

Grouping and Nesting Sample

Introduced in build 7.0.0.1261

Starting in version 7.1 of ExcelWriter, you can use [grouping and nesting markers](#) to display flat data in a grouped and nested format using the ExcelTemplate object.

Code Sample: Creating a Grouping and Nested Spreadsheet

[C#]

Screenshots from the sample are used below.

How to create a template spreadsheet with grouping functionality

1. In Microsoft Excel, open an Office Open XML (.xlsx) spreadsheet to use as a template.

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Excel interface with the file 'GroupingAndNestingTemplate.xlsx' open. The ribbon includes Home, Insert, Page Layout, Formulas, Data, Review, View, Developer, and Add-Ins. The 'Home' ribbon is active, showing options for Clipboard, Font, Paragraph, Alignment, Number, and Styles. The worksheet '1' contains the following data:

February , 2008												
New Subscriptions					Subscription Renewals				Total			
#	Revenue	Avg. Price	%		#	Revenue	Avg. Price	%		#	Revenue	Avg. Price
TOTAL SUMMARY BY GAME												
Legend of Fred	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Generic Spy Shooter	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Capture the Flag	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Legacy Fantasy MMORPG	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Legacy Sci-Fi MMORPG	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Legacy RTS	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GRAND TOTAL AMOUNT					0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	\$0

2. In the template worksheet, create a data marker row containing the fields you wish to bind to the template. In this case, a **(hide)** data marker modifier is added to the **%%=Data.Region** data marker so the grouping values are not repeated for every row of data. Additionally, several of the cells of this row have formulas that references cells within the row.

GroupingAndNestingTemplate.xlsx - Microsoft Excel

Home Insert Page Layout Formulas Data Review View Developer Add-Ins

Clipboard Font Alignment Number Styles

A10 %%=Data.Region(hide)

1	softartisans												
2	Northeast Subscriptions Tracking Report												
3	DIVISION - ALL												
4													
5													
6													
7													
8													
9													
10	%%=Data	%%=Data.Game	%%=Data	%%=Data	#VALUE!	0%	%%=Data	%%=Data	#VALUE!	0%	0	\$0	\$0
11													
12													
13													
14													
15													
16													
17													
18													
19													
20													
21													
22													
23													
24													
25													

3. In a row above the field by which you wish to group, insert a **%%group** marker to indicate that you are grouping by that field, in this case the Data.Region field.

GroupingAndNestingTemplate.xlsx - Microsoft Excel

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Clipboard Font Alignment Number Styles

A7 %%group

1	softartisans												
2	Northeast Subscriptions Tracking Report												
3	DIVISION - ALL												
4													
5													
6													
7	%%group												
8													
9													
10	%%=Data	%%=Data.Game	%%=Data	%%=Data	#VALUE!	0%	%%=Data	%%=Data	#VALUE!	0%	0	\$0	\$0
11													
12													
13													
14													
15													
16													
17													
18													
19													
20													
21													
22													
23													
24													
25													

4. In the cell directly below the one containing the new **%%group** marker, place a **%%header** marker to indicate the beginning of the

6. In the cell directly underneath the grouping field, place a **%%footer** marker to indicate the beginning of the footer rows.

February , 2008												
New Subscriptions				Subscription Renewals				Total				
#	Revenue	Avg. Price	%	#	Revenue	Avg. Price	%	#	Revenue	Avg. Price		
%%value(Data.Region)	%%=Data.Game	%%=Data	%%=Data	#VALUE!	0%	%%=Data	%%=Data	#VALUE!	0%	0	\$0	\$0
TOTAL SUMMARY BY GAME												
Legend of Fred	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Generic Spy Shooter	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Capture the Flag	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Legacy Fantasy MMORPG	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Legacy Sci-Fi MMORPG	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Legacy RTS	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GRAND TOTAL AMOUNT												
0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

7. In the rows under the **%%footer** marker, put content that you wish to see repeated each time there is a new value in the grouping field. In this case, a subtotal row calculates subtotals for each group.

GroupingAndNestingTemplate.xlsx - Microsoft Excel

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Clipboard Font Alignment Number Styles

C12 =SUBTOTAL(9,C10:C10)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	softartisans												
2	Northeast Subscriptions Tracking Report												
3	DIVISION - ALL												
4			February , 2008										
5			New Subscriptions				Subscription Renewals				Total		
6			#	Revenue	Avg. Price	%	#	Revenue	Avg. Price	%	#	Revenue	Avg. Price
7	%%group												
8	%%header												
9		%%value(Data.Region)											
10	%%=Data	%%=Data.Game	%%=Data	%%=Data	#VALUE!	0%	%%=Data	%%=Data	#VALUE!	0%	0	\$0	\$0
11	%%footer												
12		Total	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0
13													
14		TOTAL SUMMARY BY GAME											
15		Legend of Fred	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0
16		Generic Spy Shooter	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0
17		Capture the Flag	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0
18		Legacy Fantasy MMORPG	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0
19		Legacy Sci-Fi MMORPG	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0
20		Legacy RTS	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0
21		GRAND TOTAL AMOUNT	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0
22													
23													
24													
25													

8. Under the footer rows, place an %%endgroup marker to indicate the end of the grouping block.

GroupingAndNestingTemplate.xlsx - Microsoft Excel

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Clipboard Font Alignment Number Styles

