,###,##0

164
165
166
167

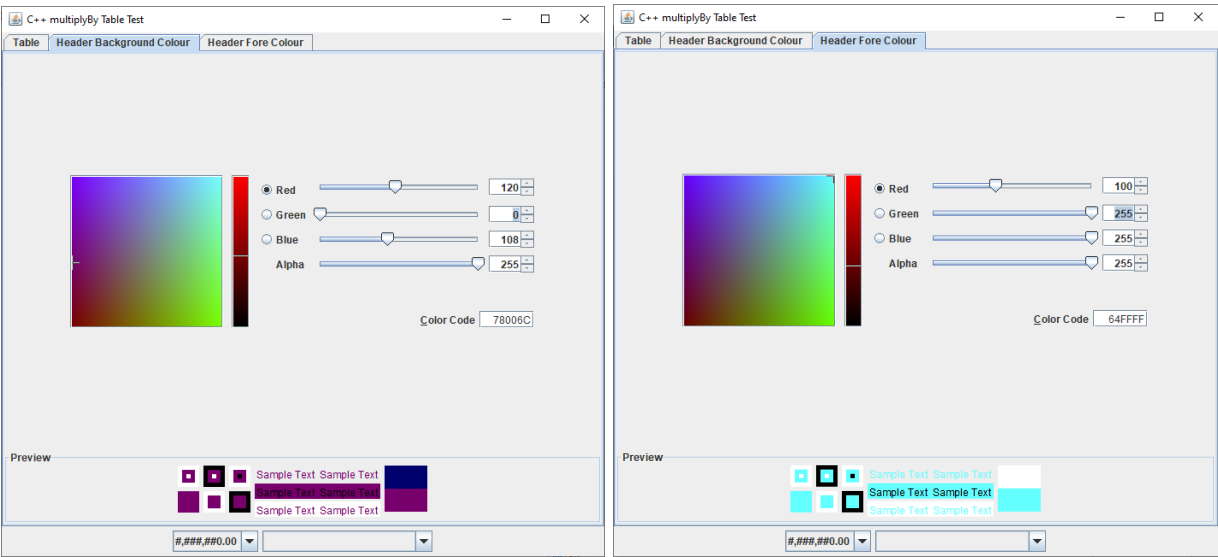
C++ multiplyBy Table Test

Table Header Background Colour Header Fore Colour

Type	Number1	Number2	Multiplied Result
	2.100000	2,324.410000	4,881.261000
	6,666.777000	7,777,999.898550	51,854,190,829.655470
. Total	6,668.88	7,780,324.31	51,854,195,710.92
New			

#,###,##0.00

- I have also made good use of Java's JColorChooser and amending either of these will effect both the Table Tab's Headers and any exported table



C++ multiplyBy Table Test

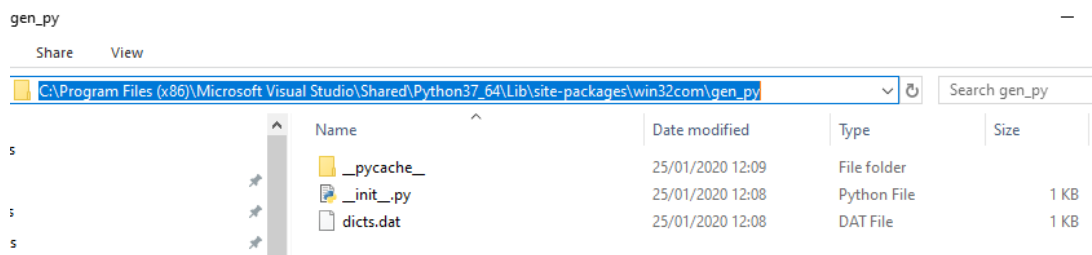
Table Header Background Colour Header Fore Colour

Type	Number1	Number2	Multiplied Result
	2.100000	2,324.410000	4,881.261000
	6,666.777000	7,777,999.898550	51,854,190,829.655470
. Total	6,668.88	7,780,324.31	51,854,195,710.92
New			

