

Mining Excel 2.0



The screenshot shows an Excel spreadsheet with the following data:

| | A | B | C | D | E | F |
|----|---------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1 | Zipcode | Latitude | Longitude | City | StateAbbr | County |
| 2 | 16820 | 40.908997 | -77.424249 | AARONSBURG | PA | CENTRE |
| 3 | 36310 | 31.599256 | -85.209408 | ABBEVILLE | AL | HENRY |
| 4 | 31001 | 31.972626 | -83.33082 | ABBEVILLE | GA | WILCOX |
| 5 | 70510 | 29.943573 | -92.148728 | ABBEVILLE | LA | VERMILION |
| 6 | 70511 | 29.9752 | -92.1353 | ABBEVILLE | LA | VERMILION |
| 7 | 38601 | 34.489297 | -89.474125 | ABBEVILLE | MS | LAFAYETTE |
| 8 | 29620 | 34.189812 | -82.412455 | ABBEVILLE | SC | ABBEVILLE |
| 9 | 4406 | 45.221933 | -69.49039 | ABBOT | ME | PISCATAQUIS |
| 10 | 54405 | 44.950905 | -90.304868 | ABBOTSFORD | WI | CLARK |



DYALOG

Sicily 2015



Introduction to Excel/OOXML

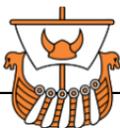


Excel at BCA Research...

Global Economic Analysis

- Data sources - (Bloomberg, ThomsonReuters...) make data available as .xlsx or .csv
- Lists - keeping track of... user profiles, data retrieval codes, publication files, etc.
- Interfaces for data collection - downloads and analytical tools are driven by Excel Add-ins
- Charts - if no other way to produce
- Statistics - if no better way to calculate
- Reports - presentation of analyses; lists of things that need attention, etc.
- Process control - "table-driven" tasks - determine what to do based on worksheet contents

In short, Excel is extremely important, and EVERYWHERE



Excel and XML

Office Open XML = "OOXML"

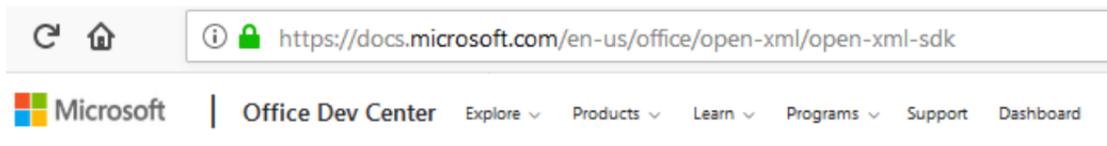
- 2000-2006 - standardization process
- MS Office 2007 - adopts the format
- *.xlsx, not *.xls



Office Open XML (also informally known as OOXML or OpenXML) is a zipped, XML-based file format developed by Microsoft for representing spreadsheets, charts, presentations and word processing documents (Excel, PowerPoint, Word).



The Office Open XML SDK



*The SDK is built on the System.IO.Packaging API and provides strongly-typed classes to manipulate documents that adhere to the Office Open XML File Formats specification. The Open XML file formats are useful for developers because they are an **open standard** and are **based on well-known technologies: ZIP and XML.***

The Open XML SDK 2.5 simplifies the task of manipulating Open XML packages and the underlying Open XML schema elements within a package. The SDK encapsulates many common tasks that developers perform on Open XML packages, so that you can perform complex operations with just a few lines of code.



What about COM (OLE, ActiveX...), and CSV?

COM continues to be used, but issues include:

- deployment; cost
- resource footprint
- performance
- automation challenges
- other limitations

```
'EX' WC OLEClient 'Excel.Application'  
'EX.WB' WC EX.Workbooks  
'WB0' EX.WB.Open<BOOK  
'SHEET1' WC EX.WB.WB0.ActiveSheet  
'RNG1' WC SHEET1.UsedRange  
SDATA<RNG1.Value2  
.....
```

CSV

- still a very common interchange format
- esp. for spreadsheet creation / tabular data management
- so, still an essential tool for numerous tasks; now we have - CSV
- datatype concerns?

