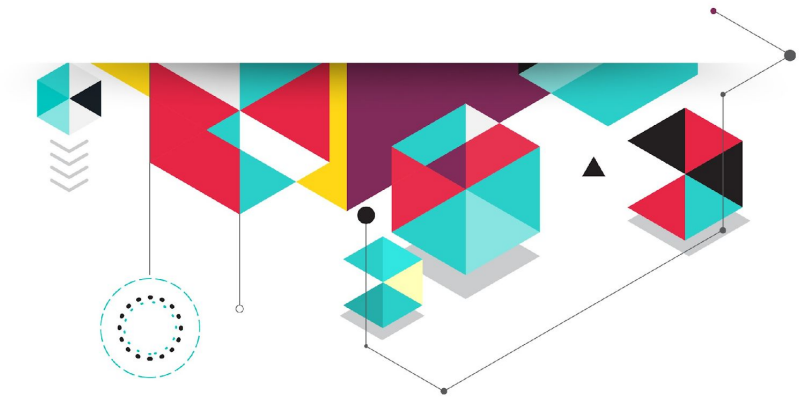
LESSON 9 – EXCEL AND DATA TABLES - RECAP

Overview

Excel and **DataTable** specific activities have been presented in this lesson, together with the way to work with defined ranges and tables.



Takeaways

- When working with Excel files you should work inside the container generated by **Excel Application Scope**, or, better yet, when possible you should use **Workbook** activities because they don't require Excel to be installed and they can work completely in the background.
- The **Visible** property determines if the operations will be performed **internally** or by using Microsoft Excel.
- **Read Range** activity reads a part of an Excel file and stores it in a **DataTable**.
- A **Workbook** is just a reference to an Excel file that can hold many types of data, while a **DataTable** is just a table with rows and columns.
- **Write Range** will overwrite previous entries, while **Append Range** will not, adding the data after the current content instead.
- Both **Read Range** and **Write Range** have the **Add Headers** property that indicates the presence of a first row that contains the column names.

Takeaways

- There are **CSV** activities that are very similar to the Excel ones.
- When creating a **DataTable** with the **Build Data Table** activity, the available data types for a column are spanning all the range of Visual Basic .NET.
- The **Sort Table** and **Filter Table** activities require a table to be defined in Excel..
- An useful tool when working with Excel files is the **Select Range** activity.
- There is a **For Each** correspondent when working with DataTables – **For Each Row**.
- Instead of using an index, if you have headers you can also use column names with the **Get Row Item** activity.

Useful links

[Data Table Variables]
[Excel and Data Tables Automation]