

Mo.net

Introducing the Mo.net Excel Model Adapter – Analyse Edition

October 2024
Revision 4

Background

Spreadsheets have been used within businesses to model simple problems for decades. Spreadsheet solutions which often start out as well-controlled and simple prototypes are typically added to over time and become more unwieldy and less transparent. The level of control or governance applied to these end-user solutions is rarely adequate and whilst it's possible to provide some level of control using passwords, this is still not sufficiently robust for many industries & applications.

Furthermore, spreadsheet development is typically performed without the rigorous change control & version management associated with other critical systems, which has led to many well-documented nightmares.

While many consider spreadsheets to be "self-documenting", the reality is that many spreadsheet-based solutions are incredibly difficult to understand, especially when they are handed down from the original developer over many years.

What is the Mo.net Excel Model Adapter – Analyse Edition?

The Mo.net Excel Model Adapter ("EMA") – Analyse Edition can be used across any enterprise with a reliance on spreadsheet-based solutions. EMA Analyse allows anyone to explore the risks within their spreadsheet solutions and generate powerful insights without any prior knowledge of the workbook. It carries out comprehensive analysis of any Microsoft Excel Workbook content, regardless of its size, complexity and features.

EMA Analyse Edition allows users to perform the following:

- Discover & analyse advanced features and functions in any source Microsoft Excel workbook

- Gain powerful insights & generate risk scores based on user-defined ratings
- Visualise number / type of links between worksheets within any given workbook
- Generate structured documentation of any spreadsheet to Microsoft Word or PDF documents
- Compare spreadsheets and document the differences
- Agnostic to industry or application

What Information Can Be Obtained?

EMA Analyse provides a wealth of useful insight not immediately available from Microsoft Excel itself. Information regarding the worksheet properties, named ranges, formulae, functions, external links, VBA code and advanced features is all captured from the workbook and displayed as shown in the figure below.

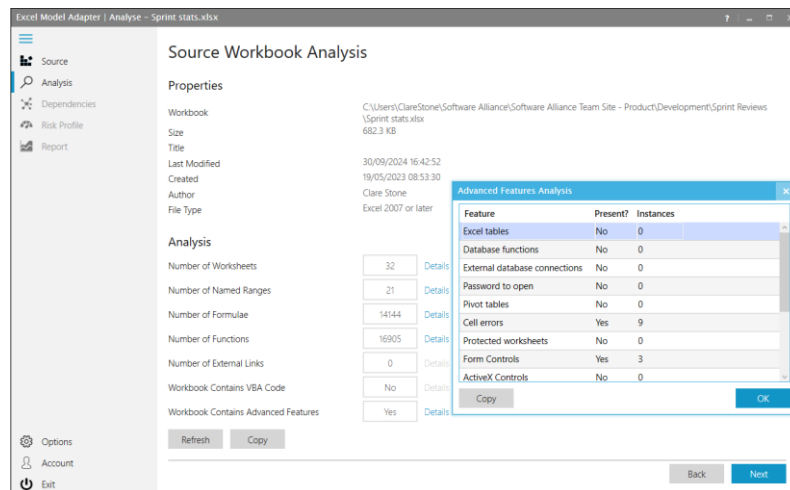


Figure 1 – Source Workbook Analysis

Dependencies between worksheets can be presented as a table or in an interactive map, which can also show the number & type of links. An example dependency map is shown in the figure below.

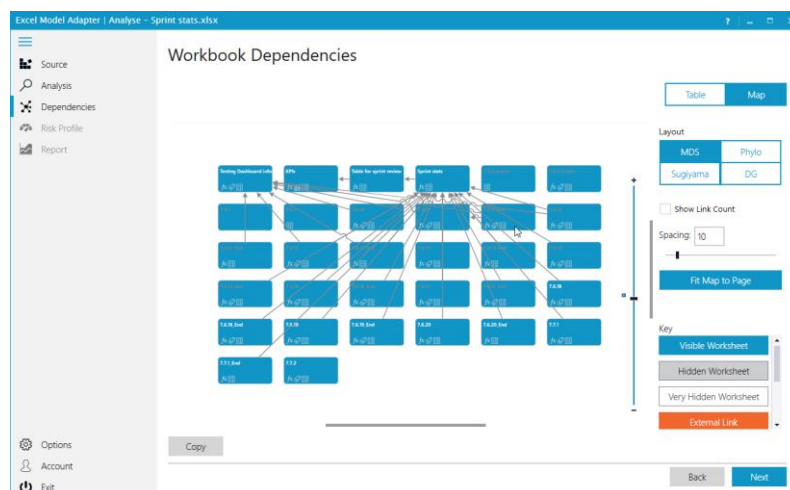


Figure 2 – Workbook Dependency Map

A risk profile can be obtained according to risk rules, weightings and scaling factors defined by the user and appropriate to their specific risk appetite. These are then combined into an overall risk score, allowing the user to understand and compare the relative risk across different workbooks. The risk profile can also be used to highlight specific workbook features that need attention.