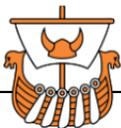
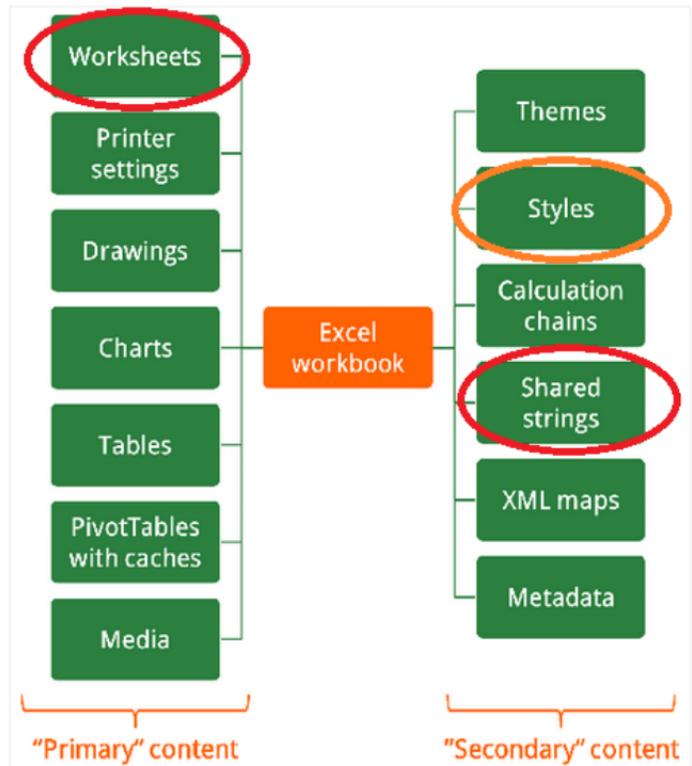


Open XML - Structure

Key components:

- Worksheets
- Shared Strings
- Styles (in part)

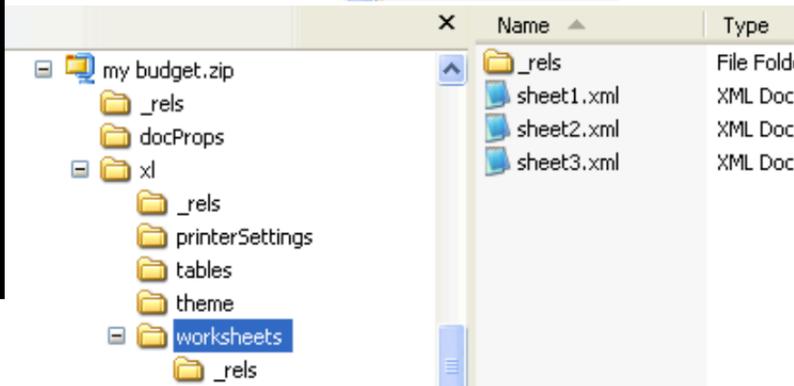
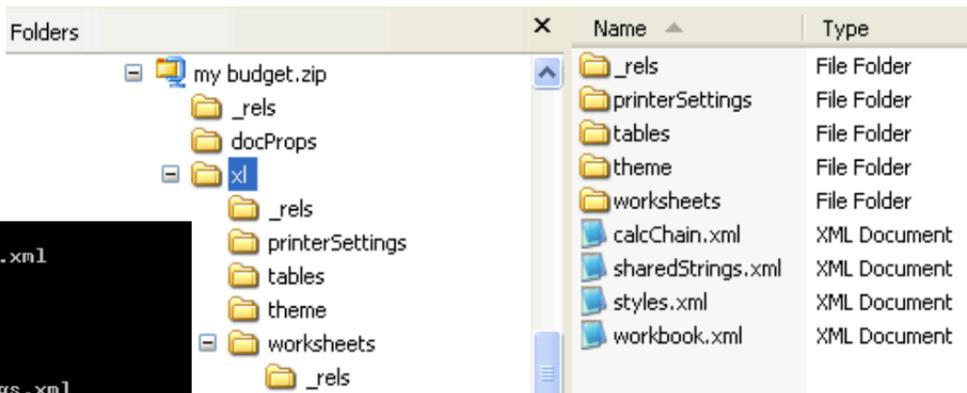
(similar for Word, PowerPoint)



