



ComputerWise

From Pat



CHARTING THE CHOPPY A B C's OF CHART BUILDING

CW EXCEL

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Creating charts (formerly known as graphs) in Excel is pretty easy when using the Chart Wizard. In this article we will describe the steps needed to make a professional looking chart.

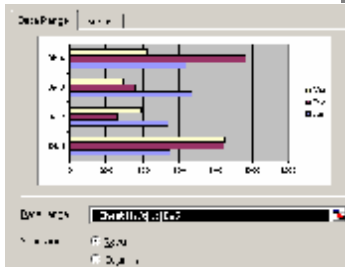
Begin by entering your data into the spreadsheet. In this discussion we are tracking quarterly sales dollars, for the first three months, for four divisions. In the exhibit depicted in the third column, the data is posted in cells A1 to E5.

Placing your pointer somewhere inside the data range to be charted, click on the Chart Wizard icon from the tool bar.



This will present Step 1 of 4 from the Chart Wizard as shown below. Pointing to each of the Chart Types will display several examples and sub-styles. At any point you can depress and hold the *Press and Hold to View Sample* button, located at the bottom of the display. In our example, we've chosen a bar chart and clicked Next.

The next panel displayed will indicate the range in which your data lies. In this example, you can see an illustration of the chart, with the data range indicated as Sheet1, Cells A1 : E5. If it is incorrect you can change the data range; if it's correct, click Next.



Step 3 allows you to type in your Titles, as well as define the X (side) and Y (bottom) axis. It also contains additional tabs for defining the Legend and Labels.



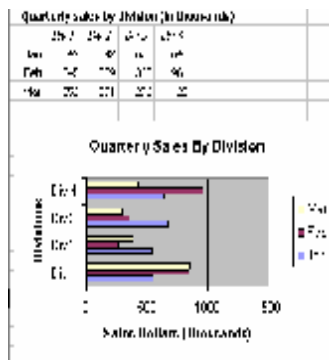
The final step (4) gives you an opportunity to decide if you want the chart to be placed in its

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Quarterly sales by division (in thousands)					
2		Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	
3	Jan	540	520	670	540	
4	Feb	490	470	500	430	
5	Mar	850	770	700	670	

Here's the spreadsheet used in this discussion for tracking quarterly sales

own separate sheet, or along with the data. For this discussion we've selected the second option – Place chart as object in Sheet 1. Press Finish.

The final product will look similar to the sample shown below. Notice that the sales detail is displayed as entered from the above exhibit, with the finished chart shown directly below the data.



The Chart Wizard makes it easy to create a professional looking graph in Excel. Give it a try, and you'll discover it to be as easy as A B C.

Inside this issue:

Charting the Choppy A B C's of Chart Building—guides you with step by step instructions on how to create a professional looking chart. 1

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OTW—Features a science web site that delves into some fun and interest with a few psychological tests. 2

BY THE NUMBERS

16 The kilobytes of memory in IBM's first personal computer.



1975

The year the IBM 5100 came on the market.

8,975 Price of the basic model shown above.

CW EXCEL

Excel—Featured Function =DAYS360

If you recall a previous discussion (*Doing Math with Dates* – Vol. IV, Issue 6 May/ June 2006), Microsoft Excel stores dates as sequential serial numbers called date values, allowing them to be used in calculations. By default, January 1, 1900 is serial number 1, and January 1, 2008 is serial number 39448 because it is 39,447 days after January 1, 1900. In this article, I will introduce you to a formula that calculates the days between dates, based on a 360 day calendar.

The DAYS360 formula returns the number of days between two dates based on a 360-day year (twelve 30-day months). This routine is often used as part of an accounting practice where payments are

computed based on this 30-day month scheme. The syntax is—

DAYS360(start_date,end_date,method)

Start_date and **end_date** are the two dates between which you want to know the number of days. If start_date occurs after end_date, DAYS360 returns a negative number. Dates should be entered by using the DATE function, or as results of other formulas or functions. For example, use DATE(2008,5,23) for the 23rd day of May, 2008. Problems will occur if the date is entered as text.

	A	B	C
1	210	211	=A3-A2
2	1/1/2006		
3	7/31/2006		
4	=DAYS360(A2,A3)		
5			

Method is a logical value that specifies whether to use the U.S. or European method in the calculation.

False or Omitted	U.S. (NASD) method. If the starting date is the 31st of a month, it becomes equal to the 30th of the same month. If the ending date is the 31st of a month and the starting date is earlier than the 30th of a month, the ending date becomes equal to the 1st of the next month; otherwise the ending date becomes equal to the 30th of the same month.
True	European method. Starting dates and ending dates that occur on the 31st of a month become equal to the 30th of the same month.



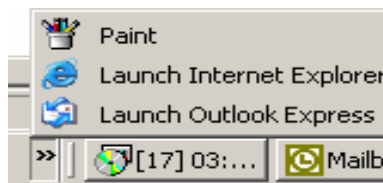
The Double Arrow Display

Q.— I got a new computer over the summer and I notice two arrowheads pointing to the right located at the bottom of the screen display?

A. — Those double arrows actually have a name and are known as a double-chevron. They can appear on your taskbar or within Quick Launch as shown in this example.



They have existed in earlier versions of Windows and typically indicate that there is more here than meets the eye. Clicking on the double-chevron opens up an addition pop-up menu for options that are unseen but still included in Quick Launch or on the Taskbar.



TECH DEF

Bluetooth is a globally available means of wireless technology that allows for mobile phones, computers, PDA's (Personal Digital Assistant), as well as applications in automobiles and medical devices, to be easily interconnected using a short-range wireless connection.



www.bbc.co.uk/sn

CW OTW

If you are a fan of psychological quizzes, enter www.bbc.co.uk/sn/ into the address bar on the Internet. At this web site, within the Science and Na-

ture page, is a section called Human Body & Mind. On **The Mind** side of that display, click on Psychological Tests. Here you will discover a variety of different and unique psychology quizzes. There is one in particular that will give you the opportunity to see if you can distinguish between a fake smile and a truly genuine grin (I got

15 of 20 correct). There is also a quiz that will tell you if your thought process is more in tune with male or female brain patterns. There are other tests, including a personality quiz and a memory test, or you may want to check out your sensitivity toward things that most people consider disgusting.

