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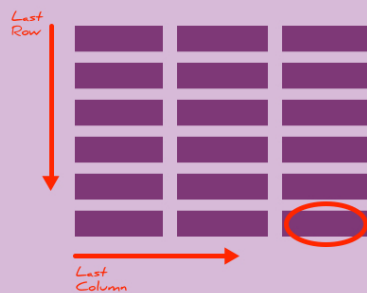
# 5 Different Ways to Find The Last Row or Last Column Using VBA

July 07, 2014 Chris Newman



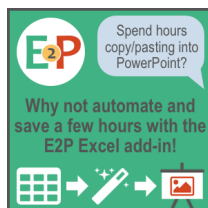
## Dynamic VBA:

Automatically Find  
The Last Row or  
Last Column In Each  
of Your Data Sets

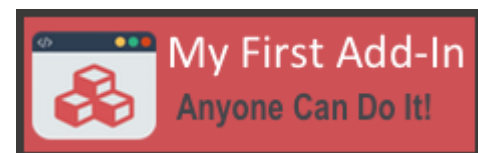


## Making Your VBA Code Dynamic

Early on when I was first beginning to write VBA macro code, I always needed to go back into the code and modify range references. I had created a bunch of macros to cleanup and perform analysis on raw data exported from database warehouses and the data never had the same amount of rows from one data-pull to the other. My

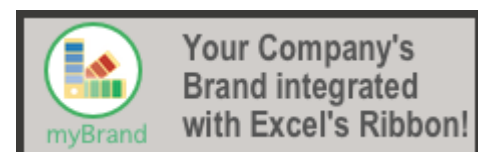


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coding skills dramatically changed the day I realized my VBA code could be dynamic and automatically determine the size of my raw data once executed. I soon came to realize the goal of coding a macro: to write it once and never touch it again.

Variability is also the greatest challenge for any computer coder as you have to think of every possible change that could occur in the future. I have found that writing VBA code that can automatically resize itself is one of the greatest things missing from most average macro users. Below I have compiled a list of all the major ways I have

## Use Caution!

Keep in mind, some of these methods may not give you the desired row or column number if you are not setting them up properly or using a well-formatted data sheet.

What I mean by a "well-formatted data sheet", is a worksheet with data that starts in cell A1 and does not have any blank rows or columns in the middle of the data. The below figure illustrates the difference.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1							
2							
3							
4	2007	2008		1H	2H	FY	
5	\$ 4,258	\$ 2,327	\$ 7,901	\$ 1,533	\$ 4,850		
6	\$ 3,923	\$ 4,956	\$ 2,926	\$ 1,725	\$ 6,756		
7	\$ 3,443	\$ 8,095	\$ 7,831	\$ 263	\$ 2,758		
8	\$ 9,738	\$ 751	\$ 5,553	\$ 3,394	\$ 3,018		
9	\$ 7,365	\$ 5,027	\$ 3,177	\$ 6,026	\$ 1,200		
10	\$ 3,945	\$ 1,255	\$ 2,662	\$ 6,725	\$ 4,697		
11	\$ 6,783	\$ 5,658	\$ 7,188	\$ 2,986	\$ 7,057		
12	\$ 2,290	\$ 2,550	\$ 8,873	\$ 826	\$ 1,070		
14	\$ 41,745	\$ 30,619	\$ 46,111	\$ 25,478	\$ 31,406		
15							

An Example of a Poorly-Formatted Data Set

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	
2	\$ 3,918	\$ 6,011	\$ 2,608	\$ 6,506	\$ 4,541	\$ 8,687	
3	\$ 3,762	\$ 7,509	\$ 4,423	\$ 6,860	\$ 1,497	\$ 6,153	
4	\$ 180	\$ 6,032	\$ 9,269	\$ 4,944	\$ 3,898	\$ 9,808	
5	\$ 8,439	\$ 8,622	\$ 9,514	\$ 5,744	\$ 6,635	\$ 400	
6	\$ 6,832	\$ 1,316	\$ 885	\$ 7,514	\$ 3,646	\$ 166	
7	\$ 1,309	\$ 4,312	\$ 1,255	\$ 9,012	\$ 9,957	\$ 5,444	
8	\$ 5,404	\$ 9,943	\$ 7,720	\$ 5,362	\$ 1,365	\$ 3,736	
9	\$ 7,073	\$ 7,530	\$ 7,283	\$ 7,174	\$ 9,089	\$ 3,657	
10							
11							
12							
13							
14							
15							
16							

An Example of a Well-Formatted Data Set

In a data set starting in Row 4, you may need to add or subtract a numerical value depending on the method you use. If you are going to be coding for a data set that has blank rows or columns within it, always be sure to test out your code to make sure it is calculating properly.