(<https://professor-excel.com/xml-zip-excel-file-structure/>)

So what exactly is in that ZIP?

(eg. <http://officeopenxml.com/SScontentOverview.php>)



Current Dyalog APL OOXML-based Utilities

Syncfusion XlsIO

Essential XlsIO is a native .NET class library that can be used to create and modify **Microsoft Excel** files by using C#, VB.NET and managed C++ code. It is a non-UI component that provides a full-fledged object model that facilitates accessing & manipulating the spreadsheets without any dependency of Microsoft Office COM libraries & Microsoft Office.

sfExcel

- excellent toolkit for Dyalog APL and XlsIO
- "DataTable" feature for speedups
- well documented and tested



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the APL Wiki page for 'sfExcel'. The address bar shows 'aplwiki.com/sfExcel'. The page features a search bar, navigation tabs for 'FrontPage', 'RecentChanges', 'FindPage', 'HelpContents', and 'sfExcel', and a list of actions: 'Edit', 'Info', 'Subscribe', 'Add Link', 'Attachments', and 'More Actions:'. The main content area is titled 'sfExcel' and includes an 'Overview' section. The overview text states: 'sfExcel is a Dyalog cover class for using the Syncfusion XlsIO namespace that is a 100% native .NET library that generates fully functional Microsoft Excel Spreadsheets in native Excel format without depending on Microsoft Excel.'



Using the OOXML SDK Directly



Google It - to see examples of typical C# code to extract cell values...

```
// create a new string array
string[] theArray = new string[values.Length];

// loop through the 2-D System.Array and populate the 1-D String Array
for (int i = 1; i <= values.Length; i++)
{
    if (values.GetValue(1, i) == null)
        theArray[i-1] = "";
    else
        theArray[i-1] = (string)values.GetValue(1, i).ToString();
}
return theArray;
```

ie. get individual cell values - one at a time in a loop



OOXML and APL - *what is the best strategy?*

The SDK offers properties & methods to grab individual items, or...
the ENTIRE worksheet XML

ie. since we then "have" the raw markup, containing all the data...
...all we have to do is...???

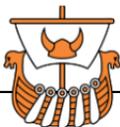
`pxml ← {Excel/OpenXML worksheet object}...Worksheet.OuterXml`

159478

```
<x:worksheet xmlns.....><x:v>4</x:v></x:c><x:c r="F1" t="s"><x:v>5</x:v></x:c><x:c r="G1"
t="s"><x:v>6</x:v></x:c><x:c r="H1" t="s"><x:v>7</x:v></x:c><x:c r="I1" t="s"><x:v>8</x:v></x:c><x:c
r="J1" t="s"><x:v>9</x:v></x:c><x:c r="K1" t="s"><x:v>10</x:v></x:c></x:row><x:row r="2"
spans="1:11" x14ac:dyDescent="0.25"><x:c r="A2" t="s"><x:v>11</x:v></x:c><x:c r="B2" t="s"><x:v>12
```

```
<worksheet xmlns="http://.../spreadsheetml/2006/main" >
  <sheetData>
    <row>
      <c>
        <v>42</v>
      </c>
    </row>
  </sheetData>
</worksheet>
```

| | A | |
|---|----|--|
| 1 | 42 | |
| 2 | | |



Excel to APL Array -> implementation options

Processing the worksheet XML,

may depend on your objectives and the data itself:

- columns of single datatype?
- focused selections?, eg. named-ranges, particular rows/cols
- conditional selections? (ignore unnecessary segments?)
- need for meta-data? (formulas, styles, etc.)
- are strings/datatypes important? (or just the numbers?)
- batch, pre-processing?
- very large spreadsheets?

