

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.

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

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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 #63: Data Preparation Using Pivot Tools

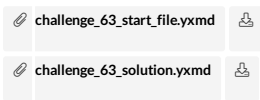


JoeM  
Alteryx Alumni (Retired)

The solution to last week's challenge can be found [HERE](#).

If you have even been shy about getting to know the crosstab/pivot tools, this challenge will serve as an excellent guide to becoming better acquainted with the tools.

An organization receives an input file like this every month or so. Additional columns are added to the file each time, representing data for more weeks. They need a workflow that will pivot the data so that each week end date is included on a row for each DMA number in column 1. The workflow needs to allow for the fact that additional columns will be included in later months.



Data Analysis Developer Intermediate Preparation

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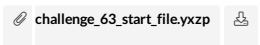
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**ACE** patrick\_digan  
17 - Castor

[@JoeM](#) I look forward to someone else providing a much slicker solution. My methods are not fancy, but they do work. I made use of a generic macro I use, so I've included it in my yxzp file.

► Spoiler



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**ACE** MarqueeCrew  
19 - Altair

[@patrick\\_digan](#),

Slick? I think not. I did take a different tact than you did. I don't use the select records tool often (and I still didn't), so thanks for the reminder. I ran into several bumps in the road:

- The last column only has data for Inside Sales (Outside & Total Sales columns are not present)
- The general unhappiness of spaces & special characters when using the crosstab tool.

My approach was more lengthy than yours was. I didn't run yours, but I did test my output against [@JoeM](#)'s output where I got identical results.

When working with clients and prospects I often get Excel "Reports" that need to be converted to DATA before real analytics can be executed. This often is time consuming. This challenge was work for me. I beat it into submission.

Cheers,  
Mark

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 challenge\_63\_MarqueeCrew.yxmd



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 alex

11 - Bolide

I didn't provide much documentation on this one, but it should be fairly easy to follow if you download the workflow. I tested it by adding a new column and amounts to make sure it would handle new columns. Worked as expected. [@patrick\\_digan](#) - I'll have to check out your macro when I have time...

▷ Spoiler


 challenge\_63\_AC\_2.yxmd



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 alex

11 - Bolide

For extra credit I'll post my first attempt at this solution with no documentation. In this version I kept the input file that I added an additional column to. Still works and slightly faster than my previous posted solution. Why does cross tab tool add underscores to column headings? Thanks for the challenging exercise [@JoeM](#).

▷ Spoiler


 challenge\_63\_AC.yxmd



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 Natasha

9 - Comet

My solution is definitely not concise but I got to the required output. Looking forward to inspect other's neat solutions :)

▷ Spoiler

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 ACE NicoleJohnson


15 - Aurora


Solution attached. Most similar to one of Alex's solutions, I believe.

However, I think I also uncovered an issue with the output results as posted in the original workflow - in the case where there was not both an Inside & Outside sales column, therefore no Total Sales column for that week (in this example, week 2016-04-24), then the Total amount for that week was showing as zero in the posted output results, despite there being an amount for Inside sales. So I added a formula at the end to check to see if Inside POS + Outside POS = Total POS... if it didn't, then I replaced the Total POS value with Inside POS + Outside POS. Which is also a good check in case someone posted the wrong value in Total POS to begin with.

Hope this helps! :)

▷ Spoiler


 challenge\_63\_Results\_NicoleJohnson.yxmd



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 alex

11 - Bolide

[@NicoleJohnson](#) Nice auditing work! I checked my results against the answer, but did not check the answer itself.

 **pvara**  
8 - Asteroid

Hi Nicole can you please repost your alteryx solution? The link points to some XML file. Thank you.

 **JoeM**  
Alteryx Alumni (Retired)

[@pvara](#), I had no issues downloading. Is your machine's default program from XML notepad or a similar program? Does the downloaded file show as .yxmd?

