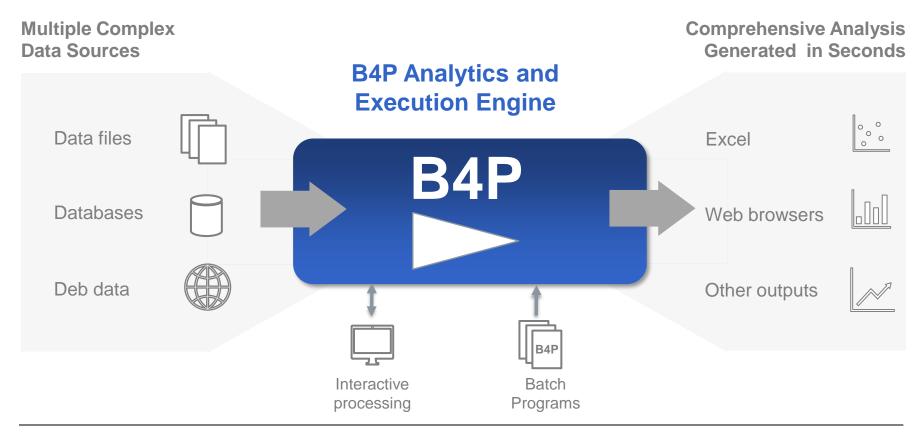
# B4P **Beyond Former Performance.** A powerful programming language and analytics engine enabling rapid transformation of big data into powerful insights Transforming Big Data to Powerful Insights Release 8.00 2021-01-05 "Friedrich Dürrenmatt Copyright © 2007 – 2021 by Georg zur Bonsen, Baden / Switzerland source: Amir Hanna, Rush Hour in Dubai / UAE, unsplash.com.

## **The Analytics and Execution Engine – Overview**



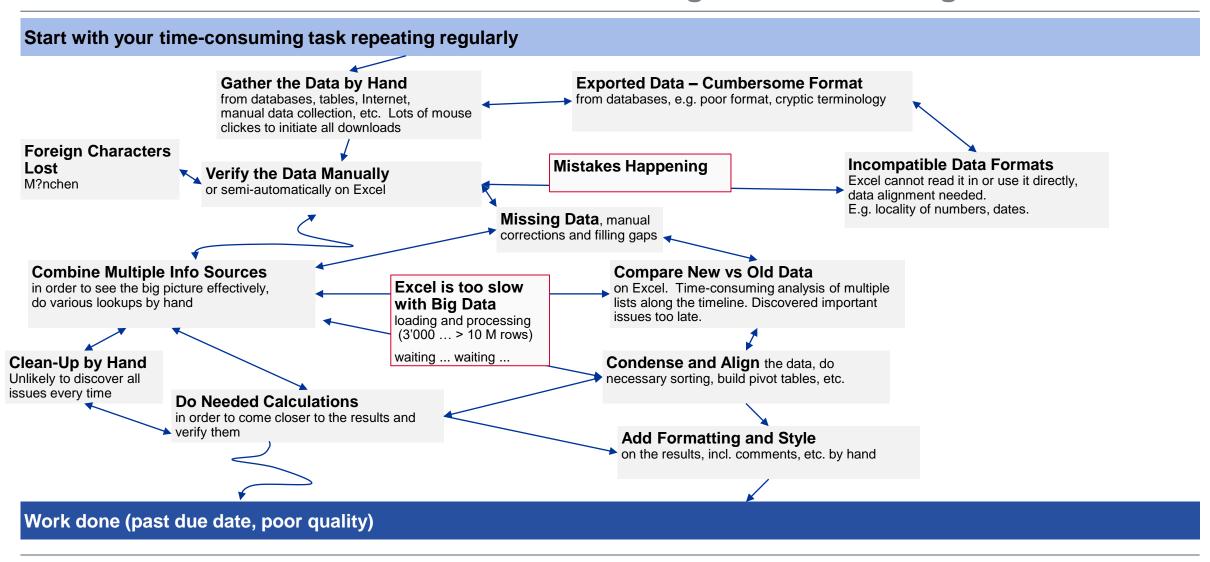
Data files: Excel, XLS/XLSX, CSV/TSV, HTML/MHTML, XML, JSON, ZIP, Text

Databases: Salesforce, Oracle, SAP, Access, Filemaker, ...

Web data: Data from any Internet accessible source

- **1** The Problem Statement
- The Analytics and Execution Engine
- **3** Typical Use Cases
- The B4P Language
- 5 Programming Examples
- 6 Backup Slides

## **B4P – The Problem Statement Conventional methods do not address challenges of data management**



# **B4P – The Problem Statement Possible Conventional Solutions – Probably not the Best Idea**

#### **Write Excel Macros**

(Visual Basic)

- OK for simple tasks, but ...
- ... coding can become cryptic and cumbersome if getting more complex. Vulnerable if data format changes.
- Processing performance will drop significantly when working with high data volumes.

#### Complex code and poor performance for tasks if they are not that simple

## Write a Computer Program

(C, Java, Python, etc.)

- Runs very fast, but takes a lot of time to program, debug and optimize.
- Others may have difficulties to understand what you have written.
- Such programs end up very large, with many functional details coded by hand.
- Good programming know-how, ideally object-oriented programming skills are needed, as well as obtaining a suitable development environment.

