

From: Steven Sinofsky
Sent: Monday, January 12, 1998 2:08 PM
To: Mark Igra
Subject: RE: 1/9/98: Excel9 Project Meeting

Up to you. My feeling is we need to do "obvious" things and make sure that we don't over engineer ourselves into a corner. If you think all the scenarios are covered and we can support third parties well, then we'll be ok.

-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Igra
Sent: Monday, January 12, 1998 2:06 PM
To: Steven Sinofsky
Subject: RE: 1/9/98: Excel9 Project Meeting

PivotLists are currently XML only since they use the Win cursor engine and it only loads XML and IRowset.

Dave Stearns and RussellJ agreed that XML was the right strategy for this. I recall these reasons:

- 1) Its faster for Win Cursor Engine to load XML directly than to go through an HTML->IRowset->Cursor conversion. We can't really ask for an HTML loader from the cursor engine guys since they are already critical path.
- 2) Its less work than getting the HTML path working, mostly due to the number of layers that have to work together. We have the pieces to make it work. Dev was just worried about the glue. Also Excel already writes out XML for the PivotList cache, so there's existing code to write out XML in Excel.
- 3) There was a general consensus that for communicating *data* (as opposed to display information) should be done with XML rather than HTML.

The downside of this is that you can't use the same data for downlevel & uplevel.

This is really part of the general question of when to use XML and when to use HTML. I think MS is a little schizophrenic - and Excel, being both data & display oriented is most caught in the middle.

Do you think its worth reconsidering this? I can double check on the costs.

-----Original Message-----

From: Steven Sinofsky
Sent: Monday, January 12, 1998 1:42 PM
To: Mark Igra
Subject: FW: 1/9/98: Excel9 Project Meeting

What does it mean that PivotList can't read HTML directly ? I thought an interesting scenario was going to be able to have a regular table be the input to a list, not just an XML dataset.

-----Original Message-----

From: Russell Johnson
Sent: Friday, January 09, 1998 5:18 PM
To: Andrew Kwatinetz; Corey Salka; Craig Unger; Dave LeFevre; Duane Campbell; Dyane Nguyen; Excel Business Unit Permanent Employees; Grant George; Heikki Kanerva; Kamal Hathi; Kathryn Hamilton; Steven Sinofsky
Subject: 1/9/98: Excel9 Project Meeting

Excel9 Project Meeting

Date: 1/9/98

Attendees: AaronBre, AdamSt, AndyLee, CarlT, DaveJo, EricPa, KathHam, RussellJ, Terrench

Status

- All big destabilizing features are now checked in (WVExe, removed global recalc chain, removed sheet globals).
- Testing is doing a big automation push to finish up MM1/2 features and get started on MM3.
- MSQuery WVExe work is complete. Query is currently behind schedule. All spec'ed work items take code complete to May. DaveJo is identifying cuts to get this back on track.

Issues

- **PivotTable UI.** TomCon/MayQ et al have been investigating how to allow users to interrupt PivotTable recalc and drag new fields onto the layout. No resolution yet but a number of solutions are being evaluated and refined.
- **HTML Publish.** A shared entry point for Save as web page has been proposed by Office. We are finalizing details

but we expect to resolve this within the next week.

- **HTML filter & sort script.** There is no viable way to script filter and sort functionality in Excel HTML files for IE4. The two main IE limitations are 1) no way to move an entire row including styles and 2) no way to hide a row w/o side effects. IE5 addressed both these problems. We have 60 hours scheduled at the end of MM3 to implement the script. We will spec the script based on IE5 and make the call based on risk as we get close to the scheduled dev time.
- **Publish QueryTable to PivotList.** PivotLists cannot read data from an HTML table so to publish a QueryTable to a PivotList we'd need to create a cache based on the current view and save this as XML Data as we do for the PivotTable cache. This is currently unscheduled.

Bugs

- We have a large number of old bugs assigned to dev which have not been triaged. TimA will call a meeting to triage these.