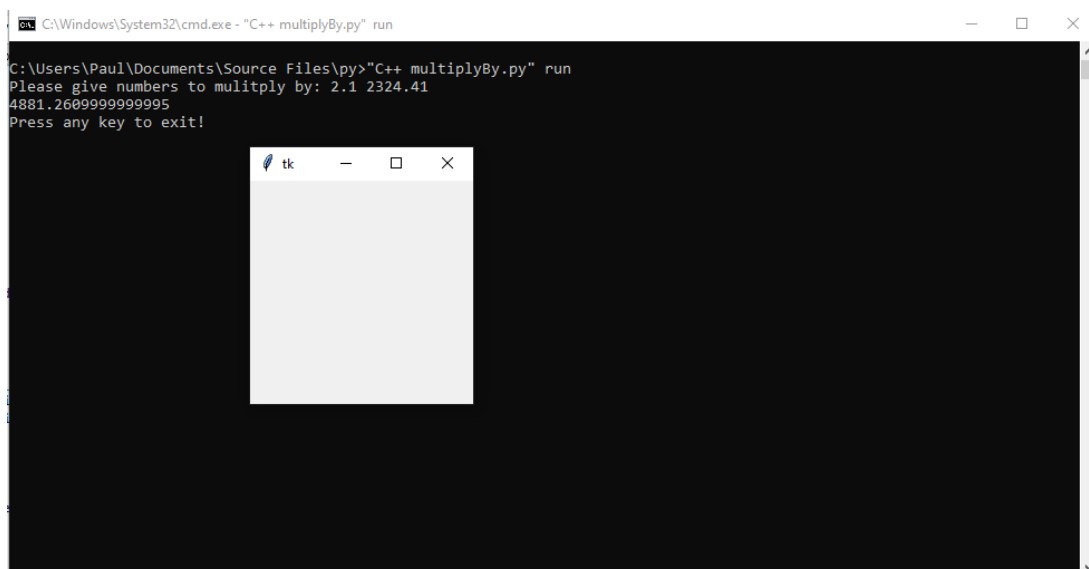
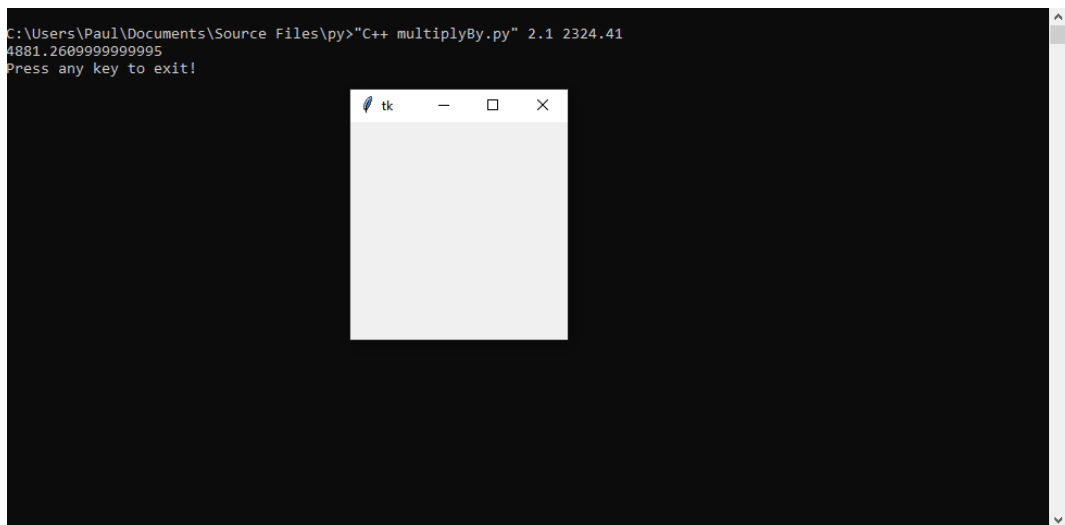
Print
Send to New Email
Send to Open Email
Send to New Word Document
Send to Open Word Document

