Technology in the Spotlight…

Data Export

Making Data Available

Report content, either raw data or calculations, can be made accessible to a larger audience by using the **XLReporter** data export feature.

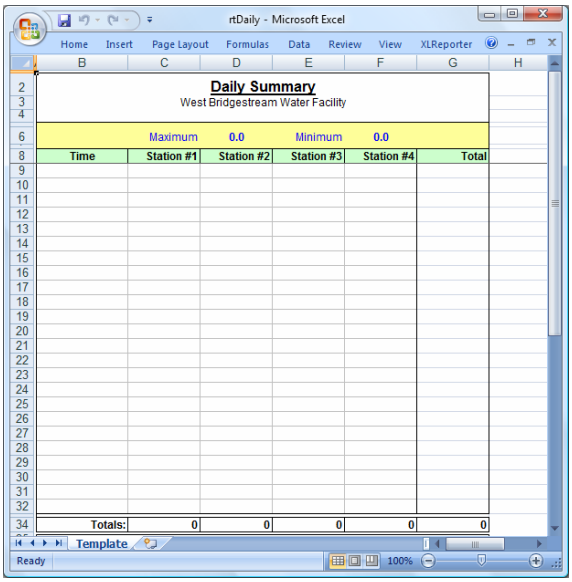
Some examples of this feature include the storing of report values to a database for long term archiving, saving data to text files or sending them back to the process equipment.

Exporting to a Database

XLReporter can take data from cells in a report workbook and export them to any relational database. This can be very useful for storing summary calculations so that they can be used in other locations without the need to perform any further processing.

For example, suppose a daily report is created from hourly readings from a real time server. At the end of the day, the daily totals can be exported to a database so that the monthly report can be easily produced.

The general procedure for database export is as follows. Start by developing your template and making connections that represent hourly samples (group 1). Include daily totals using standard Excel functions.



The Daily Report

Complete the template by indicating that the totals should be exported to a database. This is done using a management connection (group 2).

Using the scheduler, add values to the report every hour (by updating group 1). At the end of the day, store the summary totals to the database (by updating group 2).

Producing a monthly report is just a simple matter of getting the information from the database. Set up a database group to retrieve the daily summary values logged to the database. If, in the future, a quarterly or yearly report is needed, then no further configuration is required because the data has already been stored.

Exporting to the Process

Any value in the report can be written back to a tag in your real time server. Using this feature, you can do something as simple as acknowledging a report has been generated to something as complicated as loading specific parameters into the process.

As part of exporting validation can be implemented to ensure the data has made it from the report back into the process.

Exporting to a File

An entire report worksheet can be exported to a text or a CSV file format. In addition, data can also be exported to XML files using your own schema, built-in schemas provided by **XLReporter** or Excel's spreadsheet schema (XML-SS).

This can be very useful because there are plenty of other third party applications that can take advantage of files in these formats.

Exporting to a Function

Values in the report can be written to **XLReporter** variables. These functions can be used in many different areas.

For example, since functions can be configured as data connections, they can be used as a mechanism to transfer information from one report to another. They can also be used as parameters in a history group or database group.

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