But most likely, in general...



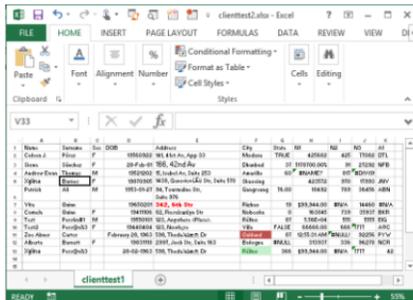
Excel to APL Array - Typical processing (in brief)

- get XML for one worksheet
- determine result array shape; create vector of cell contents
- determine cell datatypes (strings, numerics, other)
- extract key item(s) from each cell (all still text strings at this point)
- convert numerics, dates, error items, or other numeric variations
- for (datatype = string) cells...
 - `r[where shared strings]← sharedStrings.xml[cell values are the indices]`
 - `r[where inline]← r[strings provided in those cells]`
- de-escape strings (&→ &...)
- check for empty cell locations - expand if needed; reshape to 2d
- apply tests and throw exceptions as needed (missing/invalid data etc.)

so to get that worksheet XML...

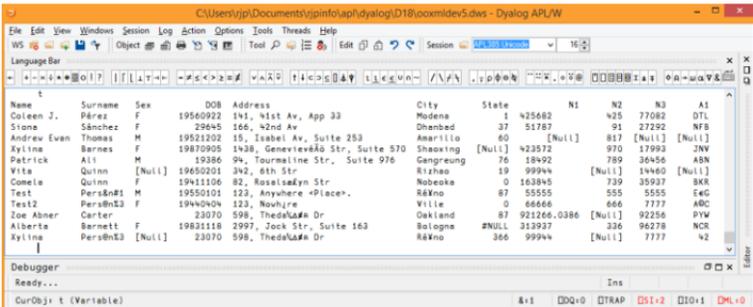


Excel to APL Array - the OOXXML SDK *conceptually...*



the SDK unzips *.xlsx file contents dynamically, exposing them to Methods and Properties we can manipulate to obtain worksheet XML contents

```
<x:worksheet xmlns.....> <x:v>4</x:v></x:c>
<x:c r="F1" t="s"><x:v>5</x:v></x:c>
<x:c r="G1" t="s"><x:v>6</x:v></x:c>
<x:c r="H1" t="s"><x:v>7</x:v></x:c>
```



repeat to gather sharedStrings, style.xml, and perhaps other items...



process xml strings into APL array(s)

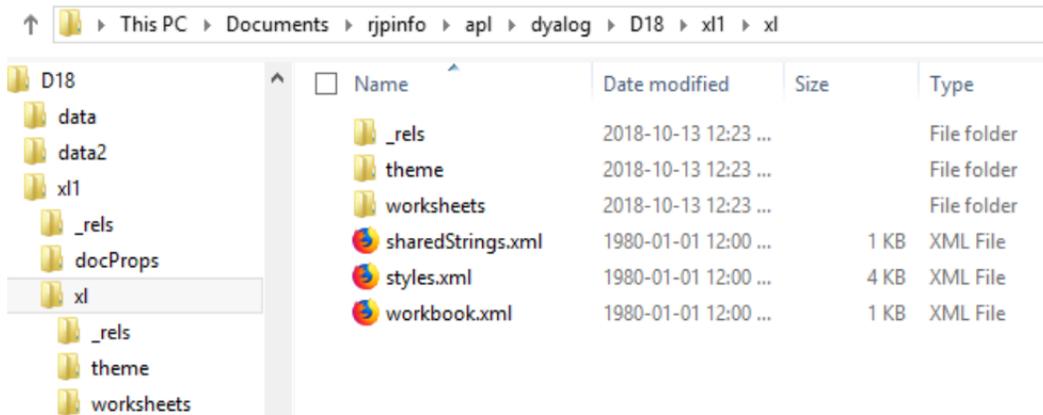


Excel to APL Array - "option B"

the Excel file is a Zipped archive, so...

```
System.IO.Compression.ZipFile.ExtractToDirectory...
```

unzips *.xlsx contents into a target folder:

