



MS Excel VBO - Extended

User Guide

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1. Introduction

This VBO provides the capability to interact with MS Excel. This VBO includes additional actions beyond those offered by the base MS Excel VBO included with the Blue Prism software.

2. Prerequisites

The following prerequisites are necessary for the proper functioning of this VBO:

- A licensed instance of Blue Prism 5.0 or later.
- A locally installed instance of Microsoft Excel.

3. Configuration

Import the .bprelease file into your Blue Prism instance. The VBO will be available within the “Default” group.

4. Using the Asset

The run mode of this business object is **Exclusive**.

The following actions are available within this VBO:

Action	Description
Activate Workbook	Activates the excel workbook identified by the given handle and name.
Activate Worksheet	Activates / Creates the worksheet specified by the given parameters.
Attach	Backwards compatible link to 'Open Instance'. This opens the first running instance of Excel found and links to it in this object.
Attach to Workbook	Backwards compatible link to 'Open instance' - attaches to the excel instance containing the current workbook. Note that if the instance containing the workbook could not be found, a new instance will be created.
Close All Instances	Closes all instances of excel which have been opened by this business object, either through "Create Instance" or "Open Instance" and which have not been discarded through "Close Instance" or "Release Instance"
Close Current Workbook	Closes the current workbook on the current excel instance. This is the equivalent of calling the 'Close Workbook' action with the default values for 'handle' (0) and 'Workbook Name' ("")
Close Instance	Closes the instance represented by the given handle, saving the changes or not as specified.
Close Workbook	Closes the specified workbook, saving changes if requested.
Copy	Copy the selected object within the active worksheet.
Copy and Paste Worksheet Range	Copy and paste the selected range of values to the specified destination.
Create Instance	Creates an instance of Excel, returning a handle with which it can be retrieved using the global object method : GetInstance(handle).
Create Workbook	Creates a workbook on the specified instance, returning the resultant name.
Create Worksheet	Creates a new worksheet in the specified workbook with the given name. If a sheet with the given name already exists, this will activate that sheet.
Cut	Cut the selected object from with active worksheet.
Delete	Delete the selected object.
Delete Worksheet	Deletes the specified worksheet from the workbook.
DrawChartFromRange	Inserts a new Chart Sheet into the Active Workbook based on input range.
Exit	Here for backwards compatibility - exits the current instance of Excel without saving any changes.

Find Next Empty Cell	Searches for the next empty cell in the direction given. This can either activate that cell before returning, or just return the cell reference while leaving the active cell as it was.
Format Cell	Sets the number format at the given cell to that specified. Oddly, this *doesn't* set the currently active cell.
Format Current Cell	Sets a cell format for the currently active cell.
Get Active Cell	Gets a reference to the currently active cell on the given instance.
Get Active Cell Value	Gets the value of the currently active cell.
Get Cell Value	Gets the value of the specified cell - note that if the cell has some formatting set in it, this does *not* return the formatted value - See "Get Formatted Cell Value". Note also that this has the side-effect of making the specified cell active.
Get Formatted Cell Value	Gets the formatted value of the desired cell. This will apply any formatting which is in place in the specified cell before outputting the value.
Get Number of Rows	Counts the number of rows in a worksheet.
Get Worksheet as Collection	Gets the current worksheet into a collection. This will read the worksheet and store the contents into the collection. The first row will be treated as the column names and will be used as the column names in the generated collection.
Get Worksheet as Collection (Fast)	Deprecated - Calls should be replaced by "Get Worksheet As Collection", but right now this gets the active worksheet on the active workbook in the current instance of Excel into a collection. It is the equivalent of calling GetWorksheet As Collection with all the default input values.
Get Worksheet as Collection Offset	Gets the current worksheet into a collection. This will read the worksheet, starting at the specified offset, and store the contents into the collection.
Get Worksheet Name	Get the name of the current worksheet.
Get Worksheet Names	Get the names of all worksheets in the workbook.
Get Worksheet Position	Get the position of the worksheet relative to the other worksheets in the workbook.
Get Worksheet Range As Collection	Exceptions Office 2013 onwards There are known issues when attempting to read and write data using the Excel VBO with the application set to run in background mode. These issues can be overcome by using the Show action
Go To Cell	Activates the cell in the given workbook, identified by the given cell reference.
Go To Next Cell	Moves a specified number of rows and columns from the currently active cell and returns the new cell reference. If the resultant cell reference is the same as the active cell before this action was called, this action has 'failed'. This is usually because the active cell is too close to a boundary.
Go To Next Empty Cell Down	Activates the next empty cell that can be found below the active cell.

