

Basic Steps

Intro

This sample covers a wide range of basic ExcelApplication functionality. Excellent for getting started or brushing up on basic skills.

Here are some of the features shown in the sample:

1. Setting cell values and formulas
2. Adding a basic chart
3. Using the color palette
4. Applying styles and formatting
5. Page setup, including headers and footers
6. Setting "document properties" metadata
7. Adding external pictures to a worksheet
8. Defining clickable hyperlinks
9. Using cell comments
10. Setting Conditional Formatting
11. Defining workbook and worksheet protection

Code

```
class Basic_Steps
{
    // This class creates a workbook with only one Worksheet.
    // Declare ExcelApplication, Workbook, Worksheet, and Color
    // objects at the class-level.
    private ExcelApplication xlw;
    private Workbook wb;
    private Worksheet ws;
    private Color clrDarkBlue, clrDarkGreen, clrComment, clrTitleCell;

    /// <summary>
    /// Build the report with ExcelApplication
    /// </summary>
    public void GenerateReport()
    {

        // Create an instance of ExcelApplication,
        // a new Workbook, and create one Worksheet
        xlw = new ExcelApplication();
        wb = xlw.Create(ExcelApplication.FileFormat.Xlsx);
        ws = wb.Worksheets[0];

        // Demonstrate setting cell values
        this.PopulateWorksheet();

        // Demonstrate setting formulas
        this.AddCellFormulas();

        // Set up colors that will be used in
        //the workbook

        this.SetupColors();

        // Add styles to the worksheet
        this.AddStyles();
    }
}
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// Set the Page Setup properties
this.DoPageSetup();

// Set Document Properties
this.AddDocumentProperties();

// Add a chart to the worksheet
this.AddChart();

// Add some comments to the worksheet
this.AddCellComment();

// Add a JPEG picture to the worksheet
this.AddPicture();

// Add a hyperlink
this.AddHyperlink();

// Use the CharacterRun object to
//stylize individual characters
//in a cell.

this.StylizeHeaderCharacters();

// Add Conditional Formatting to the
//Worksheet

this.AddConditionalFormating();

// Turn off gridlines display
ws.ShowGridlines = false;

// Save the report by streaming it
xlw.Save(wb, @"..\..\ExcelOutputFiles\BasicSteps_output.xlsx");
}

/// <summary> The Cell's getCharacters method returns a
/// CharacterRun object that can be used to apply
/// formatting to specific characters in the cell.
/// Cell A1 is populated with "Welcome to SoftArtisans
/// OfficeWriter" in the populateWorksheet() method.
/// This stylizeHeaderCharacters() method formats
/// the individual words in the cell.
/// </summary>
private void StylizeHeaderCharacters()
{
    // Get a reference to cell A1
    Cell cellHeader = ws[0, 0];

    // Stylize the first word, starting from the
    //first character, ending at the 10th

    cellHeader.GetCharacters(0, 10).Font.Size = 12;

    // Format the font for the next two words in the cell
    cellHeader.GetCharacters(11, 12).Font.Color =
wb.Palette.GetClosestColor(25, 116, 210);
    cellHeader.GetCharacters(24, 12).Font.Color =
wb.Palette.GetClosestColor(77, 82, 81);

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}

/// <summary> Add protection to workbooks and worksheets
/// with various security-related properties.
/// </summary>
private void SetProtection()
{
    // The Workbook.setPasswordToModify property
    //will cause the user to be prompted
    //for a password when the workbook opens
    //in Excel. Users without the password
    //will get Read-Only access.
    //

    wb.PasswordToModify = "SomePassword";

    // Worksheet.protect turns on Worksheet Protection.
    //This can be used to "lock" cells to prevent them
    //from being edited.

    ws.Protect("");

    // setReadOnlyRecommended advises the user
    //that the workbook should be opened as Read-Only
    //when it's opened in Excel. This is advisory only
    //and can be ignored by the user even if they don't have
    //a password.

    wb.ReadOnlyRecommended = true;
}

/// <summary> Create hyperlinks in cells with the
/// Cell.CreateHyperlink method.
/// It returns a Hyperlink object
/// </summary>
private void AddHyperlink()
{