#### Time consuming, others having difficulties understanding your work

#### **Hire a Consultant**

(or two)

- They are happy to solve your problems for cash. Solutions are quite decent, but ...
- ... if you need further enhancements, they will ask for more cash.
- You will depend on them as they expected and keep bothering your boss to have these expenses approved.

Time consuming, depending on others, expensive, bothering others repeatedly for approvals

# **B4P – The Right Approach Automate your Work with Minimum Efforts**

#### Start your automated tasks







### Gather the raw data

**Clean Start** 

- From files, databases and the Internet
- Excel
- JSON
- HTML, XML
- CSV, TSV, ...
- Text files and many more

## Explore & check

- Identify and extract data you need
- Check all headers
- Identify data
- Resolve inconsistencies
- Fill information gaps
- Interpolating missing values
- Identify and resolve duplications

#### Clean up

- Harmonize keywords and values
- Align headers and overall structure
- Align different number formats
- Align deviating terminologies

#### Merge data

- Combine data from multiple tables
- Eliminate redundant data

## Do some lookups

- Enrich the information value in your tables
- in your tables

## Process and align

- Consolidate
- AnalyzeCalculate
- CalculatPivot
- Alian
- Aligit
- Sort

## Final finish

- Sort and arrange rows and columns
- Add style, formats and colors

## Save the work

- Excel
- HTML, XML
- JSON
- CSV, TSV
- Text files and many more

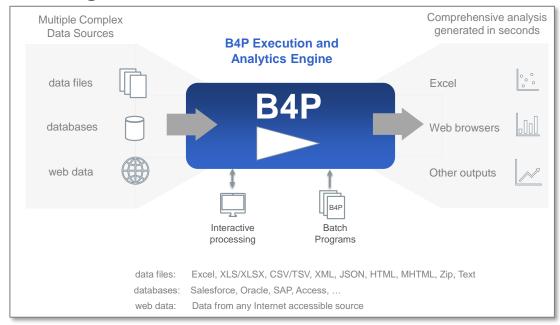


Excellent Work done! (on time, reliable results, constantly high quality)

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# **B4P – The Analytics and Execution Engine Based on 14 Years of Experience Solving Problems**

#### The Engine



- Lean architecture of the engine delivers full machine performance
- Supports various data formats for inputs and outputs (Excel, HTML, XML, JSON, text files, etc., full UNICODE)
- Processes and delivers accurate results reliably
- High performance even with big data Matter of seconds, not hours
- Styled and formatted output for Excel and HTML
   (e.g. Structured tables, colors, multiple Excel sheets per file)

#### The Language

```
// A small demonstration program showing how Excel files (.xlsx) are read, processed
include ( Style Library );
                              // Include this library if you want to use the 'table
    table load excel file
                                              (football club, Football Membership Li
    table load
                                              ( soccer club,
                                                               Soccer Membership List
    table rename column headers
                                              ( football club, { Family Name, City },
    table process selected rows
                                              ( soccer club,
                                                               [Level] == Novice, [Leve
    table merge
                                              (football club, soccer club, { Last Na
    table sort rows
                                              ( soccer club, { Level, Last Name,
                                              ( soccer club.
                                                               { Level, First Name, L
    table rearrange columns
    // Done processing. Before saving to Excel fie, do some formatting.
    table style table
                                              ( soccer club, sheet, column width, 20,
                                                             freeze rows, 1, autofilt
    table style rows
                                              ( soccer club, 0, sheet, boldface, true
    table style columns
                                              ( soccer club, Level, sheet, column wid
    table process selected rows
                                              ( soccer club, ([Level] = '*Questionabl
               table style cells
                                                  ( soccer club, Level, row(), single
    translate style attributes for excel
                                              (soccer club);
    table save excel file
                                              ( soccer club, Soccer Club, New Soccer
```

#### Principle of Low-Code Approach: Few statements suffice

- A simple syntax: Easy to read, learn, understand and run
- Key strengths on large structured data tables and hierarchically structured variables
- Extensive library with very powerful functions and features
- Compact formulation methods for powerful processing steps minimizes coding loops and using variables

# **B4P – The Analytics and Execution Engine Supported Data Formats**

#### Inputs

#### Excel

- XLSX, XSLM, open formats
- CSV comma and tab separated files

## Excel

#### **Database Exports**

- HTML, MHTML and XML formats (depending what the database is producing). Examples: Salesforce, Oracle, SAP
- JSON files (JavaScript Object Notation format)
- CSV comma / tab / semicolon / ...symbol separated files

#### **Other Inputs**

- Files with fixed columns on every row
- Any other form of structured text files
- ZIP files (B4P does data decompression)

#### **Character Sets (both input and output)**

- UNICODE UTF-8 and UTF-16; Basic and extended multilingual planes
- Legacy formats (like ASCII / Windows West Europe)

#### **Outputs**

#### **Unformatted Output for Excel**

CSV comma separated files



#### Formatted Output for Excel (with colors, formatting and style)

- XLSX (Excel 2007 onwards, in use today)
- XLS (Excel 2003 XML format)

#### **Unformatted and formatted output for Browsers**

- **HTML** (incl. colors, formatting and style)
- XML (planned)