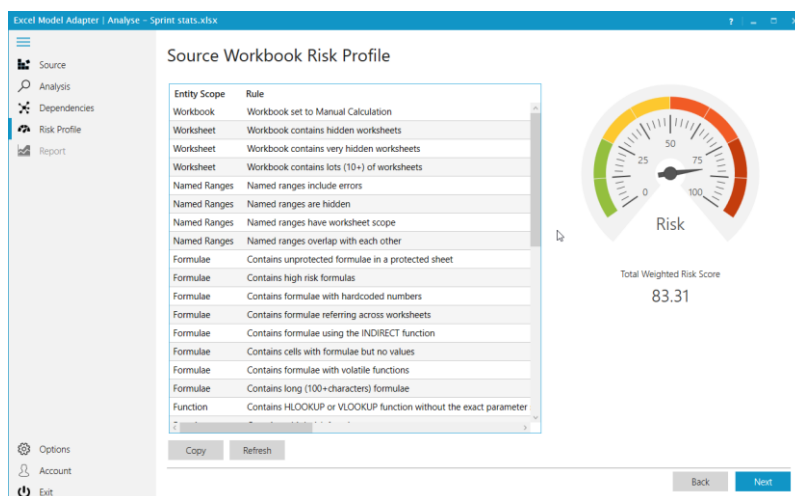


Figure 3 – Source Workbook Risk Profile

All information derived by EMA Analyse Edition can be exported into a structured and custom-branded report for further review or to use as part of audit activities.

Furthermore, the differences between two versions of the same workbook can be analysed and documented, which is particularly useful when using the same workbook on a periodic basis.

Discovery and Batch Analysis

EMA Batch Analysis Edition allows for the discovery of all workbooks present in a specific file path or data share. Any or all of these workbooks can then be analysed automatically, producing the same detailed analysis & reports available within EMA Analyse Edition. If required, a summary report can also be generated to provide a coherent overview of a complete spreadsheet estate.

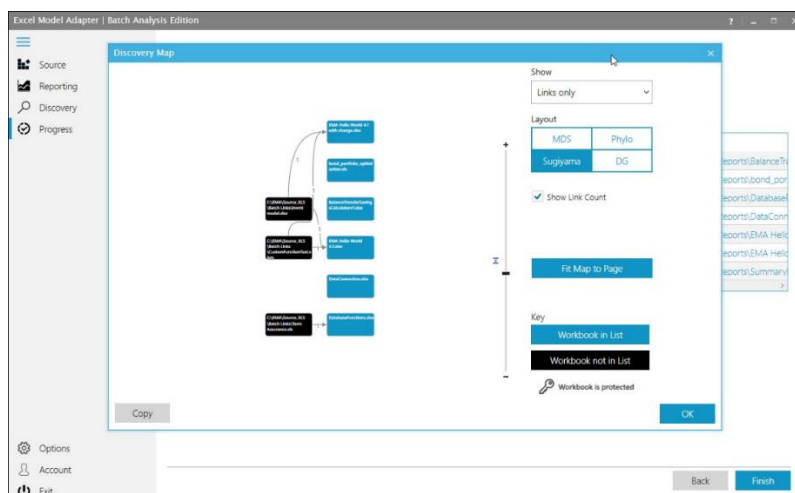


Figure 4 – Analysis of Linked Workbooks



How Can the Mo.net Excel Model Adapter Help Me?

EMA Analyse Edition provides a mechanism for gaining an in-depth and consistent understanding of spreadsheet properties & features. With that awareness, users can feel more confident in using those spreadsheets for business critical tasks, refactoring high-risk features, or even replacing the spreadsheets with tooling more appropriate for the job.

Beyond Analysis

In addition to EMA Analyse Edition, we have also developed EMA Migrate Edition. This is designed to help with the conversion of spreadsheet-based models to managed Mo.net projects. While EMA Migrate Edition is unlikely to fully migrate every spreadsheet used within an organisation, it will reduce the conversion effort from days or weeks to a few hours.

Contact Us

To find out more about the Mo.net Financial Modelling Platform, the Mo.net Excel Model Adapter, and to arrange a demonstration, please get in touch.

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