What is Hot Cell Technology?

ExcelWriter's HotCell Technology provides the ability to dynamically retrieve or update data on a Web server based on modifications made in an Excel file on a client. HotCell Technology uses Excel VBA code embedded in the spreadsheet on the client.

 The VBA code communicates with an application on a remote Web server. The VBA code is activated when the user modifies a cell's value. A "HotCell" is a cell in the client-side spreadsheet that is modified by the user.

There are two different upload methods that you can use to submit the changed cell data back to the server:

• Upload the entire workbook to the server

This method uploads the entire edited workbook back to the server. When you issue the command to update the data source, OfficeWriter Assistant (included in OWAssis.cab) uploads the entire workbook back to the server along with information about which cells
have changed. On the server, ExcelWriter opens the uploaded workbook, reads the values of the changed cells, and updates the data
source. For more information about OfficeWriter Assistant, see the OfficeWriter Assistant documentation.

• POST changed-cell instructions to the server

This method submits cell information in an HTTP POST request. On the server, the receiving page parses the information and updates
the data source. This solution is far less network-intensive because it just posts bits of information instead of the entire workbook.
However, the POST method is more complicated than the upload method and requires more code on both the client and server.

Hot Cell Samples

- Hot Cell Sample - Excel Drill Down
- Hot Cell Sample - Excel Web form