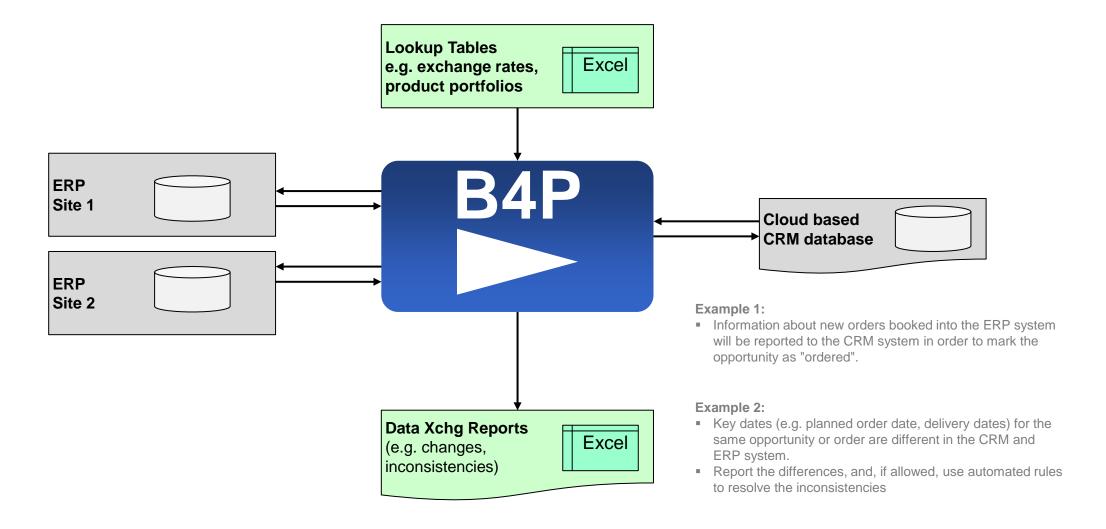
#### **Output for other databases**

- CSV comma / tab / semicolon / ... symbol separated files
- JSON files
- Plain text files
- ZIP files (B4P does data compression)

Additional data formats can be supported on request, e.g. with a B4P library extension

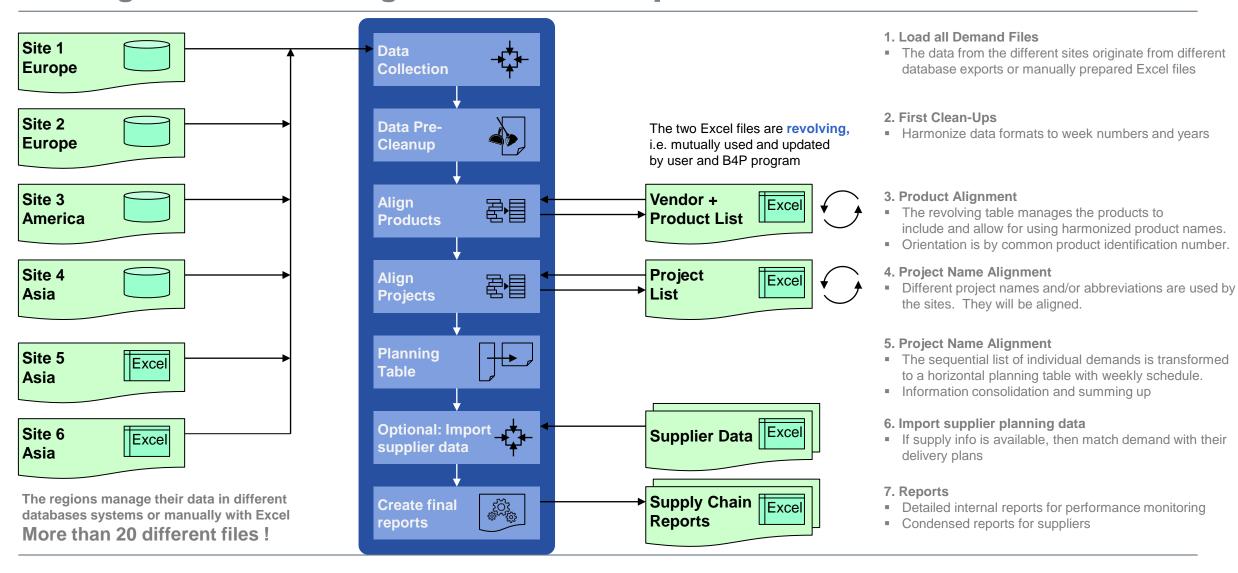
- 1 The Problem Statement
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# **B4P – Typical Use Cases 1 Information interchange between multiple different databases**