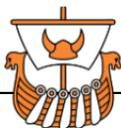


The screenshot shows a Windows File Explorer window with the address bar indicating the path: This PC > Documents > rjpinfo > apl > dyalog > D18 > xl1 > xl. The left pane shows a tree view of folders: D18, data, data2, xl1, _rels, docProps, xl (selected), _rels, theme, and worksheets. The right pane shows a table of files and folders:

| Name | Date modified | Size | Type |
|-------------------|----------------------|------|-------------|
| _rels | 2018-10-13 12:23 ... | | File folder |
| theme | 2018-10-13 12:23 ... | | File folder |
| worksheets | 2018-10-13 12:23 ... | | File folder |
| sharedStrings.xml | 1980-01-01 12:00 ... | 1 KB | XML File |
| styles.xml | 1980-01-01 12:00 ... | 4 KB | XML File |
| workbook.xml | 1980-01-01 12:00 ... | 1 KB | XML File |

then: fetch worksheet and sharedStrings xml vectors → process...

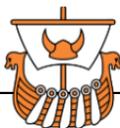
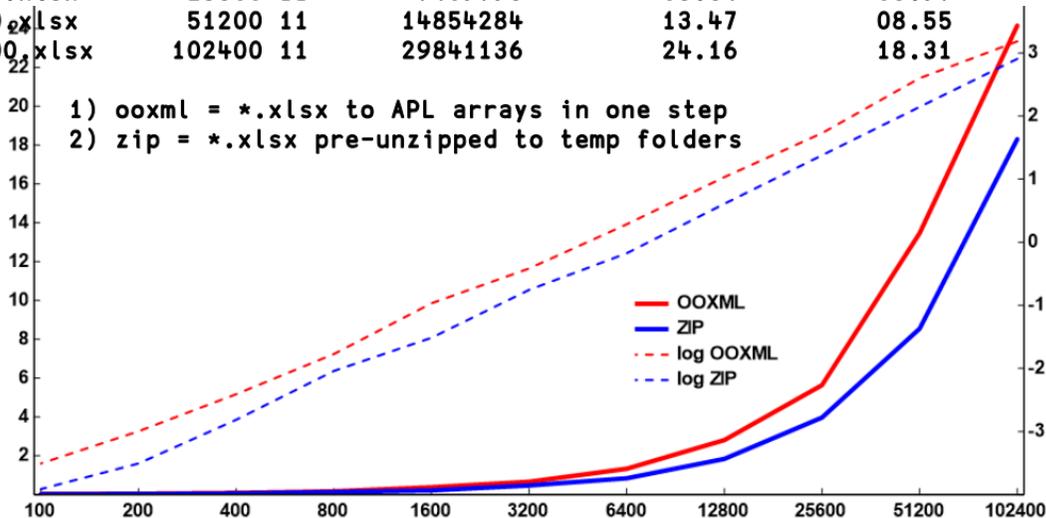
so... OOXML or (un)ZIP - which approach is faster?



OOXML (*.xlsx as-is) vs. ZIP (pre-extracted)

| file | shape | bytes | ooxml(1) | zip(2) |
|---------------------|-----------|----------|----------|--------|
| uclients100.xlsx | 100 11 | 28732 | 00.03 | 00.02 |
| uclients200.xlsx | 200 11 | 57300 | 00.05 | 00.03 |
| uclients400.xlsx | 400 11 | 114468 | 00.09 | 00.06 |
| uclients800.xlsx | 800 11 | 229008 | 00.17 | 00.13 |
| uclients1600.xlsx | 1600 11 | 458664 | 00.38 | 00.22 |
| uclients3200.xlsx | 3200 11 | 919920 | 00.66 | 00.47 |
| uclients6400.xlsx | 6400 11 | 1848508 | 01.33 | 00.84 |
| uclients12800.xlsx | 12800 11 | 3706952 | 02.81 | 01.84 |
| uclients25600.xlsx | 25600 11 | 7409796 | 05.64 | 03.97 |
| uclients51200.xlsx | 51200 11 | 14854284 | 13.47 | 08.55 |
| uclients102400.xlsx | 102400 11 | 29841136 | 24.16 | 18.31 |