Go To Next Empty Cell Left	Activates the next empty cell that can be found on the left of the active cell.
Go To Next Empty Cell Right	Activates the next empty cell that can be found on the right of the active cell.
Go To Next Empty Cell Up	Activates the next empty cell that can be found above the active cell.
Hide	Hides the window attached to the instance identified.
Hide Other Worksheets	Hide other worksheets in the workbook.
Hide Worksheet	Hide the active worksheet.
Import CSV	Import the specified CSV file into a new workbook.
Insert	Insert the object into the active worksheet.
Is Read Only	Checks if the given workbook is read only or not.
Move Worksheet	Move the active worksheet.
Open Instance	Opens a currently running instance of Excel with the given workbook name. If no workbook name is given, it opens the active instance of Excel. If there is no instance of Excel currently running, it will create a new one.
Open Workbook	Opens a workbook using the instance specified in the given handle, opening the book represented by the given filename.
Paste	Paste the object from the clipboard to the active worksheet.
Protect Workbook	Enable protection on the current workbook.
Release Instance	Removes an instance from this business object <i>*without*</i> closing or quitting it - after running this action, the instance in question will not be accessible by this object unless it is re-attached to using 'Open Instance'.
Remove Blank Rows	Removes blank rows in the active excel workbook. The entire row must consist of blank cells.
Run Macro	Runs the specified macro. Depending on how the macro has been created the name will be one of the following: A. Just the macro name e.g. MyMacro B. The workbook and macro name e.g. MyWorkbook.xls!MyMacro C. The workbook, worksheet and the macro name e.g. 'MyWorkbook.xls!MyWorksheet.MyMacro
Run Macro with Parallel Thread	Similar to the Run Macro action, but this action will also launch a separate thread that will check for the presence of a pop-up dialog from the macro and subsequently press the OK button. The timeout value controls how long the thread will look for the dialog. If no dialog is found the thread will terminate, but Blue Prism will continue to wait on the macro to complete. Therefore, it is important to set the timeout to a value longer than the expected completion time of the macro.
Save Current Workbook	Saves the current workbook using the workbook name as the file name. This is the equivalent of calling the Save Workbook action with the default values for 'handle' (0) and 'Workbook Name' ("")

	Exceptions: - Bad Handle : If there is no active instance. - Workbook Not Found : If there is no active workbook on the instance.
Save Current Workbook As	Save the current workbook using the given file name. This is the equivalent of calling the 'Save Workbook As' action with the default values for 'handle' (0) and 'Workbook Name' ("")
Save Workbook	Saves the workbook using the current name as a filename.
Save Workbook As	Save the given workbook using the given file name.
SaveChartAsImageFile	Saves an image of a Chart into a file.
Select	Select a specific range.
Set Cell Value	Sets the specified cell's value to the given value. This has the side-effect of setting the active cell to that which is specified here. Exceptions Office 2013 onwards There are known issues when attempting to read and write data using the Excel VBO with the application set to run in background mode. These issues can be overcome by using the Show action
Set Current Instance	Sets the "current active" instance to that specified.
Set Events Enabled	Enables or disables the events on the specified excel instance.
Set Window Location	Moves the specified instance's window to the required location.
Set Window Size	Sets the window size of the specified instance.
Set Window State	Minimizes / maximizes / restores the window attached to the specified excel instance. Exceptions: Invalid Input Parameter : If the given state was not "normal" and did not start with either "min" or "max"
Show	Shows a window attached to the instance identified.
Split Worksheet	Splits the specified worksheet into separate workbooks, creating a new sheet on each one and copying a subset of rows across to it.
Worksheet Exists	Check if the specified worksheet exists within the workbook.
Write Collection	Writes the given collection into the specified sheet.
Write To Clipboard	Write the specified information to the clipboard.

5. Support

This asset is provided free-of-charge by Blue Prism. Blue Prism does not provide formal support of this asset. Please direct any questions you have, related to this asset, to the Digital Exchange Community page:

<https://community.blueprism.com/communities/community-home?CommunityKey=1e516cfe-4d1f-4de9-a9eb-58d15bf38c81>