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Thread: Excel links don't work when source file not open

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Aug 7th, 2010, 09:48 AM

#1

Pana1 ▾

New Member

Join Date: Jul 2010

Posts: 11

Post Thanks / Like

Mentioned: 0 Post(s)

Tagged: 0 Thread(s)

Excel links don't work when source file not open

Hi

I have a problem with an excel file:

It has many links to another excel file's cells, including charts etc.

However, when the source file is closed, the links do not work and the original file returns a REF! text in the cells containint the links. If I open the file everything works again.

How can I have the links work also when the file is closed?

I cannot open the other file every time, it's a complicated proces....

Thank you for your help it is very appreciated.

Thank you for posting this **0**

Like this post **0**

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Aug 8th, 2010, 02:51 AM

#2

Robert Mika ▾

MrExcel MVP

Re: Excel links don't work when source file not open



Join Date: Jun 2009
Location: (current) UK, (origin) Poland
Posts: 7,256
Post Thanks / Like
Mentioned: 0 Post(s)
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The problem lies in amount of links being pointed to the different sheet, kind of calculation(formula used) Excel must carry over from different sheet and probably in size of memory in your PC/version of your Excel.

With two many links you will be getting the #REF! error.
Try to minimalism the amount of links if possible.

- Read the [Posting Guidelines](#), [Forum Rules](#) & [FAQs](#)
- Want to post a small screen shot? Try one of these [Excel jeanie](#), [MrExcel HTML Maker](#) or [Borders-Copy-Paste](#)
- If posting vba code, please use [Code Tags](#) .

Thank you for posting this 0

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Aug 8th, 2010, 03:00 AM

#3

Spa

New Member

Join Date: Aug 2010
Posts: 5

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Mentioned: 0 Post(s)
Tagged: 0 Thread(s)

Re: Excel links don't work when source file not open

Its a long shot but you could just check to make sure your formula calculations are set to automatic and not manual.

Tools>Options>Click the Calculations Tab>Make sure Automatic is selected in the calulations section.

Thank you for posting this 0

Like this post 0

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Aug 8th, 2010, 03:30 AM

#4

konew1

Board Regular

Join Date: Oct 2007
Location: Invercargill
Posts: 2,287

Post Thanks / Like

Mentioned: 0 Post(s)
Tagged: 0 Thread(s)

Re: Excel links don't work when source file not open

I have the same problem an a sheet that uses index funtion over the other file. I don't think it is related to the number of links or memory on my file. I haven't found a solution.

Thank you for posting this 0

Like this post 0

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Jul 14th, 2015, 11:00 AM

#5

M15tyw00d

Board Regular

Join Date: Nov 2010
Location: Wichita, KS
Posts: 264

Post Thanks / Like

Mentioned: 0 Post(s)
Tagged: 0 Thread(s)

Re: Excel links don't work when source file not open

Ok I know we are not supposed to start a new thread if one exists. I found this one

I have three spreadsheets (A) (B) (C)

Spreadsheet (A) references (B) & (C).

(A)- B:4 pulls the following from (B)
=COUNTIF('Y:\Goal Tracking\Goal Traking\Referral to admission\[REFERRAL TO ADMISSION TIME TRACKING FY2016.xlsx]Jul "15"!\$I\$2:\$I\$3,"VCRH")
each cell below it pulls the next two cells in order. ie: \$I\$3:\$I\$4, \$I\$5:\$I\$6 etc.

On spreadsheet (B) I need to insert Lines between those two cells referenced

to update the referrals for the day.

(A)- D:4 pulls the following from (C)
='[MasterFY2016.xlsm]7-1!\$X\$1
each cell below it pulls the same cell from the next sheet in consecutive order
ie: 7-2!\$X\$1, 7-3!\$X\$1 etc.

Issues: 1. (A) will update from (C) even when (C) is closed so no problem
2. (A) will not update from (B) when closed. It will only update if (B) is open.
It will show #VALUE!
3. If I insert lines into (B) when (A) is closed, then open (A), (A) will update
the cell info for the original Jul "15"!\$I\$2:\$I\$3 but not update the inserted
lines. If I have (A) open when I update (C) by inserting lines, (A) will show
the added lines and data.

I need (A) to update from (C) just as it does from (B). How can I make it do
that? All workbooks are on the same sharedrive but in different folders.