- 1) ooxml = *.xlsx to APL arrays in one step
2) zip = *.xlsx pre-unzipped to temp folders



Excel to APL Array - in detail

Parse the worksheet XML strings to obtain individual cell content items...

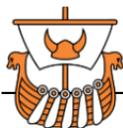
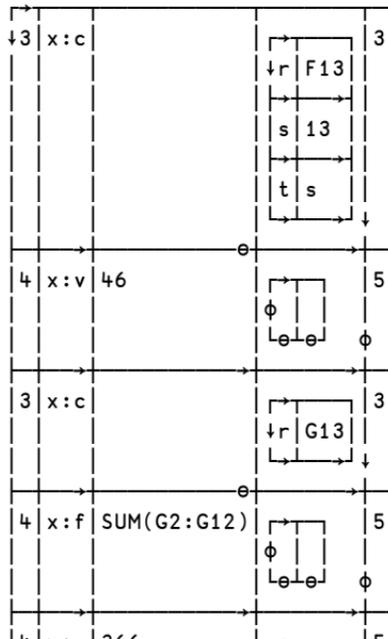
What about XML ?

it can be used to process results, but...

alternatively: partition, by start/end strings,
using ⎵ and ⎴

```
↑xmlvector stringget '<x:c ' '/x:c>'
<x:c r="F13" s="13" t="s"><x:v>46</x:v></x:c>
<x:c r="G13"><x:f>SUM(G2:G12)</x:f><x:v>366</x:v></x
```

or Regex/⎴S? - useful to a point...



Datatypes & Conversions

Numerics

A) LoadTEXT strategy: \square VFI everything and see what sticks ?

$\text{num} \leftarrow (\text{C}, 1) \equiv \circ \triangleright$ " tmp $\leftarrow \square$ VFI" cols/data Ⓢ all the numeric items
:if header < \vee / ncol $\leftarrow \wedge \neq$ num Ⓢ do we have full length columns of numbers?

B) \square CSV: column type info required

...all fields are assumed to be character fields unless otherwise specified...

C) OOXML: cells contain datatype indicators (if not, it's numeric)

eg. t="s", t="e", t="b", f=..., s=...

Key Tag item letters

v = value

t = type, text

c = cell, column; row = row

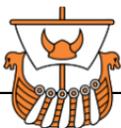
si = string item

f = formula

t = "s" = shared string

s = "18" = style item

r = reference, RichText items



OOXML Cell Datatypes

eg. XML for one row:

```
<row r="13" spans="1:11" ht="17.25" x14ac:dyDescent="0.3">          <- row info
<c r="A13" s="9" t="s"><v>27</v></c>          <- sharedString #27, with style #9
<c r="B13" t="s"><v>48</v></c>          <- sharedString #48 (note: missing "C13")
<c r="D13" s="17"><v>23070</v></c>          <- numeric value, style #17 (date)
<c r="E13" t="s"><v>63</v></c>          <- sharedString #63
<c r="F13" s="12" t="s"><v>45</v></c>          <- sharedString #45, style #12
<c r="G13"><f>SUM(G2:G12)</f><v>366</v></c>    <- formula, and result value
<c r="H13" s="2"><v>99944</v></c>          <- numeric value, style #2
<c r="I13" t="e"><v>#N/A</v></c>          <- Excel N/A (note: not a sharedString)
<c r="J13" s="13" t="s"><v>64</v></c>          <- sharedString #64, style #13
<c r="K13"><v>42</v></c>          <- numeric value
</row>
```