C++ multiplyBy.py

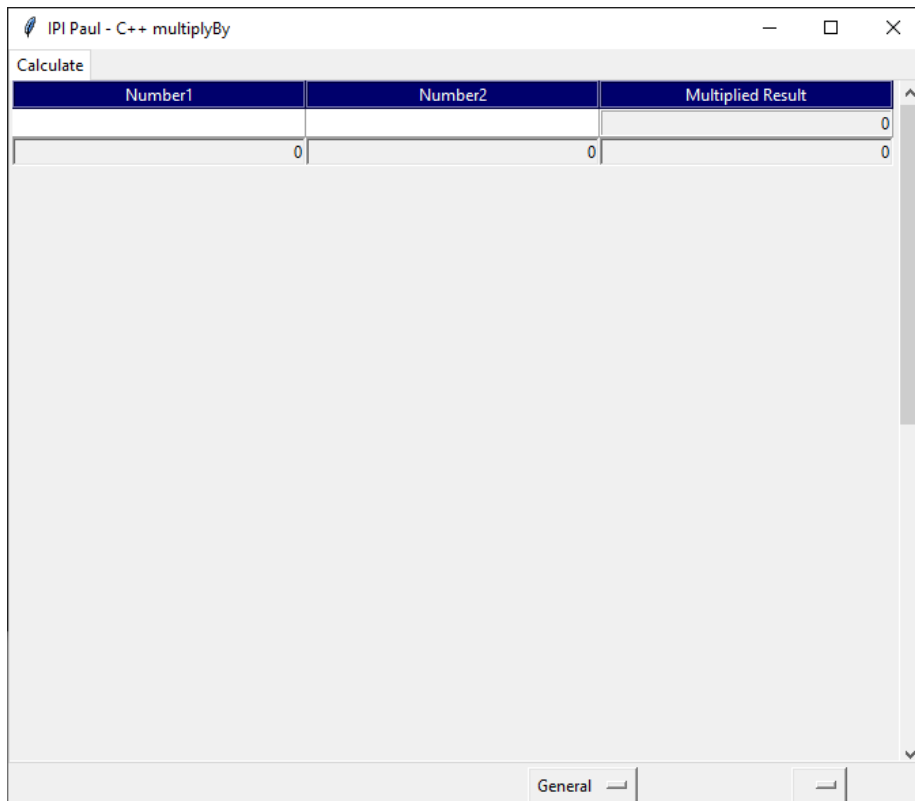
- You will need to download the correct binaries from Mark Hammond's github web folders to get the win32 COM drivers for exporting to Outlook and Word
- If like me, you have installed Visual Studio 2019 and Python 3.7.3 with it, then you will need to give everyone permissions to the 'C:\Program Files (x86)\Microsoft Visual Studio\Shared\Python37_64\Lib\site-packages\win32com\gen_py' folder. Without that the module will fail to run as it cannot populate it when run in Python



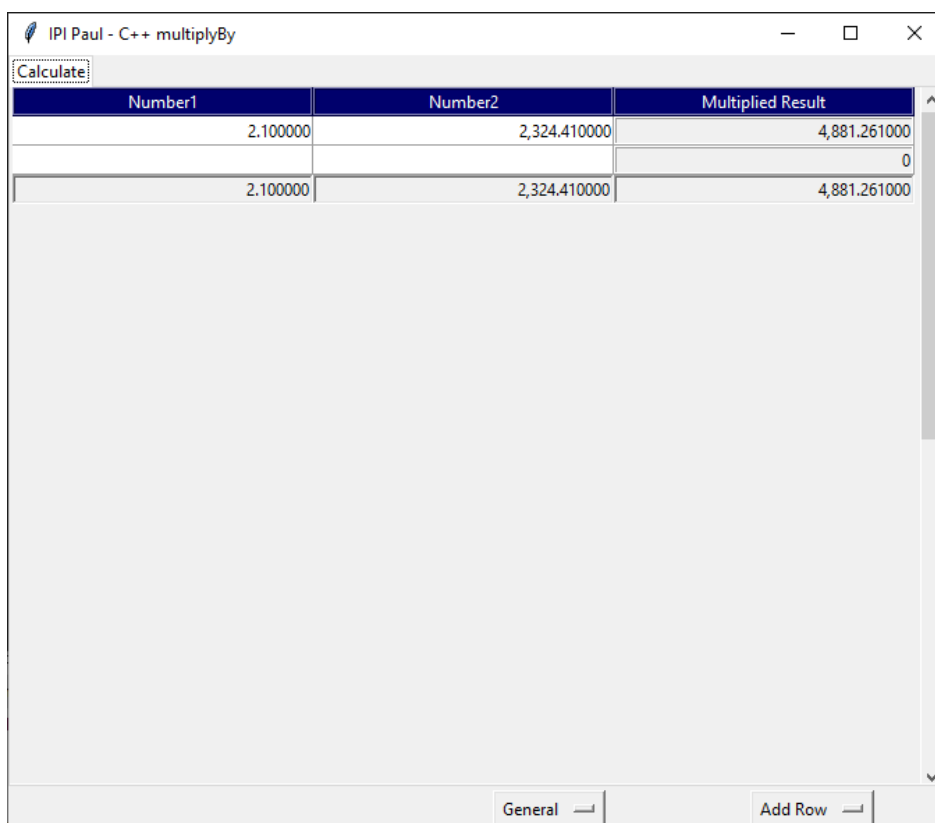
- The original DLL load tests are still available for when using console entries with an arg



