

## Getting Started with *Analytic Solver Basic*

### Creating an Account

Go to [www.analyticsolver.com/student](http://www.analyticsolver.com/student) and register for a new account. If you already have an account, log in to <http://www.analyticsolver.com/> before going to the student page, this will allow you to update your registration information.

After registering, log in to [www.analyticsolver.com](http://www.analyticsolver.com) and click the *Download Analytic Solver* button near the top left of the page. Download and install from there to begin your 15-day free trial of the *Analytic Solver Platform v2018*. After you install the free trial, you may purchase a 140-day license to use for your class for \$25 from a link “within” the software. Open Excel, go to the *Analytic Solver* tab, click the arrow underneath *Options* at the top right of the ribbon and select *License/Subscription*. If necessary, log in here with the credentials you recently registered with or updated.

Please contact [support@solver.com](mailto:support@solver.com) with any questions or issues with this process.

### Installing Analytic Solver

To install *Analytic Solver* to work with any version of Microsoft Excel, simply run the program *SolverSetup.exe*, which installs all of the Solver program, Help, User Guide, and example files in compressed form for both 32-bit and 64-bit Excel. *SolverSetup.exe* checks your system, detects what version of Office you are running (32-bit or 64-bit) and then downloads and runs the appropriate Setup program version. Your copy of the Setup program will usually have a filename such as *SolverSetup\_12345.exe*; the ‘12345’ is your user account number on [Solver.com](http://Solver.com).

The first time you run *Analytic Solver* after installing the software on a new computer, when you next start Excel and visit the *Analytic Solver* tab on the Ribbon, you will be prompted to login. Enter the email address and password that you used to register on [Solver.com](http://Solver.com) or [AnalyticSolver.com](http://AnalyticSolver.com). Once you’ve done this, your identity will be “remembered,” so you won’t have to login every time you start Excel and go to one of the *Analytic Solver* tabs.

### Cloud Version

With your license, you can use both *Analytic Solver* in desktop Excel, and its cloud-based counterpart: *AnalyticSolver.com*, which shares technology with *Analytic Solver* desktop version. Both platforms offer a Ribbon user interface with three tabs featuring nearly-identical buttons and menus. Nearly all optimization, simulation, and data mining-related functions available in *Analytic Solver* desktop version are also available in *AnalyticSolver.com*.

### **Solver Home Ribbon**

Once *Analytic Solver* has been installed, you will see three new tabs in the Excel ribbon: *Analytic Solver*, *Data Mining*, and *Solver Home*. The *Solver Home* tab (Figure 1) allows you to login and logout, and easily upload and download files to/from *Analytic Solver* in Excel and *AnalyticSolver.com*. You can also navigate to Frontline Solvers Website at [www.solver.com](http://www.solver.com) and the *AnalyticSolver.com* Home page as well as access your *AnalyticSolver.com* account by clicking the appropriate icons on this tab. Using the icons in the *AnalyticSolver.com* Files section of the *Solver Home* tab, you have the ability to upload files to your *AnalyticSolver.com* account – subject to certain size limits.

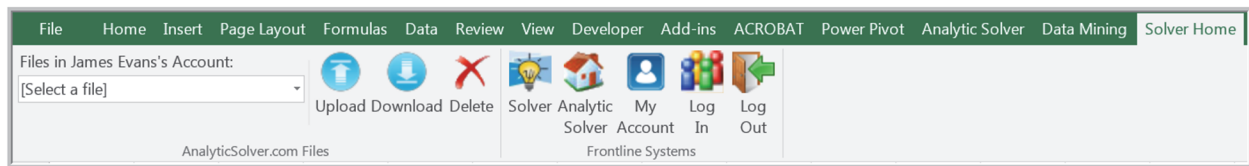


Figure 1 *Solver Home* Tab

To switch users, click *Log In*. Enter the email address and password that you used to register on *Solver.com*. After this, your user identity is “persisted” so you don’t have to log in again every time you start Excel. If you are on a shared-use computer, we strongly recommend that you click *Log Out* when finished using *Analytic Solver*. Then, the next time *Analytic Solver* is accessed, the new user will be asked to log in.