## Ways To Find The Last Row

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```

Sub FindingLastRow()
'PURPOSE: Different ways to find the last row
number of a range
'SOURCE: www.TheSpreadsheetGuru.com

Dim sht As Worksheet
Dim LastRow As Long

Set sht = ActiveSheet

'Using Find Function (Provided by Bob Ulmas)
LastRow = sht.Cells.Find("*",
searchorder:=xlByRows,
searchdirection:=xlPrevious).Row

'Using SpecialCells Function
LastRow =
sht.Cells.SpecialCells(xlCellTypeLastCell).Row

'Ctrl + Shift + End
LastRow = sht.Cells(sht.Rows.Count,
"A").End(xlUp).Row

'Using UsedRange
sht.UsedRange 'Refresh UsedRange
LastRow =
sht.UsedRange.Rows(sht.UsedRange.Rows.Count).Row

'Using Table Range
LastRow =
sht.ListObjects("Table1").Range.Rows.Count

'Using Named Range
LastRow = sht.Range("MyNamedRange").Rows.Count

'Ctrl + Shift + Down (Range should be first cell
in data set)
LastRow =
sht.Range("A1").CurrentRegion.Rows.Count

End Sub

```

## How To Expand Your Range To The Last Row

```

Dim DataRange As Range

Set DataRange = Range("A1:M" & LastRow)

```

## Ways To Find The Last Column

```

Sub FindingLastColumn()

```

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```
'PURPOSE: Different ways to find the last column
number of a range
'SOURCE: www.TheSpreadsheetGuru.com

Dim sht As Worksheet
Dim LastColumn As Long

Set sht = ThisWorkbook.Worksheets("Sheet1")

'Ctrl + Shift + End
LastColumn = sht.Cells(7,
sht.Columns.Count).End(xlToLeft).Column

'Using UsedRange
sht.UsedRange 'Refresh UsedRange
LastColumn =
sht.UsedRange.Columns(sht.UsedRange.Columns.Count).Column

'Using Table Range
LastColumn =
sht.ListObjects("Table1").Range.Columns.Count

'Using Named Range
LastColumn =
sht.Range("MyNamedRange").Columns.Count

'Ctrl + Shift + Right (Range should be first cell
in data set)
LastColumn =
sht.Range("A1").CurrentRegion.Columns.Count

End Sub
```

## How To Expand Your Range To The Last Column

```
Dim DataRange As Range

Set DataRange = Range(Cells(1, 1), Cells(100,
LastColumn))
```

## What Can I Do With A LastRow Or LastColumn Variable?

There are a ton of things you can do with calculating the last row or last column of a data set. Examples could be:

- Resizing a Pivot Table range
- Looping through cells in a column
- Deleting only the raw data range

There are many, many more examples of this and I'm am sure you can think of a few examples yourself. Let me know in the comments section below how you use resizing a range in your macro code! Also, if you can think of any other ways to use VBA code to find the last row or last column, post your coding method in the comments section so we can improve the current list. I look forward to reading about your experiences.

## UPDATE: Alternative Methods Provided By You!

Tim provided the inspiration for a function that can return either the last row or column number through a user defined function for a given worksheet.

An example of how you could call this function to return the last row on the active worksheet would be written as:

**x = LastRowColumn(ActiveSheet, "Row")**

```
Function LastRowColumn(sht As Worksheet,
RowColumn As String) As Long
'PURPOSE: Function To Return the Last Row Or
Column Number In the Active Spreadsheet
'INPUT: "R" or "C" to determine which direction
to search

Dim rc As Long

Select Case LCase(Left(RowColumn, 1)) 'If they
put in 'row' or column instead of 'r' or 'c'.
Case "c"
    LastRowColumn = sht.Cells.Find("*",
LookIn:=xlFormulas, SearchOrder:=xlByColumns, _
SearchDirection:=xlPrevious).Column
Case "r"
    LastRowColumn = sht.Cells.Find("*",
LookIn:=xlFormulas, SearchOrder:=xlByRows, _
SearchDirection:=xlPrevious).Row
Case Else
    LastRowColumn = 1
End Select

End Function
```



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