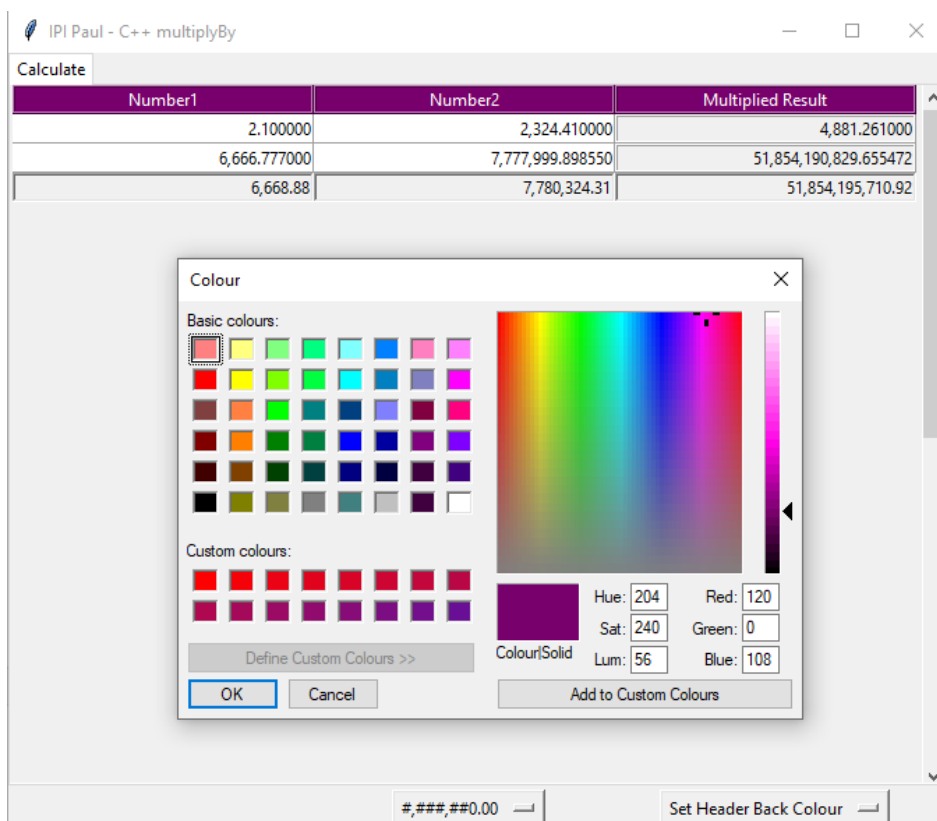
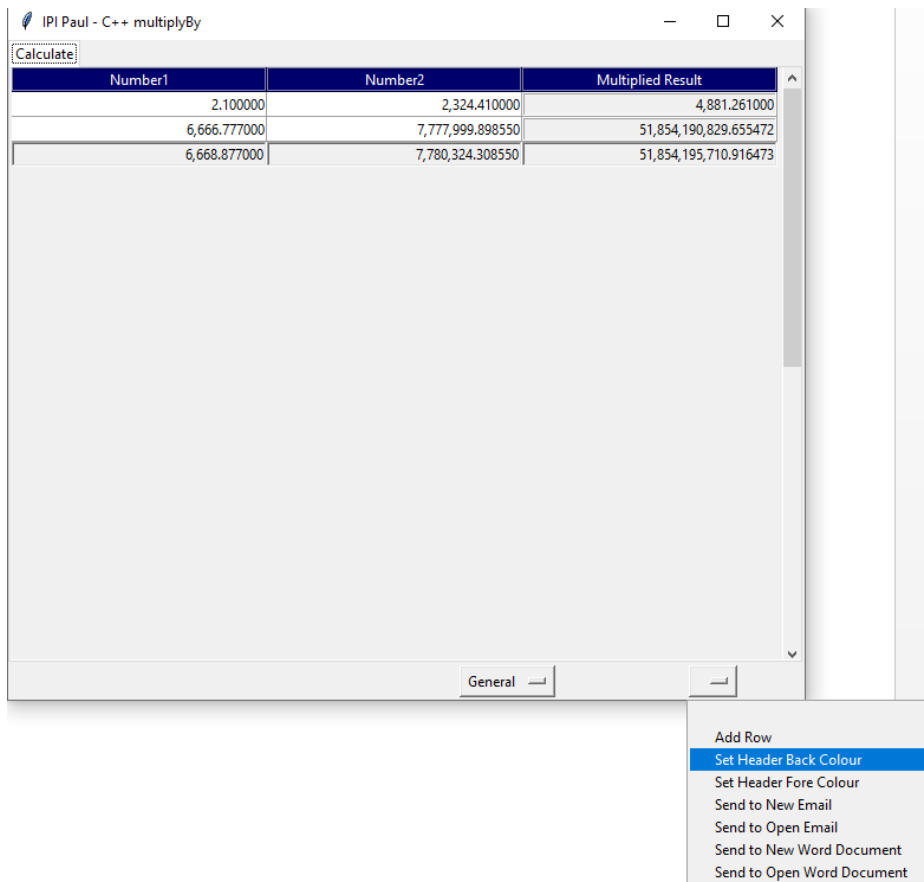
- Double clicking the file or entering the file path without args will display the main window