    // Write bold-faced text into a cell to describe the hyperlink
    ws[30, 0].Value = "Click here to visit SoftArtisans Support:";
    ws[30, 0].Style.Font.Bold = true;

    // Create the hyperlink
    Hyperlink hl = ws[31,
0].CreateHyperlink("http://www.officewriter.com/support");

    // Merge the cells containing the hyperlink together.
    //This is optional, but improves the way it looks.

    ws.CreateArea(31, 0, 1, 4).MergeCells();
}

/// <summary>Add some conditional formatting to the data in the worksheet.
/// Use the wb.CreateConditionalFormat() method to create a conditional
formatting object
/// that can be applied to a Cell, Area, or Range.
/// Use the Cell, Area or Range SetConditionalFormat() method to apply a
conditinal format.
/// </summary>
private void AddConditionalFormating()

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{
    //Create a conditional formatting object
    ConditionalFormat cf1 = wb.CreateConditionalFormat();

    //Create a range of the value columns
    Area valuesArea = ws.CreateArea("A4:C24");

    //Create a set of conditions, and set the fonts to warmer colors as the
values go up
    Condition condition1 =
cf1.CreateCondition(Condition.Comparison.CellValueBetween, "=0", "=10");
    condition1.Style.Font.Color = Color.SystemColor.Red;

    Condition condition2 =
cf1.CreateCondition(Condition.Comparison.CellValueBetween, "=11", "=20");
    condition2.Style.Font.Color = wb.Palette.GetClosestColor(0,25,149);

    Condition condition3 =
cf1.CreateCondition(Condition.Comparison.CellValueGreaterThan, "=20");
    condition3.Style.Font.Color = wb.Palette.GetClosestColor(36, 122, 51);

    //Apply the conditional formatting object to the range of values
    valuesArea.SetConditionalFormat(cf1);
}

/// <summary> Insert external picture files into worksheets
/// with the Pictures.CreatePicture method.
/// Specify its location with an Anchor object.
/// </summary>
private void AddPicture()
{
    // The path to the picture that will be imported
    string picturePath = @"..\..\ExcelImages\OWlogo.gif";

    // Create an Anchor on which the picture will set
    Anchor anch = ws.CreateAnchor(0, 7, 0, 0);

    // Insert the picture into the workeheet.
    //Its top left corner will be on the Anchor.

    Picture pic = ws.Pictures.CreatePicture(picturePath, anch);
}

/// <summary> Comment items can be added,
/// edited, or removed from cells.
/// </summary>
private void AddCellComment()
{
    // Add a comment to cell C3
    Cell c = ws[2, 2];
    Comment cmnt = c.Comment;

    // Set the comment text (body of comment note),
    //author (shown in status bar),
    //and visibility (false by default).

    cmnt.Author = "John Doe";
    cmnt.Text = "Figures for March are projected.";
}

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        cmnt.Visible = true;

        // The Comment's Shape object
        //can be used to stylize the
        //comment tag itself.
        //Set the fill color and FitToText
        //properties.

        Shape shp = cmnt.Shape;

        shp.SetCustomFillColor(0, 204, 255);
        shp.FitToText = true;
    }

    /// <summary> The DocumentProperties object is used for setting
    /// workbook metadata such as Author, Comments, Company,
    /// and also user-defined custom properties.
    /// </summary>
    private void AddDocumentProperties()
    {
        // Get the DocumentProperties interface from Workbook
        DocumentProperties docprops = wb.DocumentProperties;

        // Set built-in DocumentProperties values
        docprops.Author = "John Doe";
        docprops.Comments = "A basic demonstration of OfficeWriter for Excel";
        docprops.Company = "SoftArtisans, Inc.";
        docprops.Title = "Basic Report w/ Chart";

        // Set custom DocumentProperties key/value pairs
        docprops.SetCustomProperty("GeneratedBy", "SoftArtisans OfficeWriter for
Excel");
    }

    /// <summary> Adds a simple clustered column chart to a worksheet
    /// Category data is what appears on the X axis of the chart
    /// Series items (there can be more than one) are the data that
    /// the chart is displaying in the plot area.
    /// </summary>
    private void AddChart()
    {
        // Create an Anchor on which the Chart will be placed
        Anchor anch = ws.CreateAnchor(7, 4, 0, 50);