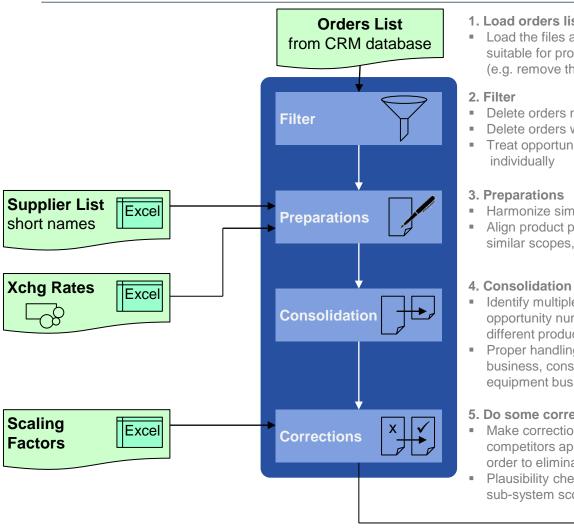


## B4P – Typical Use Cases 2

## Heterogeneous data integration and cleanup from different sites worldwide



## **B4P – Typical Use Cases 3 Enriched Business Intelligence**



#### 1. Load orders list

 Load the files and make the numerals suitable for processing (e.g. remove thousand separators)

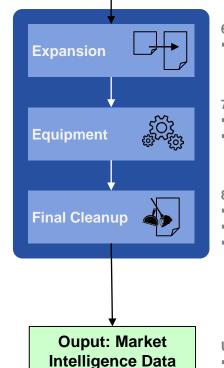
- Delete orders not of interest
- Delete orders with 0 EUR values
- Treat opportunities of different natures individually

- Harmonize similar company names
- Align product prices so they represent similar scopes, all converted to EUR

- Identify multiple rows with same opportunity numbers (as they cover different product & service scopes)
- Proper handling of traditional OEM business, consortia setups and equipment business

#### 5. Do some corrections

- Make corrections if orders given to competitors appear over-/underpriced in order to eliminate distortion
- Plausibility check of values of sub-system scopes vs. the whole.



#### 6. Expand

 Expand opportunities with multiple equipment suppliers into multiple rows and list the suppliers separately

#### 7. Derive Propulsion Values

- Derive equivalent equipment values
- Plausibility checks + adjustments against upper and lower boundaries.

#### 8. Final cleanup

- Keep and rearrange columns of interest,
- Discard the rest
- Numeric output in commercial format

#### Use Excel to visualize

- Market development over time
- Market development across regions
- Market share among suppliers
- Identifying market disruptions
- etc.

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# **B4P – The Language Key Benefits of a Low-Code Language Concept**

#### A language allowing you to express yourself briefly to solve the problem. Focus on the what, not how.

- Simple procedural language
- Very easy to read and understand the code, therefore very easy to learn programming.
- Powerful language semantics keeps your program short to solve the problem.
- Very quickly to get your code running
- Be natural and less cryptic. Giver your variables, tables, functions, etc. natural names (spaces are allowed!)
- Tables of any size are one of the main data storage models and B4P is optimized for this.
- No programming bureaucracy such as type definitions, declaring all the variables and doing memory management on your own.
- Significantly less need for fine grained programming like formulating loops, using variables, coding detailed algorithms, etc.
- B4P understands data formats such as Excel, HTML, XML, JSON, CSV, etc. to retrieve data from Excel, database and the Internet directly
- The execution engine and all libary files are very light-weight and lean, very robust and start quickly.
- High focus on cross-platform portability (Windows, Linux, MacOS, etc.), enabling to run the same code on different platforms.
- B4P output files for Excel with style and formatting like colors, row widths, etc.
- Rich B4P function library with ca 800 functions, including 200 functions for processing tables, and growing.

# **B4P – The Language Language Syntax and Semantics**

- Overall language block structure similar to C / C++ / Java.
- Full and homogeneous UNICODE support.
- Tables and structured variables are the two main data storage mechanisms.
- Table names, variable names and function names are fully flexible, e.g. multiple words and spaces are allowed.
  - This allows you to load sophisticated JSON data tree structures into the hierarchical variable structure.
- Dynamic variable tree, allowing to build up nested arrays and structures.
- Code pieces can be passed as function parameters which will be executed multiple time or on a on-demand basis:

Example: table process (...), pick if (...)

Benefit: Eliminates need to write loops or other details

- Numerous flexible control flow mechanisms, going beyond the common ones like if, while, for, ...
- File names with directory paths are understood and interpreted correctly in other platforms (e.g. Windows vs. Linux).
- Powerful parameter set and matrix operations to process big data.

#### When you program, think big:

- Hint 1 Use the rich B4P function library to process these tables and big data.

  Large tables will be analyzed and processed at naked machine performance.
- Hint 2 Use deep operations (vector and matrix operations) to process large amount of data inside tables and parameter sets.
- Hint 3 Think how you can formulate your code in a very compact manner without compromising comprehensibility. **Doing the great things with 5 20 lines of code is within reach.**

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# **B4P – Program Example 1 Merging 2 Tables – Problem Statement**

### **Football Membership List.xlsx**

First Name	Family Name	City	Level
Abel	Amberstone	Amsterdam	Beginner
Beata	Berghill	Barcelona	Experienced
Corinne	Carlson	Copenhagen	Beginner
Dietmar	Davis	Dublin	Beginner
Ellen	Evans	Essen	Beginner
Fred	Fisher	Frankfurt	Experienced
Gregory	Green	Gaza City	Experienced
Henry	Hansson	Hamburg	Experienced
Ida	Ingelberg	Ingolstadt	Beginner
John	Janssen	Johannesburg	Beginner
Karl	Karlsson	Kansas City	Experienced