- The last column and Totals row are not editable. The DLL multiplyBy function is called after an editable cell has been updated
- Rows are added using the Functions combo box

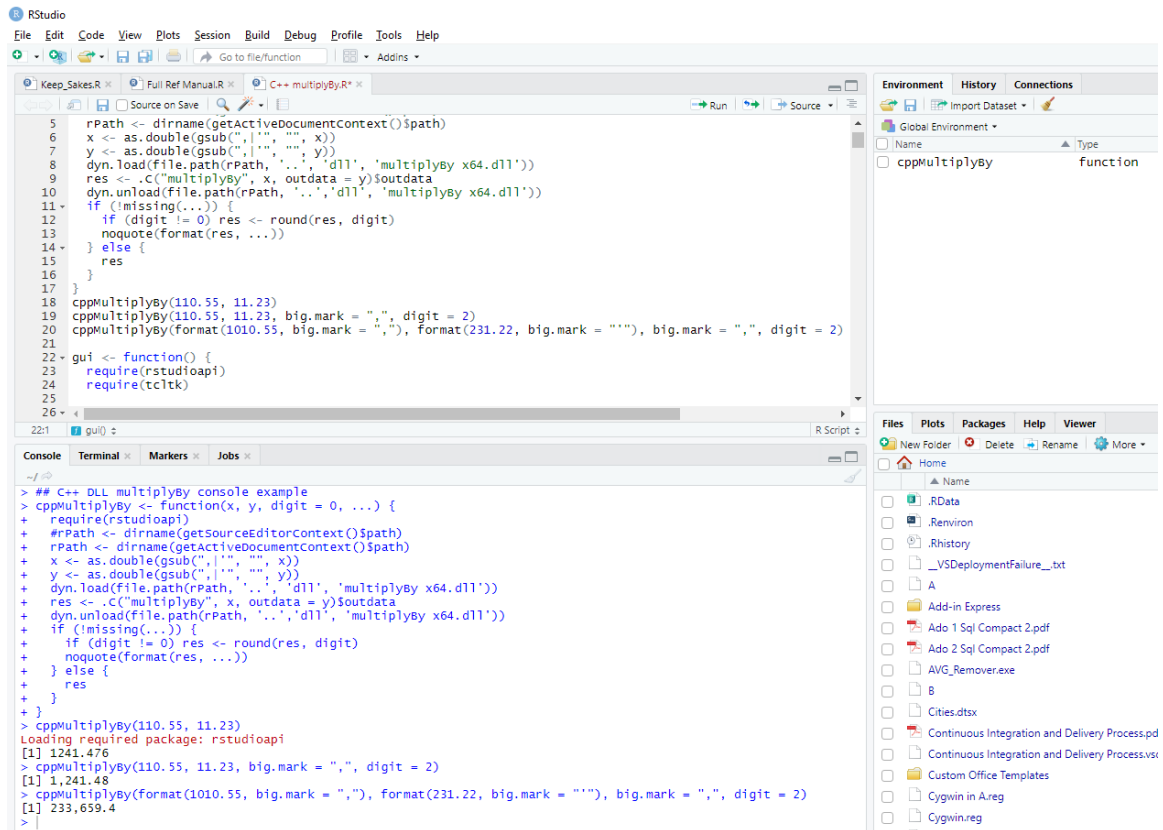


- Formatting is applied to the Totals row on changing the Format combo. The row data does not fully reflect this formatting until exported to Outlook or Word
- I have made use of tkinter.colorchooser.askcolor. So when the selecting Set Header Colour items from the Functions combo, the table header is updated and any Header colours in exported tables reflect this change



C++ multiplyBy.R

- Again like Python and Outlook, I have left the original test C++ DLL load function in.
- Using R Studio, you can load and call the C++ multiplyBy functions from the console



