

We've recently made an accessibility improvement to the community and therefore posts without any content are no longer allowed. Please use the spoiler feature or add a short message in the message body in order to submit your weekly challenge.

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2022-05-26 Updates: Email: If you're not seeing emails be delivered from the Community, please check your spam and mark the Community emails as not junk. Thank you for your patience.

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## Weekly Challenge

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

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### IDEAS WANTED

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

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



[EddieW](#)  
Alteryx

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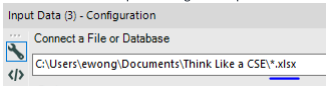
The solution to last week's Challenge can be found [here](#)!

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:

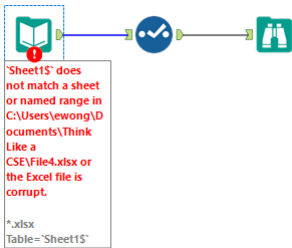


When he runs the workflow, only one of the four files is imported:

Results - Browse (6) - Input				
27 of 27 Fields   Cell Viewer   85 records displayed				
Record #	FileName	Column1	Column2	Column3
1	File1	Internet	20	20
2	File1	Internet	3	2
3	File1	Internet	5	5
4	File1	Internet	1	1
5	File1	Internet	4	4
6	File1	Internet	7	7
7	File1	Internet	3	2
8	File1	Internet	18	18
9	File1	Internet	8	8
10	File1	Internet	4	4
11	File1	Internet	10	9
12	File1	Internet	1	1
13	File1	Internet	5	5
14	File1	Internet	11	11
15	File1	Internet	3	3
16	File1	Internet	1	1
17	File1	Internet	5	5
18	File1	Internet	1	1
19	File1	Internet	8	8
20	File1	Internet	2	2
21	File1	Internet	4	4
22	File1	Internet	1	1

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.



[\(view in My Videos\)](#)

 challenge\_118\_start\_file.yxmd 

 16 KB 

 16 KB 

 16 KB 


 16 KB 

Data Preparation Intermediate Macros Preparation

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 **ACE** NicoleJohnson  
15 - Aurora

My solution!

▷ Spoiler


Cheers,  
NJ

 challenge\_118\_NicoleJohnson.yxzp 



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 **ACE** 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 



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 **ACE** patrick\_digan  
17 - Castor

▷ Spoiler

 challenge\_118\_start\_file.yxmd 

 Dynamic Excel.yxmc 

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 **ACE** ggruccio  
ACE Emeritus

Tried several routes!


▷ Spoiler

 challenge\_118\_gg\_finish.yxzp 

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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



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ACE 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

bu:lien




challenge\_118\_solution\_mceleavey.yxmd






Import Multiple Schema.xlsx.yxmc



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GalynaSkamrova

7 - Meteor

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



challenge\_118\_GS\_solution.yxzp



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ACE SeanAdams

17 - Castor


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


More comprehensive answer below.

▷ Spoiler




challenge\_118\_SeansSolution.yxmd






SheetLoader.yxmc



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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 

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