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---------------|----------|--|------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----|-------------|------|------|----|
| 13 | KYLINA | Pers@n%3 | | 28-02-1963 | 598, Theda Δ #A Dr | Ré é no | 366 | \$99,944.00 | #N/A | 7777 | 42 |
|----|---------------|----------|--|------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-----|-------------|------|------|----|



OOXML Cell Items - sharedStrings (... "table", a.k.a. "sst")

sharedStrings.xml

- items delimited by <si> tags
- item position = ID# (ID@REF)
- escaped chars (<, >, &...)
- some items may contain spans of differing fonts, styles, etc., so these text segments must be re-joined to obtain the entire string

```
1 123, NOWHERE  
3 598, Theda  
3 7007, Look Str. 511
```

```
<sst count="81" uniqueCount="68">  
  <si><t>Name</t></si>  
  <si><t>Surname</t></si>  
  <si><t>Address</t></si>  
  <si>  
    <r>  
      <t>598, Theda</t>  
    </r>  
    <r>  
      <rPr>  
        <sz val="11"/>  
        <color theme="1"/>  
        <rFont val="APL385 Unicode"/>  
        <family val="3"/>  
      </rPr>  
      <t>7007, Look Str. 511</t>  
    </r>....</si>
```



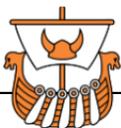
OOXML Cell Items - other translation issues

- Some cells may have style but no value items (search issue), eg.
`<c r="A1" s="1" t="s"><v>0</v></c><c r="B1" s="1" /><c r=...`

| | A | B | C | |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1 | <i>Employee Info</i> | | | |
| 2 | | | | |
| 3 | Name | SSN | Emp # | Posi |
| 4 | Bill Lee | 111-111-1111 | | 1 Sale |
| 5 | Shannon MacArthur | 222-222-2222 | | 2 Man |

- LINEFEED vs. NEWLINE**, ie. Alt-Enter in cell input keystrokes
 - breaks strings into items on new lines visually
 - in Excel (visually), the character behaves like NL, but in XML = LF
 - so in APL, you may want to modify

| | | | |
|------------|----------------------------------|-----------|-------|
| 1953-01-27 | 94, Tourmaline Str, Suite 976 | Gangreung | 76.00 |
|------------|----------------------------------|-----------|-------|



OOXML Cell Items - the <x: namespace prefix

inserted by the SDK

<https://social.msdn.microsoft.com/Forums/office/en-US/4fb3bb5e-ef5f-4795-837a-fae30d0ecef0/xml-prefixes-from-openxml-sdk-but-not-excel?forum=oxmlsdk>

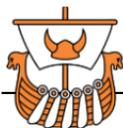
"Using a namespace prefix is only required if the XML refers to more than one namespace.... The Open XML SDK can't judge whether what you're creating will work with more than one namespace, so it's designed to always write out namespace prefixes..."

with (via SDK):

```
<x:c r="A13" s="9" t="s"><x:v>27</x:v></x:c><x:c r="B13" t="s"><x:v>48</x:v></x:c><x:c r="D13" s="17"><x:v>23070</x:v></x:c><x:c r="E13" t="s"><x:v>63</x:v></x:c>
```

without (via ZIP):

```
<c r="A13" s="9" t="s"><v>27</v></c><c r="B13" t="s"><v>48</v></c><c r="D13" s="17"> <v>23070</v></c><c r="E13" t="s"><v>63</v></c>
```



OOXML Cell Items - STYLES

`<c r="H11" s="4"><v>921266</v></c>` - linked to styles.xml items

DATES - stored as IDN, with style applied, eg. `<c r="D3" s="1"><v>29645</v></c>`
(* so to identify date cells... follow the style "mapping")

style.xml - contains number formats; fonts; characteristics for fill, border, etc.