        // Create a Column.Clustering chart on the Worksheet
        Chart columnChart = ws.Charts.CreateChart(ChartType.Column.Clustering,
anch);

        // Use the chart's SeriesCollection to add Series items and set category
data
        SeriesCollection seriesCol = columnChart.SeriesCollection;

        // Set the month header row as the Primary axis's category data
        seriesCol.CategoryData = "Sheet1!A3:C3";

        // Add the totals row as a series and name it "Sales"
        Series chartSeries = seriesCol.CreateSeries("Sheet1!A25:C25");
        chartSeries.Name = "Sales";
    }

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        // Change the chart's title
        columnChart.Title.Text = "Basic Column Chart";
    }

    /// <summary> Every Worksheet has a PageSetup object that can be
    /// used to set print behavior.  Commonly used PageSetup
    /// capabilities are header/footers, and printer paper setup.
    /// </summary>
    private void DoPageSetup()
    {
        // Get the PageSetup object from the Worksheet
        PageSetup ps = ws.PageSetup;

        // Set the worksheet headers and footers.
        // Note use of special header/footer variables.
        // Updated to new syntax
        HeaderFooterSection leftHeader =
ps.GetHeader(HeaderFooterSection.Section.Left);
        leftHeader.SetContent("Document name: &F");
        HeaderFooterSection centerHeader =
ps.GetHeader(HeaderFooterSection.Section.Center);
        centerHeader.SetContent("Basic Report");
        HeaderFooterSection rightHeader =
ps.GetHeader(HeaderFooterSection.Section.Right);
        rightHeader.SetContent("Generated by OfficeWriter");
        HeaderFooterSection leftFooter =
ps.GetFooter(HeaderFooterSection.Section.Left);
        leftFooter.SetContent("Created on date &D");
        HeaderFooterSection centerFooter =
ps.GetFooter(HeaderFooterSection.Section.Center);
        centerFooter.SetContent("Page &P of &N");
        HeaderFooterSection rightFooter =
ps.GetFooter(HeaderFooterSection.Section.Right);
        rightFooter.SetContent("Create at time &T");

        // Turn off the printing of gridlines
        ps.PrintGridlines = false;

        // Change printing orientation to Landscape,
        // and paper size to Legal
        ps.Orientation = PageSetup.PageOrientation.Landscape;
        ps.PaperSize = PageSetup.PagePaperSize.Legal;
    }

    /// <summary> Apply some basic stylization to the data in the worksheet.
    /// Use the setStyle method to set a base style for a Cell, Area, or Range.
    /// Use the ApplyStyle method to "merge" or "layer" two Styles in one region.
    /// </summary>
    private void AddStyles()
    {
        // Create a GlobalStyle to stylize the data region.
        // Set number formatting, and a surrounding border.

        GlobalStyle styleData = wb.CreateStyle();
        styleData.NumberFormat = "$#.##00";

        // Style for the header row.
        // Add a surrounding border, and set
        // bold-faced font.

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GlobalStyle styleHeader = wb.CreateStyle();
styleHeader.Font.Bold = true;

// Style for the title cell. Enlarge the font
//and change the color.

GlobalStyle styleTitle = wb.CreateStyle();
styleTitle.Font.Size = 14;
styleTitle.Font.Color = clrTitleCell;

// The total row will have number formatting,
//bold, and italicized text.

GlobalStyle styleTotalRow = wb.CreateStyle();
styleTotalRow.NumberFormat = "$#.##00";
styleTotalRow.Font.Italic = true;
styleTotalRow.Font.Bold = true;

// Create an Area that encompasses the data
and apply money formatting to the cells
Area areaData = ws.CreateArea(3, 0, 21, 3);
areaData.SetStyle(styleData);

// Create an area that encompasses the totals row
Use the setStyle method to set the base style
Use the ApplyStyle to layer other styles on
the base style.
Area areaTotalRow = ws.CreateArea(24, 0, 1, 3);
areaTotalRow.SetStyle(styleTotalRow);

// Stylize the title cell
ws[0, 0].Style = styleTitle;

// Make the month header row bold
ws.CreateArea(2, 0, 1, 3).SetStyle(styleHeader);
}

/// <summary> Add some data to the workbook by using the Cell.SetValue()
method.
/// Cells can be addressed by Excel address (eg, A1, B2), or by row/column
/// ordinal for iteration.