## **Soccer Membership List.xlsx**

		-	
Level	Town	Last Name	First Name
Questionable	Kyoto	Karlsson	Karl
Novice	London	Lee	Linda
Experienced	Morristown	Miller	Mike
Experienced	New York	Nguyen	Nathali
Experienced	Oslo	Oliveiro	Oscar
Novice	Phoenix	Paulsson	Petra
Novice	Quebec City	Quarles	Quincy
Experienced	Riga	Richardson	Richard
Experienced	San Diego	Stewart	Sandra
Experienced	Tahoma	Turner	Tim
Questionable	Ulm	Ufford	Uwe
Novice	Venice	Viking	Victor



#### **New Soccer Membership List.xlsx**

Level	<b>▼</b> First Name	<b>▼</b> Last Name	→ Town
Beginner	Abel	Amberstone	Amsterdam
Beginner	Corinne	Carlson	Copenhagen
Beginner	Dietmar	Davis	Dublin
Beginner	Ellen	Evans	Essen
Beginner	Ida	Ingelberg	Ingolstadt
Beginner	John	Janssen	Johannesburg
Beginner	Linda	Lee	London
Beginner	Petra	Paulsson	Phoenix
Beginner	Quincy	Quarles	Quebec City
Beginner	Victor	Viking	Venice
Experienced	Beata	Berghill	Barcelona
Experienced	Fred	Fisher	Frankfurt
Experienced	Gregory	Green	Gaza City
Experienced	Henry	Hansson	Hamburg
Experienced	Mike	Miller	Morristown
Experienced	Nathali	Nguyen	New York
Experienced	Oscar	Oliveiro	Oslo
Experienced	Richard	Richardson	Riga
Experienced	Sandra	Stewart	San Diego
Experienced	Tim	Turner	Tahoma
Questionable	Uwe	Ufford	Ulm
Questionable or Experienced	Karl	Karlsson	Kyoto or Kansas City

## A new football club should be created after merging two existing sports clubs:

- The tables of the two clubs are arranged differently and contain different acronyms (e.g. qualification levels)
- Some people are members in both clubs and need to be resolved properly.
- Highlight possible inconsistencies (red text color)

## **B4P - Program Example 1**

## A Simple Program Merges 2 Tables – 15 Statements, 0 Variables, 0 Loops

Multiple words allowed

1 statement merges2 tables as specified

for readability + flexibility

7 Statements to combine the clubs

7 statements to add some formatting and save the work.

**Simple statements** easy to understand

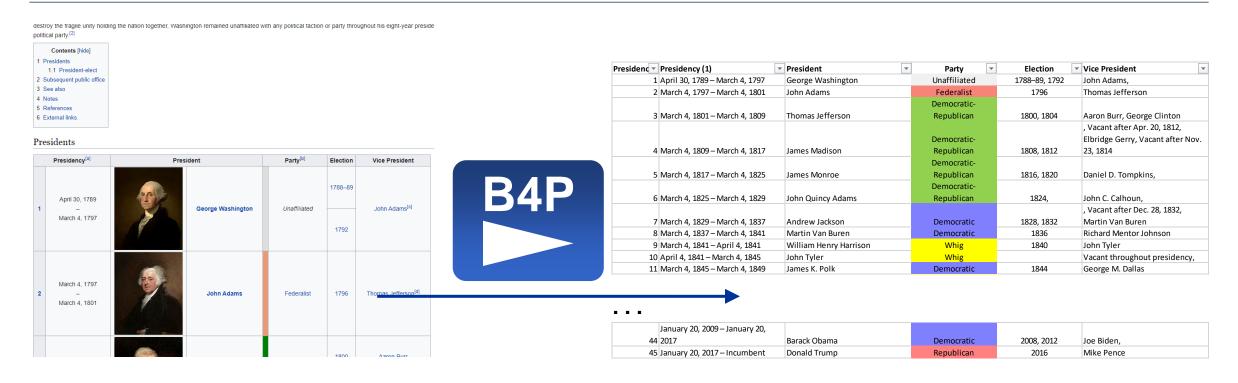
**No loops.** Simple statements applied for the whole table

**Excel file loaded** with one single statement

```
// A small demonstration program showing how Excel files (.xlsx) are read, processed and saved, including some style.
include ( Style Library );
                            // Include this library if you want to use the 'table style...' functions.
    table load excel file
                                             ( football club, Football Membership List.xlsx );
    table load
                                                              Soccer Membership List.csv ); // Beginners are Novices here
    table rename column headers
                                             (football club, { Fam ly Name, City }, { Last Name, Town } );
    table process selected rows
                                             ( soccer club, [Level] == Novice, [Level] = Beginner );
                                             (football club, soccer club, { Last Name, First Name }, { Level, Town }, append, " or " );
    table sort rows
                                             ( soccer club, { Level, Last Name, First Name });
    table rearrange columns
                                             ( soccer club, { Level, First Name, Last Name, Town } );
   // Done processing. Before saving to Excel fie, do some formatting.
    table style table
                                             (soccer club, sheet, column width, 20, row height, 20,
                                                             freeze rows, 1, autofilter, 0, vertical align, center );
    table style rows
                                             ( soccer club, 0, sheet, boldface, true, fill color, gray 15 );
    table style columns
                                             ( soccer club, Level, sheet, column width, 30 );
    table process selected rows
                                             ( soccer club, ([Level] = '*Questionable*'),
               table style cells
                                                 ( soccer club, Level, row(), single, text color, red ) );
    translate style attributes for excel
                                             (soccer club);
    table save excel file
                                             ( soccer club, Soccer Club, New Soccer Club Membership List.xlsx );
    echo (New soccer club has ", table length (soccer club ), " members. Enjoy playing.");
```

