

PowerOffice Data Exchange / Excel Loader

Overview

Due to limitations in MS Excel picked up in the PowerOffice Excel Loader, the PowerOffice Data Exchange has been expanded to export directly to MS Excel and MS Access over and above the proprietary PowerOffice Data Exchange (iidx) format.

The intention is to remove the old Excel Loader from future versions of PowerOffice and have similar functionality available via the Data Exchange.

Besides achieving huge speed improvements in both export and import, **all** information is exported, unlike the Excel Loader which did not export all fields in the tables and most attribute records in the database. However, this required a slight format change in how the exported data is presented.

The data exchange system exports an **entire selected pack version or project/version** into the selected format and not a subset, as was the case in the Excel Loader.

Procedure - Data Exchange Export

The standard Data Exchange procedure has been expanded.

1. Right click a Source Version to export in PO Admin.
2. PO Offers a name and location to be used to save the relevant document.
3. File Type can be changed between PowerOffice Exchange File (*.iidx), MS Access 95 (*.mdb), MS Access 2000 (*.mdb) and MS Excel (*.xls) file formats.
4. Click Save to save the export.
5. When the dialogue box states "Export completed," click Close to return to the main PowerOffice screen.

Procedure - Data Manipulation (MS Excel and MS Access)

1. Filtered subsets will be ignored on import and all available data in the worksheet will be imported. If data is to be excluded from the import (to speed the import up), delete it.
2. Worksheets/Tables can be deleted if they are not to be used in the import, as long as the "parent" data is in place. Eg. DX_IIPACK must be populated before importing DX_PACK_LINK or DX_PACK_ITEM.
3. Column order can be changed on the sheets, as long as the headings (field names) remain unchanged and all columns remain. I.e. You may rearrange, but do not delete any columns.
4. As with the Excel Loader, the import will insert and change, but will not delete any records.
5. Records can have their "IS_ACTIVE" field set to 0 to mark them inactive in PowerOffice.

Procedure - Data Exchange Import

1. In PO Admin (or in Projects), click Tools, Import Packages.
2. Use the browse interface to select the file type being imported and to find and select the relevant file.
3. Click Open and wait until the dialogue box says "Import Complete."
4. Click Close to return to the main PowerOffice screen.

Comparison - Excel Loader and Data Exchange (Excel)

	Data Exchange	Excel Loader
Export Time (Full Version - IARC V3a)	Approximately 10min	Approximately 2hours
Import Time (Full Version - IARC V3a)	MSSQL: +- 5min ORACLE: +- 20min	Many hours!
Export File types	PO Exchange File (*.iidx), MS Access (*.mdb), MS Excel (*.xls)	MS Excel (*.xls) Only
Table Information	Worksheet Tab Names / Table Names	Cell A1
Field Names	In row 1. Cannot be removed, but can be re-arranged	In row 3. Names not important, column position important.
Column Headers	Can be moved around as long as header / field name is kept intact. Cannot be deleted - all fields must be available for import, but order is irrelevant.	Have to be kept in same order and in same row. Cannot be changed or moved. Column position is important for import.
Large Tables (Eg. Pack Link)	Tabs automatically split on export if records exceed Excel's 64k line limit. (Limit set to 65000 rows)	Tab split by Material Types to avoid the Excel line limit.
Attributes	All exported to Excel in *_Attrib_Set sheets.	Only certain subset exported.
Importing Subsets	Data / records / rows not required for import can be deleted. "Hiding" by filtration will not prevent importing of rows / records.	Filtered subsets can be imported.
Exporting Subsets	All data exported. No filtered or subset export available at present.	Selected / filtered subsets could be exported.