A13 %%endgroup

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	softartisans												
2	Northeast Subscriptions Tracking Report												
3	DIVISION - ALL												
4			February , 2008										
5			New Subscriptions				Subscription Renewals				Total		
6			#	Revenue	Avg. Price	%	#	Revenue	Avg. Price	%	#	Revenue	Avg. Price
7	%%group												
8	%%header												
9		%%value(Data.Region)											
10	%%=Data	%%=Data.Game	%%=Data	%%=Data	#VALUE!	0%	%%=Data	%%=Data	#VALUE!	0%	0	\$0	\$0
11	%%footer												
12		Total	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0
13	%%endgroup												
14		TOTAL SUMMARY BY GAME											
15		Legend of Fred	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0
16		Generic Spy Shooter	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0
17		Capture the Flag	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0
18		Legacy Fantasy MMORPG	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0
19		Legacy Sci-Fi MMORPG	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0
20		Legacy RTS	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0
21		GRAND TOTAL AMOUNT	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	0	\$0	\$0
22													
23													
24													
25													

Input Data

Generally, there are few changes that need to be made to data to use ExcelTemplate's Grouping and Nesting functionality. There are some guidelines, however, that you must follow when setting up your data source:

- Data must be presorted in a hierarchic manner. Because the grouping and nesting code essentially removes repeated values from the grouping column, the grouping column values can be repeated if the data are not already sorted.
- Data must be in a flat format – that is, there should be a value in every row and column of the input data set.

Data Binding Code

Bind data to a grouping block just as you would group it to a normal data marker row. Use the `ExcelTemplate.BindData()` method to bind the data to the spreadsheet. The following code opens a spreadsheet with a grouping block, creates a `DataSet` from an XML file, binds the `DataSet` to the template, then processes the file and streams it to the user.

```
private void GenerateReport()
{
    //--- Create a new ExcelTemplate object and open a template file
    //--- (Office Open XML format -- .xlsx) containing grouping data markers
    ExcelTemplate xlt = new ExcelTemplate();
    xlt.Open(Server.MapPath("templates/GroupingAndNestingTemplate.xlsx"));


    //--- Create a flat data source, sorted based on the grouping categories
    DataSet ds = new DataSet();
    ds.ReadXml(Server.MapPath("VideoGameData.xml"), XmlReadMode.ReadSchema);

    //--- Bind the data to the template file and send the resulting file
    //--- to the client. Office Open XML (.xlsx) format must be used.
    xlt.BindData(ds, "Data", xlt.CreateDataBindingProperties());
    xlt.Process();
    xlt.Save(Page.Response, "GroupingAndNesting.xlsx", false);
}
```

Output file

Below are shown the first few groups from the output file. Notice that the group, header, footer, and endgroup marker rows are not shown in the output file, while the hidden `Data.Region` column data is also removed.

The grouping markers will be removed, and the **(hide)** data marker modifier tells ExcelTemplate to remove the grouping column data as well, so that we do not repeat the values:

GroupingAndNesting.xlsx - Microsoft Excel												
L120												
A												
1												
2	Northeast Subscriptions Tracking Report											
3	DIVISION - ALL											
4												
5	February , 2008											
6	New Subscriptions				Subscription Renewals				Total			
7		#	Revenue	Avg. Price	%	#	Revenue	Avg. Price	%	#	Revenue	Avg. Price
8	Rochester											
9	Legend of Fred	111	\$5,772	\$52	30%	259	\$5,180	\$20	70%	370	\$10,952	\$30
10	Generic Spy Shooter	284	\$12,780	\$45	100%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	284	\$12,780	\$45
11	Capture the Flag	10	\$400	\$40	63%	6	\$120	\$20	38%	16	\$520	\$33
12	Legacy RTS	0	\$0	\$0	0%	99	\$1,980	\$20	100%	99	\$1,980	\$20
13	Total	405	\$18,952	\$47	53%	364	\$7,280	\$20	47%	769	\$26,232	\$34
14	New York											
15	Legend of Fred	116	\$6,148	\$53	89%	15	\$300	\$20	11%	131	\$6,448	\$49
16	Generic Spy Shooter	1548	\$71,208	\$46	100%	0	\$0	\$0	0%	1548	\$71,208	\$46
17	Capture the Flag	3	\$126	\$42	33%	6	\$120	\$20	67%	9	\$246	\$27
18	Legacy Fantasy MMORPG	0	\$0	\$0	0%	1	\$20	\$20	100%	1	\$20	\$20
19	Legacy Sci-Fi MMORPG	0	\$0	\$0	0%	1	\$20	\$20	100%	1	\$20	\$20
20	Legacy RTS	0	\$0	\$0	0%	129	\$2,580	\$20	100%	129	\$2,580	\$20
21	Total	1667	\$77,482	\$46	92%	152	\$3,040	\$20	8%	1819	\$80,522	\$44
22	Buffalo											
23	Legend of Fred	309	\$16,068	\$52	55%	250	\$5,000	\$20	45%	559	\$21,068	\$38
24	Generic Spy Shooter	337	\$15,839	\$47	97%	10	\$200	\$20	3%	347	\$16,039	\$46
25	Capture the Flag	21	\$903	\$43	70%	9	\$180	\$20	30%	30	\$1,083	\$36
26	Legacy Fantasy MMORPG	0	\$0	\$0	0%	51	\$100	\$20	100%	51	\$100	\$20