**Excel file saved** with one single statement

# **B4P – Program Example 2 U.S. Presidents from Wikipedia**



## Download the list of Presidents and generate Excel table with 1 President per row

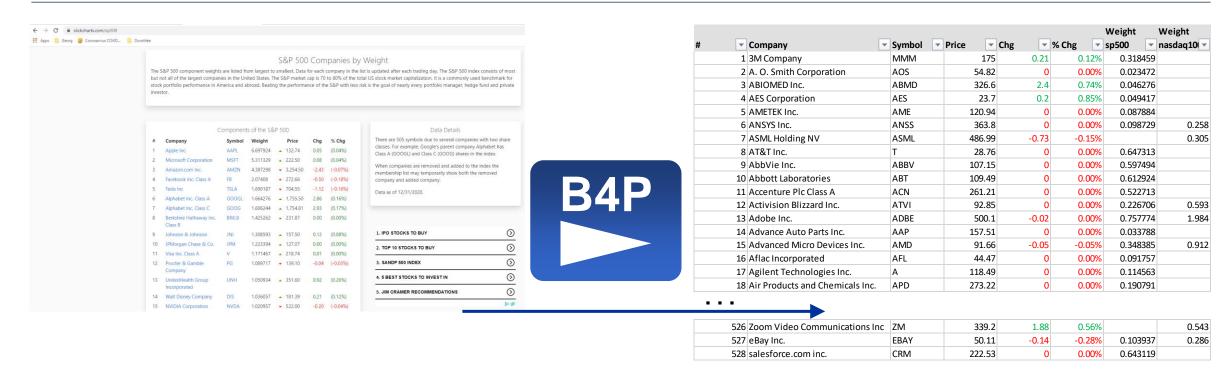
- Some Presidents had multiple terms
- Ignore the portraits
- Some vice presidents had deviating terms
- Remove redundant artefacts, e.g. cross-referencing symbols and generate a nice table with parties colored differently

## **B4P – Program Example 2**

## 18 Statements, 0 Loops and 0 Variables to Straighten up the Presidents

include ( Style Library ); // This library needs to be included if you want to add style and formatting to the table **Internet Download** ( "https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List of presidents of the United States", presidents.html ); file download overwrite ( presidents, presidents.html, HTML, 'id="Presidents"' ); in 1 statement table load ( presidents, presidents as loaded.csv ); table save ( presidents, table length ( presidents ) -1 ); // Remove last row with redundant footnote info table delete rows // Strip out all footnote references and new lines in the fields **Cleanups** table process all cells ( presidents, [.] = replace all( literal([.]), { "[a]" .. "[z]", new line}, '' ) ); with minimum effort // Remove the blank column originally containing portraits and put president name into all rows table delete columns ( presidents, {President, Party } ); table rename column headers ( presidents, {"President (1)", "Party (1)"}, {President, Party} ); Align the data table fill vertically ( presidents, President ); table consolidate ( presidents, President, { Election, Vice President }, append, ", " ); table initialize ( party colors, // Define party colors {{ Party Name, Colors }, **Define colors** affiliated { Democratic, "#8080FF" }, // Light blue "#FF8080" }, // Light red { Republican, to the parties { Federalist, coral }, { "Democratic- Republican", excel light green }. { "Democratic-Republican", excel light green }, { Whig, vellow }, { National Union. ocre }, { Unaffiliated, gray 15 } ); // Add some colors and styles table process ( presidents, table style cells ( presidents, Party, row(), single, Color and Style the fill color, [party colors : Party Name, [Party], Colors])); table style columns (presidents, { "Presidency (1)", "President", "Vice President" }, sheet, column width, 30 ); results table style columns ( presidents, { Party, Election }, sheet, column width, 20, horizontal align, middle ); table style rows ( presidents, 0, table, boldface, true ); table style table (presidents, sheet, wrap text, true, autofilter, 0, freeze rows, 1); translate style attributes for excel Save as Excel File table save excel file ( presidents, All U.S. Presidents, presidents.xlsx );