Thank you  in advance for any  given,
I work with Windows 7 Enterprise and Excel 2010

So I can learn instead of just getting help and having you guys do all my work, can you not just help me but if you
have time,
explain why what I was doing was wrong and why the "fix" works? I really want to learn this language so I can do
this myself too.
Thank you so **VERY** much. I **LOVE** this forum.

Thank you for posting this 0

Like this post 0

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Jul 14th, 2015, 04:49 PM

#6

konew1 

Board Regular

Join Date: Oct 2007

Location: Invercargill

Posts: 2,287

Post Thanks / Like 

Mentioned: 0 Post(s)

Tagged: 0 Thread(s)

Re: Excel links don't work when source file not open

Most of this still confuses me 5 years later.

I know that if you want to modify a sheet then the file that accesses the sheet
must also be open, AND you must save both files as you close them.

Working at home on excel 2010 with 2 files in different folders and I could not
replicate the problem for =Countif() and couldn't replicate my previous
problem with =Index/Match. I don't know what version I was using in 2010
but I doubt it was excel 2010 and I never used xl2007. Maybe Robert Mika is
right and it is a resources issue.

Thank you for posting this 0

Like this post 0

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Jul 14th, 2015, 04:58 PM

#7

gawls44 

Board Regular

Join Date: Nov 2014

Posts: 132

Post Thanks / Like 

Mentioned: 0 Post(s)

Tagged: 0 Thread(s)

Re: Excel links don't work when source file not open

I have the same issue.

my fix was to make a open event that opens the linked workbooks updates
the links then closes the linked workbooks.

This takes a few to open the file but it has worked (until I can find a better
solution).

Thank you for posting this 0

Like this post 0

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Jul 15th, 2015, 09:45 AM

#8

M15tyw00d ▾

Board Regular

Join Date: Nov 2010
Location: Wichita, KS
Posts: 264

Post Thanks / Like 

Mentioned: 0 Post(s)
Tagged: 0 Thread(s)

Re: Excel links don't work when source file not open

yes I have 6 worksheets in all that I have to have open for all updates to show as they all feed off eachother in different ways. It only becomes a problem when someone else has one open and I need to make an update. I have to wait. irritating.

Also, some people that open a few of the sheets are not computer savy enough to know to open all the others when they want to view and print just one of the worksheets. They always send me a message that something must be wrong with my sheet because it is not displaying right and they need to make a copy for the doctor to sign... ugh.

Last edited by M15tyw00d; Jul 15th, 2015 at 09:47 AM.

Thank you  in advance for any  given,
I work with Windows 7 Enterprise and Excel 2010

So I can learn instead of just getting help and having you guys do all my work, can you not just help me but if you have time, explain why what I was doing was wrong and why the "fix" works? I really want to learn this language so I can do this myself too.
Thank you so **VERY** much. I **LOVE** this forum.

Thank you for posting this 0

Like this post 0

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Jul 29th, 2015, 09:29 AM

#9

M15tyw00d ▾

Board Regular

Join Date: Nov 2010
Location: Wichita, KS
Posts: 264

Post Thanks / Like 

Mentioned: 0 Post(s)
Tagged: 0 Thread(s)

Re: Excel links don't work when source file not open

so is there no way to have the information flow without having to have all the spreadsheets open at the same time?

Thank you  in advance for any  given,
I work with Windows 7 Enterprise and Excel 2010

So I can learn instead of just getting help and having you guys do all my work, can you not just help me but if you have time, explain why what I was doing was wrong and why the "fix" works? I really want to learn this language so I can do this myself too.
Thank you so **VERY** much. I **LOVE** this forum.

Thank you for posting this 0

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ISEMPTY does not want to work properly. Someone help me out of this.

(14 responses) I am looking to fill in blanks in the selected range with the word "Research" IF the cell is blank then cell = "Research" Simple enough, yet my mind is drawing a blank. The code

Copy Columns from one Workbook into another

(9 responses) Copy Columns from one Workbook into another, looping through sheets 6 to the last in the worksheet. Error message Compile Error: Duplicate declaration in current scope Sub Copya

Colouring Blank cells

(10 responses) What should be the formula to color blank cells yellow using conditional formatting. "" symbol is not working.. Can anyone help me please

Type a number and loop through cells and copy if condition is met

(9 responses) Hi All, I have a master data sheet which contains item numbers with different components. Each item has many different components. There are therefore more than one

separating OT hours from total hours

(10 responses) I have a column H13:H each cell the column represents the total hours worked th day, I am trying to come up with a formula when hours of every day will be regular hours an

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