/// Cell.SetValue() is just one way to add values to cells.
/// </summary>
private void PopulateWorksheet()
{
    // Cells can be referenced by Excel name (eg, A1, B2)
    or by 0-based row number/column number

    // Refers to cell A1
    Could also write as ws["A1"].SetValue(...)
    ws.Cells[0, 0].Value = "Welcome to SoftArtisans OfficeWriter";

    ws[2, 0].Value = "Jan";
    ws[2, 1].Value = "Feb";
    ws[2, 2].Value = "Mar";

    // Use row/column indices to easily iterate over cells
    for (int iRow = 3; iRow <= 23; iRow++)

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        for (int iCol = 0; iCol <= 2; iCol++)
            ws[iRow, iCol].Value = iRow + iCol;
    }

    /// <summary> The Cell.setFormula() method is for adding Excel formulas
    /// to cells. The result of the formulas will be calculated when
    /// the workbook is opened in Excel.
    /// </summary>
    private void AddCellFormulas()
    {
        // Apply formulas to cells with the Cell.setFormula() method

        // Display the formula in cell A25
        ws[24, 0].Formula = "=SUM(A4:A24)";

        // To build formula strings, the Cell.Name method
        // is useful to get the Excel address (eg, A1, B2) for a given
        // row/column index

        string formula = String.Format("=SUM({0}:{1})", ws[3, 1].Name, ws[23,
1].Name);

        // Display that formula in cell B25 using row/column ordinal
        ws[24, 1].Formula = formula;

        // Insert a formula that uses a Named Range as its operand
        Range rngMarch = ws.CreateNamedRange("C4:C24", "MarchRange");
        ws[24, 2].Formula = "=SUM(MarchRange)";
    }

    /// <summary> Colors are managed by the Palette object.
    /// Palette has several methods for retrieving colors
    /// from the workbook's internal palette.
    /// Also, there are build-in colors.
    /// </summary>
    private void SetupColors()
    {
        // Note: clrDarkBlue, clrDarkGreen, and clrComment
        // are declared above as private class members.

        // Workbook.getPalette returns the Palette object
        Palette pal = wb.Palette;

        // GetClosestColor finds the color in the palette
        // that most closely matches the specified Red,
        // Green, and Blue values.

        clrDarkBlue = pal.GetClosestColor(0, 25, 149);
        clrTitleCell = pal.GetClosestColor(100, 100, 255);

        try
        {
            // getColor will find the exact color you request.
            // If the color does not exist in the palette
            // it will throw an Exception.

            clrDarkGreen = pal.GetColor(51, 153, 102);
        }
    }

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        catch
        {
            // The color you requested was not found in the palette
        }

        // getColorAt gets the color from the palette at
        //the specified index. This retrieves the second
        //color from the palette.

        clrComment = pal.GetColorAt(1);

        // setColor and setColorAt are for changing
        //the colors in the palette. Specify a Color to
        //change for setColor, the index of the color for
        //setColorAt, and then the RGB values for the desired
        //appearance.

        int c = clrDarkBlue.PaletteIndex;
        pal.SetColorAt(0, 0, 35, 149);

        // The Color object has built-in colors.
        //These variables are declared here for demonstration,
        //but they are not used

        Color clrSysGreen = Color.SystemColor.Green;
        Color clrSysBlack = Color.SystemColor.Black;
    }

    /// <summary> This method is here for your convenience. You might find it
useful
    /// in your project. It simplifies building formulas in this basic form only:
    /// =[formulaName]([lBound]:[uBound])
    /// For example, =SUM(A1:C3) or =AVERAGE(D2:C20)
    /// </summary>
    private string BuildFormula(string formulaName, Cell lBound, Cell uBound)
    {
        System.Text.StringBuilder sb = new System.Text.StringBuilder();
        sb.Append("=");
        sb.Append(formulaName);
        sb.Append("(");
        sb.Append(lBound.Name);
        sb.Append(":");
        sb.Append(uBound.Name);
        sb.Append(")");
        return sb.ToString();
    }

```

```
} }
```

Downloads

Output: [BasicSteps_output.xlsx](#)

Image: [OWlogo.gif](#)