

# Unlimited Keyboard Shortcuts in Excel

Ananth Chellappa

# Summary

- Problem
- Solution
- How

# The Problem

- Microsoft only permits assigning CTRL+letter and CTRL+SHIFT+letter to a custom macros. That limits you right-away to 52 shortcuts
- Subtract the inherently useful native shortcuts like CTRL-C,V,A,S, etc and you're left with far less
- You'd think you'd have enough, but, sometimes, you want to be able to do CTRL-F2 or CTRL-Right\_Arrow to do the things you want.
- Sticking with the standard Excel GUI, you can't
- So what does one do?

# The Solution : Application.OnKey (VBA)

- The [Application.OnKey](#) method lets you define exotic key bindings
- For example :
  - `Application.OnKey "%+{F9}" , "PERSONAL.XLSB!duplicateSheet"`
  - Will assign ALT+SHIFT+F9 to the “duplicateSheet” macro in your Personal Macro Workbook
- To have these bindings available each time you launch Excel, you want to have a `Workbook_Open` function defined in the `ThisWorkbook` Object of the `PERSONAL.xlsb` (Personal Macro Workbook)

# How

- Make sure you're [using a Personal Macro Workbook](#)
- Open Excel and enter the VB Editor (ALT+F11)
- Expand VBAProject (PERSONAL.XLSB) and Microsoft Excel Objects
- Right-click on ThisWorkbook and choose View Code (or just double-click ThisWorkbook)
- Paste code similar to the code shown on the next slide
- That's it! With Workbook\_Open, these definitions are loaded each time you launch Excel

# Workbook\_Open method

```
Private Sub Workbook_Open()  
    Application.OnKey "^{RIGHT}", "PERSONAL.XLSB!moveColRight"  
End Sub
```

‘ Assuming you have a macro named moveColRight in your Personal Macro Workbook, now, any Excel workbook you open (doesn't have to be xlsm) will benefit from this key binding - you can do CTRL-Right\_Arrow to move a column right (same as swap with right neighbor)