

Universal Translator

1 Overview

Quite often the preparation of reports depends upon taking information from one spreadsheet and copying and pasting that data into another spreadsheet. The Universal Translator was written as a tool that can do this automatically.

The Universal Translator opens an Excel Spreadsheet or CSV file and copies selected columns from the source file to a destination Excel Spreadsheet or CSV file in a specified order. Data can be copied from the source file and appended to an existing file, overwriting an existing file, or to a newly created file.

2 Using the Translator

There are two parts to the translator: the control panel and the translation tables.

2.1 Control Panel

The Control Panel sets up how the file is to be copied.

Path to copy from		Default is the current directory
Path to copy to		Default is the current directory
File to Copy From	Original.xls	Enter name of source file. Must be different than destination file
File to Copy to	Copy1.xls	Enter name of destination file. Must be different than source file
Sheet to Copy From	Sheet1	Sheet to copy from source file
Sheet to Copy To	My New Name	Sheet to copy to destination file
Copy to Format	CSV	Save as CSV or XLS file
Create/Overwrite or Append	Create	Create will create or overwrite. Append will append to existing file.
Start Copy From Row	1	Defaults are 1 and A
Last Row in Column Source	A	Column to look for last entry
Start Paste to Row	1	Zero to append after last row.
Last Row in Column Destination	A	Column to look for last entry

Path Names

The first two cells are used to specify the path name for both the source file and the destination file. If these fields are left blank, the current directory is assumed. Both paths must exist.

File Names

The next two cells are used to specify the source file name and the destination file name. Since both files will be open at the same time, these names cannot be the same.

The source file must exist. If the append option is specified, the destination file must already exist.

Sheet Names

The next two cells are used to specify the tab name to copy from in the source file and the tab to copy to in the destination file.

The tab name in the source file must exist. If the append option is specified, the tab name in the destination file must already exist.

Format Name

The next cell is used to specify the format of the destination file. The two choices are CSV and XLS. These types will be created regardless of extension of the destination file.

Mode Name

The next cell is used to specify the operation to perform: append or create.

If append is selected, the destination file must exist.

If create is selected and the file exists, it will be overwritten. Otherwise it will be created.

Start and End Copy

These cells specify the row to start copying from and the row to copy to.

- Start Copy from Row is used to specify the row in the source file from which the copy will start. The ending row is the last row on the specified tab.
- Last Row in Column Source is used to specify the column to look at to determine the last row to copy.
- Start Paste to Row is used to specify the row to which the first row will be copied. This value is ignored if the append option is selected. If append is selected, then the copy range will be after the last row of the destination file.
- Last Row in Column Destination is used to specify the column to look at to determine the last row in the destination file.

2.2 Translation Tables

The translation tables are used to specify which columns in the source file are copied to which columns in the destination file.

Source Row	Dest Row
A	A
B	C
C	B
D	E

In this example:

- Column A of the source file is copied to column A of the destination file.
- Column B of the source file is copied to column C of the destination file.
- Column C of the source file is copied to column B of the destination file.
- Column D of the source file is copied to column E of the destination file.

3 Using the Translator

It is probably best to make a copy of the translator, set up all the parameters and save it with a name that indicates what it is supposed to be translating.