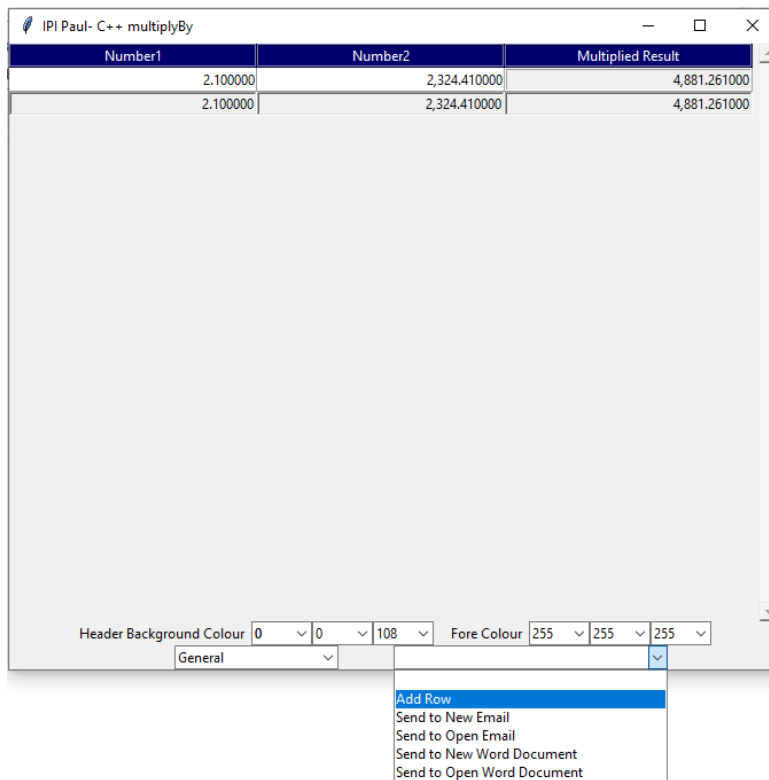
The screenshot shows the RStudio interface with the 'multiplyBy.R' script open in the editor. The script defines a C++ DLL load function and a GUI function. The console shows the execution of the script, including the loading of the 'rstudioapi' package and the execution of the 'gui()' function. The Environment pane on the right shows the 'cppMultiplyBy' function loaded in the Global Environment.

```
5 rPath <- dirname(getActiveDocumentContext()$path)
6 x <- as.double(gsub("[,]", "", x))
7 y <- as.double(gsub("[,]", "", y))
8 dyn.load(file.path(rPath, '..', 'dll', 'multiplyBy x64.dll'))
9 res <- .C("multiplyBy", x, outdata = y)$outdata
10 dyn.unload(file.path(rPath, '..', 'dll', 'multiplyBy x64.dll'))
11 if (!missing(...)) {
12   if (digit != 0) res <- round(res, digit)
13   noquote(format(res, ...))
14 } else {
15   res
16 }
17 }
18 cppMultiplyBy(110.55, 11.23)
19 cppMultiplyBy(110.55, 11.23, big.mark = ",", digit = 2)
20 cppMultiplyBy(format(1010.55, big.mark = ","), format(231.22, big.mark = ""))
21 }
22 gui <- function() {
23   require(rstudioapi)
24   require(tcltk)
25 }
26 }
```

```
> ## C++ DLL multiplyBy console example
> cppMultiplyBy <- function(x, y, digit = 0, ...) {
+   require(rstudioapi)
+   #rPath <- dirname(getSourceEditorContext()$path)
+   rPath <- dirname(getActiveDocumentContext()$path)
+   x <- as.double(gsub("[,]", "", x))
+   y <- as.double(gsub("[,]", "", y))
+   dyn.load(file.path(rPath, '..', 'dll', 'multiplyBy x64.dll'))
+   res <- .C("multiplyBy", x, outdata = y)$outdata
+   dyn.unload(file.path(rPath, '..', 'dll', 'multiplyBy x64.dll'))
+   if (!missing(...)) {
+     if (digit != 0) res <- round(res, digit)
+     noquote(format(res, ...))
+   } else {
+     res
+   }
+ }
> cppMultiplyBy(110.55, 11.23)
