

Workshop on Excel43 by Tallinn University of Technology

Background

Usually introductory courses in business informatics have different focal points (e.g. such as introduction to business and technology), ours is in „developing the spreadsheet way of thinking“. Although, one might state, that this emphasis is only well justified in a technology school, our experience shows, that teaching such kind of computational thinking is explicitly practical.

Excel43 has two focal points: tables and modeling. The two focal points fall under a general overarching goal – application development with spreadsheets. While working with tables we import these from the internet, link multiple tables in order to form an application, work with tables that progress vertically or horizontally in a dynamic manner, work with many tables in parallel and, finally, analyze tables by creating summaries and queries.

Another focal point is modeling – as this forms a set of hard core skills for working with spreadsheets. We feel that as students hone their modeling skills, they come best accustomed to “the spreadsheet way of thinking” – thus this “core” forms the nucleus of our course.

Our course is put forth in a context of a set of business problems. These get students accustomed to the real world problems, they will have to solve. While teaching, there is always a compromise that has to be achieved – regarding how technically the given function is explained, and how specific is the business application, in which it is used. When we compare our approach to other Excel courses that are out there, we feel that ours has the proper amount of context behind each function – thus, to bring one example, we will introduce distribution function calculation with Frequency by the example of Benford distribution and analysis of economic fraud.

www.Excel43.com/Videocast (Excel-For-Free) – A Video cast for Business School Freshman in Applied Spreadsheet

Learning outcomes

The students will be off to a strong start in a journey towards becoming a power user of Excel, one who develops his own applications. Upon successful completion of the workshop, the student will learn a number of advanced topics, here is a list of top 10 business problems featured in the course:

- Benford distribution and economic fraud
- Social networks
- A simulated stock market
- Economic-ordering-quantity
- Crashing a project schedule
- A network of roads between cities
- Break-even point
- MNC transfer prices
- Progressive income tax
- Decreasing marginal utility

Target audience

Excel43 is a course on MS Excel, targeting university freshmen who will specialize in business and/or economics as well as to those who wish to refresh their excel skills. This workshop has no prerequisites – as all business topics, everything related to math (e.g. including percentage calculation) and to informatics are explained from scratch.

Number of participants: 30 students for optimal results. With the instructor's consent, more students can be accepted.

Instructor to be decided

Special benefits for workshop participants

- Diploma upon completion of the workshop
- Application fee waive for those who apply for Tallinn Tech study programs: you save 50 euro for bachelor and 100 euro for master,
- Discount of 250 euro for English Language Preparatory Year,
- Discount of 15% for the Summer School: you save 370 euro if register before 1st of May or 385 euro if register after 1st of May,
- Discount of 20% for European Innovation Academy (EIA): you save 90 euro if register one course, and 158 and 210 euro if register two and three courses respectively.

* 1 euro = ca 8,41 yuan (based on the [Bank of China exchange rate](#) on Feb 15, 2013)

More information

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