





# Scientists rename human genes to stop Microsoft Excel from misreading them as dates



Illustration by Alex Castro / The Verge

/ Sometimes it's easier to rename genes than update Excel

By [James Vincent](#), a senior reporter who has covered AI, robotics, eight years at The Verge.

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## Autocorrect errors in Excel still creating genomics headache

Despite geneticists being warned about spreadsheet problems, 30% of published papers contain mangled gene names in supplementary data.