Loading required package: rstudioapi
[1] 1241.476
> cppMultiplyBy(110.55, 11.23, big.mark = ",", digit = 2)
[1] 1,241.48
> cppMultiplyBy(format(1010.55, big.mark = ","), format(231.22, big.mark = ""))
[1] 233,659.4
> }
```

- For the tcltk GUI, you will have to run `devtools::install_github("dkyleward/RDCOMCLIENT")` for the export to Outlook and Word functions to work
- Again, for the GUI you the following are needed to help with file location in loading the C++ DLL.
 - `require(rstudioapi)`
 - `require(tcltk)`
 - `require(RDCOMClient)`
 - `rPath <- dirname(getActiveDocumentContext()$path)`
 - `dyn.load(file.path(rPath, '..', 'dll', 'multiplyBy x64.dll'))`
 - `tkwait.window(self)` This is so that the DLL is not unloaded before the GUI is exited
 - `dyn.unload(file.path(rPath, '..', 'dll', 'multiplyBy x64.dll'))`
- Like Python and Java, I have ensured to unload the DLL as gracefully as possible
- I used data.frames for a lot of the elements as it gives me the ability to refer to them using names rather than indices. Unfortunately tcltk would not allow the convention `tclvalue(tkget(row[1, (-2, -4, -6)[[i]]))` to access individual pointers
- I was not able to figure out the Colour Palette availability in R to have the same Chooser window or frame as offered in Java and Python

- Like Python, you will have to select **Add New Row** from the Functions combo after the initial row has been filled
- Although Java, Python and R display the same floating point precision errors when using the console for calculations, formatted values populated to cells in the forms are more accurate
- Doing the Ctrl+C on Java, Python and R then pasting the results in Excel and doing a formula to compare the results show them to be accurate



- Again, changing the RGB combos will affect both the Table headers and those of any Export