### **Analytic Solver Ribbon**

The *Analytic Solver Ribbon* (Figure 2) is your gateway to *Analytic Solver*’s graphical user interface. This provides the modeling and solution capabilities for topics covered in Chapters 12, 13, 14, and 15 that deal with Monte-Carlo simulation and optimization, which will be described in more detail in other online supplements. Most often, you simply click on the arrow at the bottom of a button on the ribbon to open a dropdown gallery with more buttons, and then you click one of these choices.

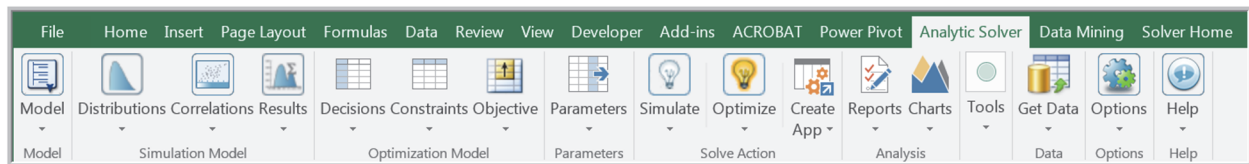


Figure 2 *Analytic Solver* Ribbon

The small downward pointing arrow below each of the buttons indicates that you can open a dropdown gallery of options related to that button. For example, clicking on the downward arrow for *Distributions* opens a list of options for different types of probability distributions built into *Analytic Solver* (Figure 3).

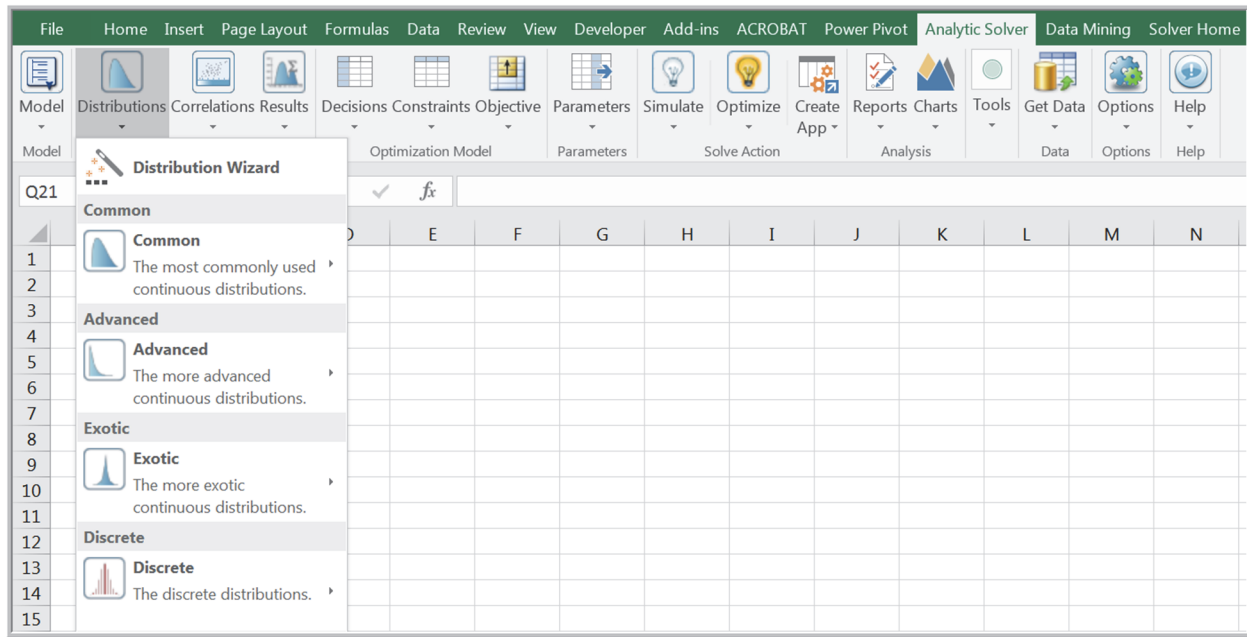


Figure 3 Distributions Options

### Data Mining Ribbon

The *Data Mining Ribbon* (Figure 4) provides buttons and options for regression analysis (Chapter 8), forecasting (Chapter 9) and data mining (Chapter 10) applications. These will be described in other online supplements.