numberFormat codes: ID refer to items in a standard list (see below) or supplied definitions

```
<styleSheet xmlns="http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/spreadsheetml/2006/main">
```

```
<numFmts count="3">
```

```
<numFmt numFmtId="164" formatCode="[$-414]mmmm\ yyyy;@" />
```

```
<numFmt numFmtId="165" formatCode="0.000" />
```

```
<numFmt numFmtId="166" formatCode="#"##0.000" />
```

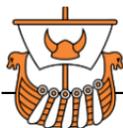
notes:

[\$-414] = "locale"

```
<xf numFmtId="14" ... applyNumberFormat="1" />
```

```
<xf numFmtId="1" ... applyNumberFormat="1" />
```

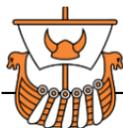
see ID table below



OOXML Cell Items - STYLES > Number Formats

eg. <https://stackoverflow.com/questions/4730152/what-indicates-an-office-open-xml-cell-contains-a-date-time-value>

| | | |
|------------------|--|-----------------------|
| 0 = 'General'; | 18 = 'h:mm AM/PM'; | 49 = '@'; |
| 1 = '0'; | 19 = 'h:mm:ss AM/PM'; | 27 = '[\$-404]e/m/d'; |
| 2 = '0.00'; | 20 = 'h:mm'; | 30 = 'm/d/yy'; |
| 3 = '#,##0'; | 21 = 'h:mm:ss'; | 36 = '[\$-404]e/m/d'; |
| 4 = '#,##0.00'; | 22 = 'm/d/yy h:mm'; | 50 = '[\$-404]e/m/d'; |
| 9 = '0%'; | 37 = '#,##0 ;(#,##0)'; | 57 = '[\$-404]e/m/d'; |
| 10 = '0.00%'; | 38 = '#,##0 ;[Red](#,##0)'; | 59 = 't0'; |
| 11 = '0.00E+00'; | 39 = '#,##0.00;(#,##0.00)'; | 60 = 't0.00'; |
| 12 = '# ?/?'; | 40 = '#,##0.00;[Red](#,##0.00)'; | 61 = 't#,##0'; |
| 13 = '# ??/??'; | 44 = '_(("\$"* #,##0.00_);_("\$"* \(#,##0.00\);_("\$"* "-"?_);_(@_); | 62 = 't#,##0.00'; |
| 14 = 'mm-dd-yy'; | 45 = 'mm:ss'; | 67 = 't0%'; |
| 15 = 'd-mmm-yy'; | 46 = '[h]:mm:ss'; | 68 = 't0.00%'; |
| 16 = 'd-mmm'; | 47 = 'mmss.0'; | 69 = 't# ?/?'; |
| 17 = 'mmm-yy'; | 48 = '##0.0E+0'; | 70 = 't# ??/??'; |



OOXML - Very Large Spreadsheet Files?

Grabbing and manipulating the entire XML for a large worksheet (1E6 rows?) may exhaust available workspace memory, so ask yourself if the entire worksheet really has to exist as a single APL array?, and if not...

- explore further OOXML-SDK methods/props to target smaller parts? (rows, cols, cell ranges? - see C# examples online)
- use `INREAD` to read/process chunks?
- read the entire worksheet xml string, but convert only parts to APL?

Performance may also be an issue,
...so compare with COM and CSV options, or try sfExcel with DataTable?



OOXML - Automation Issues

Suppose: a list of spreadsheet files to be processed, data to be extracted

- use OOXML directly?, or UnZip to temp folders on first pass?
(one UnZip advantage: facilitates `UnZip -d -x` on really large xml strings?)
- concurrency ("...cannot access the file...because it is being used by another process...") - is still a factor
- edge conditions - be prepared for spreadsheet files: lacking internal components; corrupted and unreadable; etc.



Summary

- ***.xlsx is a Zipped collection of xml files; some provide key content**
- **internal xml files obtained via OOXML-SDK, or UnZip**
- **parse for cell contents, datatypes, etc.; construct the APL array result**

That's Reading... what about Writing - APL to Excel?

...Stay tuned!



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Thank you!

