Free Trial   I AGREE   LEARN MORE

Weekly Challenge

Solve the challenge, share your solution and summit the ranks of our Community!

Also available in | Français | Português | Español | 한국어

IDEAS WANTED

We're actively looking for ideas on how to improve Weekly Challenges and would love to hear what you think!

SUBMIT FEEDBACK ▸

Challenge #118: Think Like a CSE - A not-so-wild-wildcard input!

EddieW
Alteryx
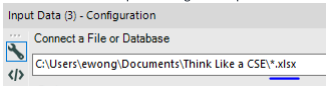
The solution to last week's Challenge can be found !

We are thrilled to present another Challenge from our "Think like a CSE" series, brought to you by our fearless team of Customer Support Engineers. Each month, the Customer Support team will ask Community members to "think like a CSE" to try to resolve a case that was inspired by real-life issues encountered by Alteryx users like you! This month, we present the case of using a Wildcard in the Input tool.

Below, we've provided the information that was initially available to the Customer Support Engineer who resolved the case. It's up to you to use this information to put a solution together for yourself.

The Case: We have a co-worker who wants to import all (4) files from one of his folders into the workflow to do some analysis. He doesn't like the idea of having four Input Data tools in his canvas so he decided to give the "Wildcard" input a try. However, when he runs the workflow, only 1 of the 4 files is imported. Our co-worker is not entirely sure why it's not working.

Explanation of the Problem: Four input files (attached to this post) exist in the same directory. Our co-worker attempts to bring in multiple .xlsx files into a workflow using a "wildcard" in the input tool:
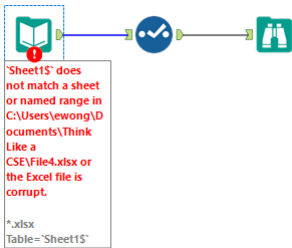

When he runs the workflow, only one of the four files is imported:

Hm...not as "wild" as we thought...

Then, when he clicks the Input tool, an error appears:

What's going on? Can you help our co-worker resolve the case of the Wildcard Input? Download the four attached files, map your Input Data tool to your file location, and give it a try!

Bonus Question: What do you recommend if our co-worker needs to import 60 different files and using wildcard is giving him all these random errors? All these files come from a third party.

Eddie Wong
Customer Support Engineer
Alteryx

📎 **challenge_118_start_file.yxmd** ⬇

📎 16 KB ⬇

📎 16 KB ⬇

📎 16 KB ⬇

📎 16 KB ⬇

Data Preparation   Intermediate   Macros   Preparation

Share   👍 **6 LIKES**   Reply

NicoleJohnson
15 - Aurora

My solution!

▷ Spoiler

Cheers,
NJ

📎 **challenge_118_NicoleJohnson.yxzp** ⬇

Share   👍 **5 LIKES**   Reply

SuzanneMc
6 - Meteoroid

Did some Alteryx community research ... different names and file schemes need a one at a time batch macro, fun one!

📎 **ExcelOneAtATime.yxzp** ⬇

Share   👍 **3 LIKES**   Reply

---

patrick_digan
17 - Castor

▷ Spoiler

📎 **challenge_118_start_file.yxmd** ⬇

📎 **Dynamic Excel.yxmc** ⬇

Share   👍 **3 LIKES**   Reply

---

ggruccio
ACE Emeritus

Tried several routes!

▷ Spoiler

📎 **challenge_118_gg_finish.yxzp** ⬇

Share   👍 **2 LIKES**   Reply

trodriguez91
6 - Meteoroid

The client is so close! However, the input data tool will not read an excel with a tab name that is not consistent with Sheet1. Therefore, when reading the spreadsheet for File4 we see that an error is raised indicating that the file may be corrupted. To facilitate the reading of the different spread sheets with different schemas I would recommend using a batch macro!

▷ Spoiler

📎 **Read Multiple Excel Files.yxmc** 🗳

Share 👍 **2 LIKES** Reply

---

mceleavey
17 - Castor

Nice challenge. I actually had this exact same scenario on site with a client about 8 months ago, so I've already done this. I assume mine is the same method as the others, as a simple batch macro does the trick.

▷ Spoiler

buːliən

📎 **challenge_118_solution_mceleavey.yxmd** 🗳
📎 **Import Multiple Schema xlsx.yxmc** 🗳

Share 👍 **2 LIKES** Reply

GalynaSkamrova
7 - Meteor

Completed with the Community's help. Approach is quite the same as posted.

📎 **challenge_118_GS_solution.yxzp** 🗳

Share 👍 **2 LIKES** Reply

SeanAdams
17 - Castor

Simple answer "Mr / Ms Client - please can you fix the sheet name"

More comprehensive answer below.

▷ Spoiler

📎 **challenge_118_SeanAdamsSolution.yxmd** 🗳
📎 **SheetLoader.yxmc** 🗳

Share 👍 **3 LIKES** Reply

---

josefmyers267
5 - Atom

Great challenge. I've never had to do this but after researching the community for solutions this is what I came up with:

STEP 1: Make a macro to combine the sheets.

STEP 2: Reference this macro in your second macro that reads all the sheet paths.

STEP 3: Reference the macro in STEP 2 to complete the project.

See attached solution files.

🔗 **Challenge_118_jm.yxmd**

🔗 **CombineSheets.yxmc**

🔗 **ReadSheetPaths.yxmc**

Share   👍 **2 LIKES**   Reply

‹ **1** 2 3 … 9 ›

All forum topics   ‹ ›

La

A

C

COMMUNITY
INDUSTRY AWARDS
WINNER
2021

© 2022 Alteryx, Inc.