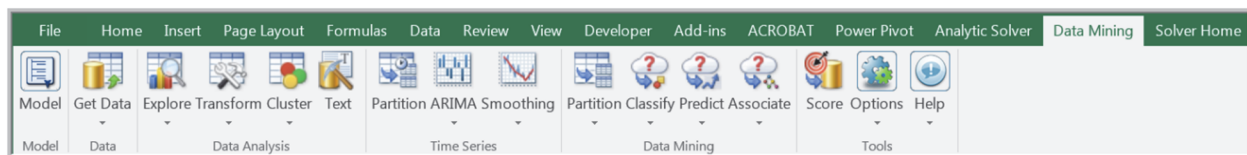


Figure 4 Data Mining Ribbon

### Task Pane

The *Model* button in either the *Analytic Solver Ribbon* or *Data Mining Ribbon* displays or hides the Task Pane (Figure 5), which is normally docked at the right edge of the Excel window. On the Task Pane *Model* tab, you'll see an outlined list of all the elements of your model: (i) objective, decision variables, and constraints for optimization models, (ii) uncertain variables, uncertain functions, statistics, and correlations for simulation models, (iii) parameters for both kinds of models and (iv) data sets and results for data mining, text mining or time series analysis models. Other tabs on the Task Pane provide quick access to option settings, a log of events that occur during an optimization or simulation, and for long-running optimization models, a continually updated status report plus a dynamic chart of the objective. The Task Pane will be described in more detail in other online supplements. However, you can use most features of *Analytic Solver* without it.

## 4 Analytic Solver

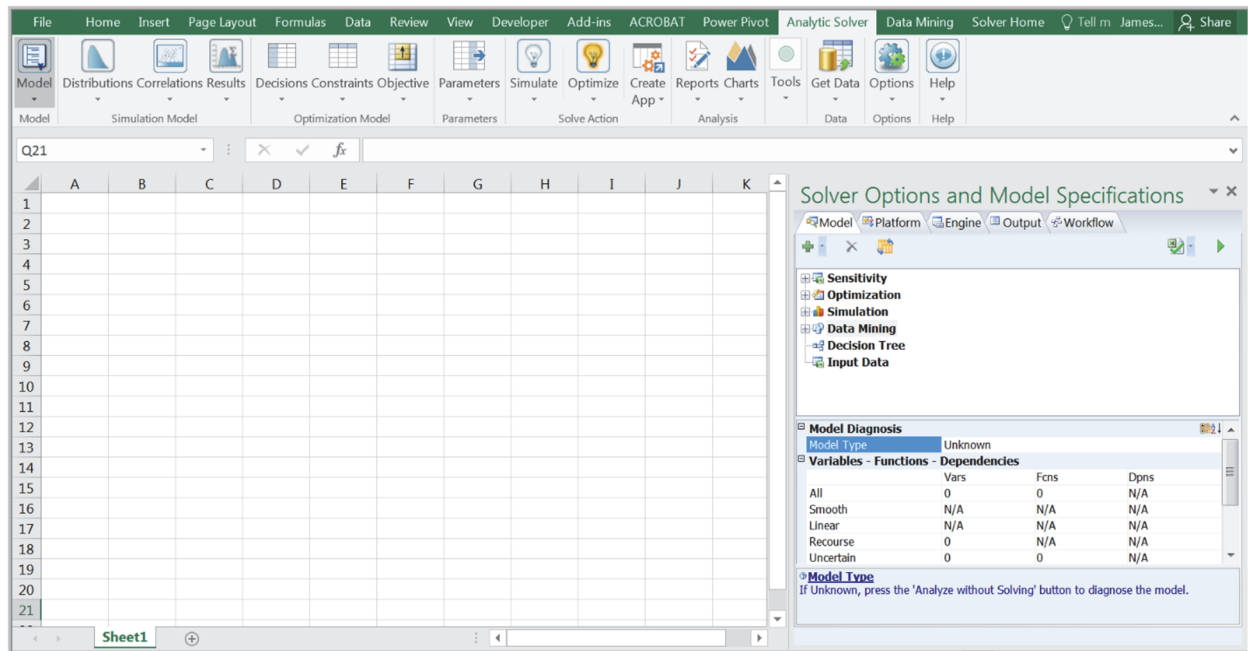


Figure 5 Analytic Solver Task Pane