# **B4P – Program Example 3 Stock Data (SP 500 and NASDAQ 100) Combined**

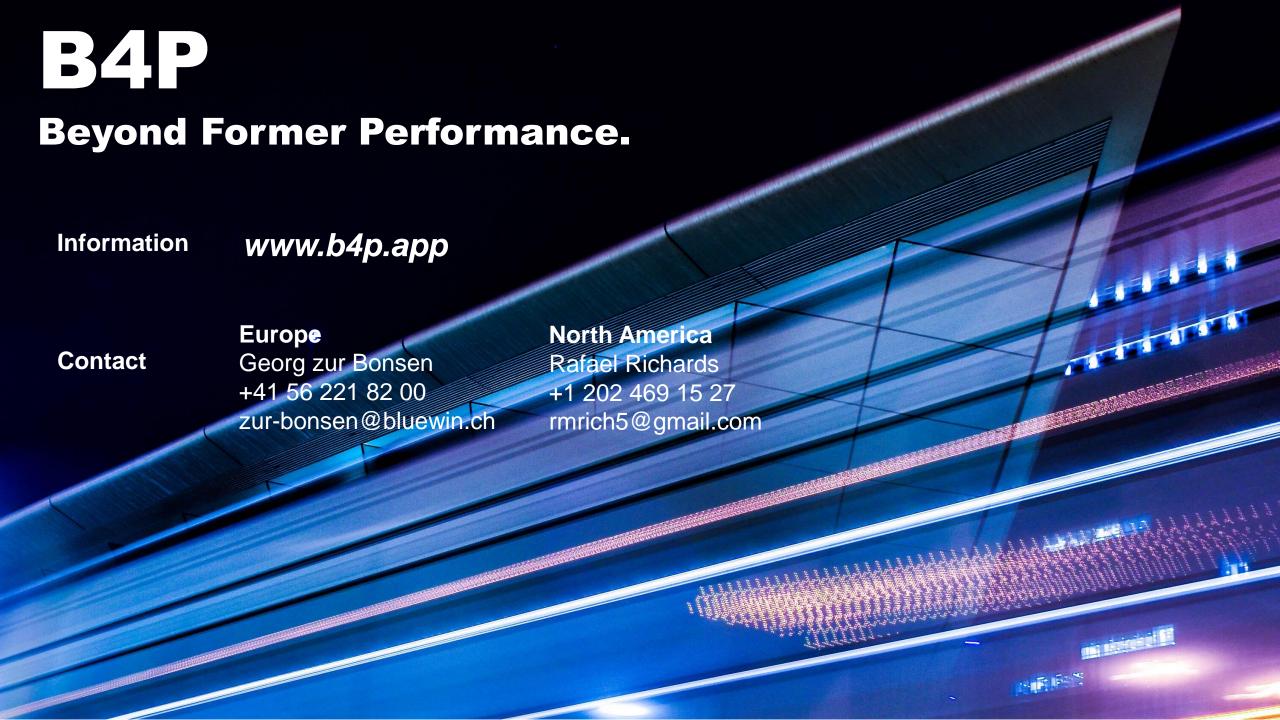


## Import the SP 500 and NASDAQ 100 listings and merge them

- Some companies are listed in only one of them, others are listed in both.
- Combine the information, show the weighting in the two listings and color the stock price developments

# **B4P – Program Example 3 21 Statements, 1 loop and 1 variable do the Job**

```
include ( Style Library );
                                                    Step 1: Download two web pages.
                                                    for all parameters ( {nasdaq100, sp500} , listing[] )
Download Files
                                                          file download overwrite
                                                                                       ( "https://www.slickcharts.com/" + listing[], listing[] + .html);
and align header names
                                                          table load
                                                                                       ( listing[] ,listing[] + .html, HTML, "Components of the" );
                                                          table rename column headers
                                                                                      ( listing[], "Weight", "Weight " + listing[] );
                                                                                       // Weight info is specific to SP and Nasdaq, so add the listing name
                                                          table save
                                                                                       ( listing[], listing[] + " as loaded.csv" );
Merge the Tables
                                                    Step 2:
                                                                Combine the two tables
                                                    table merge extend columns
                                                                                 ( nasdag100, sp500, Symbol );
and assign common name
                                                                                 ( sp500, stocks );
                                                    table rename
                                                    Step 3: Cleanup
                                                    table correct headers
                                                                                 ( stocks, '*Price*', Price );
                                                    table rearrange columns
                                                                                 ( stocks, { '#', Company, Symbol, Price, Chg, '% Chg' } ); // Weightings follow afterwards
Clean Up
                                              // Percent value gets converted to regular number, price value is claned up
                                                    table process
                                                                           ( stocks, ['% Chq'] = smart numeral( middle( ['% Chq'], '(', ')' )); [Price] = clean numeral([Price]) );
                                                    table sort rows
                                                                           ( stocks, Company );
                                                                           ( stocks, ['#'] = row() );
                                                    table process
                                                    Step 4: Add some color
                                                    table process
Add style and color
                                                        table style cells
                                                                             ( stocks, {'Chg','% Chg'}, {2:row()}, single, text color, select if ( [Chg]>0, excel green, red ) ) );
                                                    table style rows
                                                                            ( stocks, 0, table, fill color, gray 14, boldface, true, wrap text, true );
                                                    table style columns
                                                                           ( stocks, Company, sheet, column width, 30 );
                                                    table style columns
                                                                           ( stocks, '% Chg', sheet, number format, "0.00%" ); // Value to show as percent.
                                                    table style table
                                                                           ( stocks, sheet, freeze rows, 1, autofilter, 0);
                                                    Step 5: Save the artwork
                                                    translate style attributes for excel
                                                                                             ( stocks );
Save as Excel File
                                                    table save excel file
                                                                                             ( stocks, "NASDAQ and SP500", Stocks.xlsx );
```



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## **B4P – Beyond Former Performance New in Release 8.00**

#### 100% Excel Support

- B4P loads and saves the latest Microsoft Excel file format (.xlsx)
- Formatting and styles are supported
- B4P also supporting the old Excel XML 2003 file format
- Round trip: Generated excel files can be loaded again with out losing data.

Excel files are actually ZIP files containing various files describing workbooks, tables, styles and shared strings.

#### The functions

- table load excel file and
- table save excel file are implemented in B4P.

#### **Overall Clean-up**

- Thorough functional tests and stress tests have been carried out to make B4P become even more reliable.
- The start-up behavior has been streamlined.

A small number of new functions have been added which include the following:

- Processing table columns
- Processing table cells
- Advance table search and update functions
- Improved visualization of tables
- Improved listing of tables, functions and variables

### **Help and Documentation**

- Moved from PDF to 100% online
- www.b4p.app
- Online help available inside B4P on your fingertips, i.e. by typing "docs"
- Lots of reproducible program examples
- Various new help features are available

The document generation has been automated using a B4P program. It fishes all raw contents from source code comments and supplementary text files, generates a master file (JSON) and finally produces all web document contents automatically.

Almost all programming examples are tested automatically with every new update and the outputs are included in the documentation.

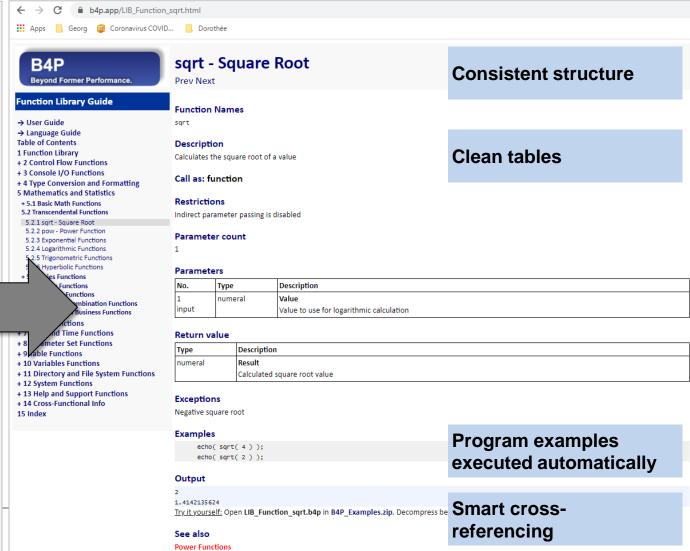
### **B4P Use Case**

## Automatic documentation generation for website www.b4p.app

### **Inputs: Source Text (inside C program)**



#### **Output: Web contents**



### **B4P Use Case**

## Automatic Document Generation for www.b4p.app using B4P

#### **Catalog of Books**

- Short Excel File
- Specifies all manuals to generate
- Specifies location of source text for the different manuals

#### Raw Inputs

- Descriptions of B4P functions are documented in the C/C++ files in comments, using an enhanced JSON format.
- Other contents such as introductory parts are described in additional text files, also using enhanced JSON format

#### **Revolving Table of Contents**

- It puts all individual raw document sections into a given order and hierarchy level in the document
- Both user and B4P program update this table mutually

1 B 1

1 B 2

2 B 2.1

3 B 2.1.1

3 B 2.1.2

▼ Section N ▼ Section Name

→ User Guide

Table of Contents

Function Library

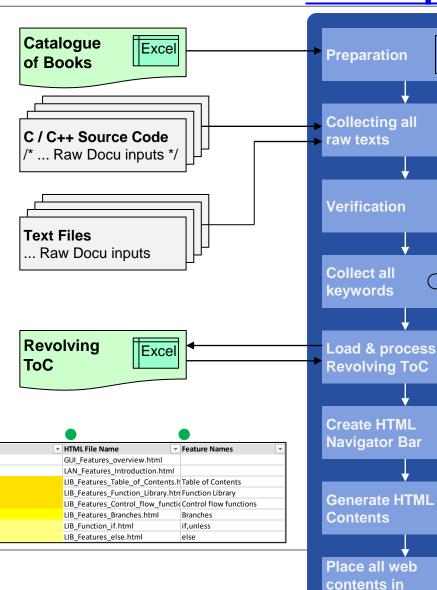
Branches

if, unless

else

→ Language Guide

Control Flow Functions



#### **Preparation**

- Load catalogue of books
- User selects the book to generate

#### **Text Collection**

 Scan all files in specified subdirectories for relevant contents for B4P documentation

## Master File JSON

#### Verification

Ensures that contents provided fulfill the structural guidelines

#### **Collect all Keywords**

 Structured handling of all keywords and function names allowing convenient cross referencing and index pages

#### **Process Revolving ToC**

- Add titles of new contents into placeholders or at the bottom
- Add further info (links, keywords)
- Do chapter/section renumbering

#### **Generate HTML Navigation Bar**

Left-hand menu to select section to see

#### **Generate HTML contents**

- Formatted text and tables
- Pictures included
- Execute all B4P program examples automatically and add their outputs into the doc contents

#### **Staging Area**

www

www

staging area

 All files (HTML, JPG, style.css, PDF, etc.) are moved to the staging area, ready for one-mouseclick publication on the Internet: www.b4p.app

Status 

▼ Category ▼ Level

Body

Body

Body

Body

Missing, (Ass Link

Missing, (Ass Link

OK, (Assign r TOC