
Documentation

Xls2Html®

VERSION 3.0

CONVERTS EXCEL DATA TO HTML
(REQUIRES MICROSOFT EXCEL)



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Chapter 1

The Xls2Html® program

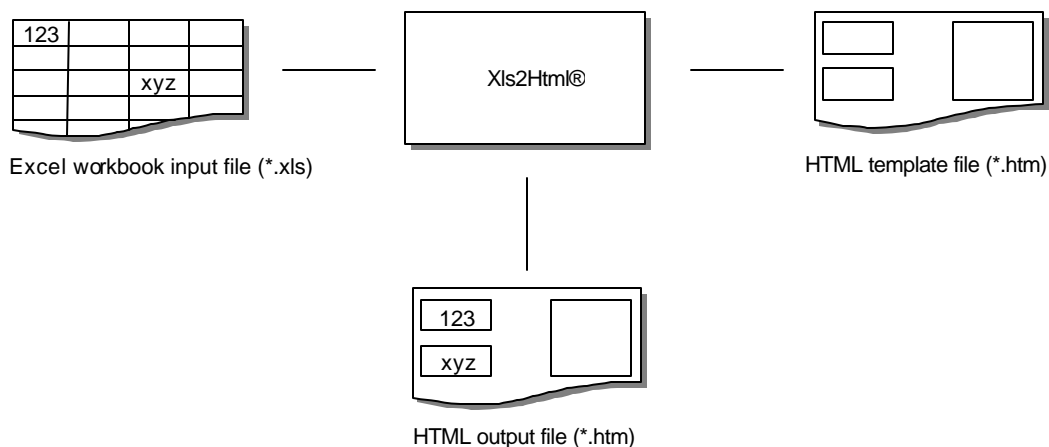
1.1 Description

Xls2Html® is a standalone desktop program that reads Excel data for insertion into a HTML template file.

Special Excel HTML tags in a HTML template are replaced with their correspondent cell-values from an Excel workbook.

The result is then saved as HTML file for FTP-publication or email.

The following drawing illustrates this process:



The Xls2Html® advantages & features:

- Preserve your HTML layout. You define with your own HTML template how the resulting HTML page will look like.
- Minimize your HTML file size. Some programs produce tons of superfluous HTML code.
- Publish the converted HTML file to your FTP server.
- Email the converted HTML file.
- Handling of Excel charts (the MS Excel/Office GIF filter is required installed).

- Integrate Xls2Html® in your Excel user interface using the Xls2Html® add-in to easily convert/FTP-publish/email the loaded Excel workbook.
- Integrate Xls2Html® in your programs or batch files to automatically convert/FTP-publish/email your excel data.
- Handling of various configuration files.
- Log files are written for control.

1.2 Technique

1.2.1 Requirement

- Microsoft Excel has to be correctly installed on your computer. Tests have been made with Excel 97 and newer versions.

1.2.2 Install Xls2Html®

Install Xls2Html® with the installation program “**Setupex.exe**” and follow the instructions.

The following files do belong to Xls2Html®:

.../Xls2Html.exe	Xls2Html program.
.../Xls2Html.ini	Default configuration file.
.../Xls2Html.pdf	This documentation file.
.../Add_In/Xls2Html.xla	Excel add-in to run Xls2Html directly from Excel.
.../Test_Files/Input.xls	Sample Excel file.
.../Test_Files/Template.htm	Sample Template file.
.../Test_Files/Output.htm	Sample Output file.
.../Test_Files/Output_1.gif	Sample Output file (Chart).
.../Test_Files/Batch.bat	Sample Batch file.
.../Test_Files/Batch.ini	Sample Batch configuration file.

1.2.3 Remove Xls2Html®

To remove Xls2Html® from your computer, use the windows control panel under:

Start -> Settings -> Control Panel -> Add/Remove Programs

1.2.4 Modes

Xls2Html® can work in distinct modes set by command-line parameters:

Xls2Html.exe	Standalone mode. Xls2Html® will work with a hidden Excel Instance.
Xls2Html.exe -E	Excel mode Xls2Html® will try to catch the existing (visible) Excel instance. This mode is used when Xls2Html® is called directly from the Excel user interface (add-in). It is assumed that the actually loaded Excel workbook has to be converted. Xls2Html® will get the actual workbook and won't allow you to select another one. (see chapter 2: "The Excel add-in")
Xls2Html.exe -B	Batch mode Xls2Html® can be used in batch mode. For example if you want to convert multiple files or if you want to integrate Xls2Html® in your own programs. In batch mode, you won't see a user interface window. The program is hidden when executed. Control is provided by command-line parameters and/or configuration files. (see "batch mode")

1.2.5 Command-line parameters

In batch mode (command-line parameter "-B"), Xls2Html® will not show its user interface during execution. However you can control Xls2Html using command-line parameters and/or settings/configuration files:

Xls2Html.exe -B <config.ini>

Xls2Html.exe -B <input.xls>

Xls2Html.exe -B <input.xls> <config.ini>

Xls2Html.exe -B <input.xls> <output.htm>

Xls2Html.exe -B <input.xls> <output.htm> <config.ini>

Xls2Html.exe -B <input.xls> <output.htm> <template.htm>

Xls2Html.exe -B <input.xls> <output.htm> <template.htm> <config.ini>

In standalone mode, it is also possible to specify a settings/configuration file:

Xls2Html.exe <config.ini>

If no settings/configuration file "<config.ini>" is specified, the default values from "Xls2Html.ini" are loaded.

It is recommended to always use absolute path names:

C:\Temp\Xls2html\...

Instead of relative ones:

..\Xls2Html\...

Make sure to set “**Batch_Convert**”, “**Batch_FTP**” and/or “**Batch_Email**” in the settings/configuration file.

1.2.6 Exit codes

The exit codes will let you check if the execution of Xls2Html® was successful. This is useful if you integrate Xls2Html® in your programs or batch files. Possible returned exit codes:

0	Success (No errors)
---	---------------------

-1	Conversion error
-2	FTP error
-3	Conversion error & FTP error
-4	SMTP error
-5	Conversion error & SMTP error
-6	SMTP error & FTP error
-7	Conversion error & FTP error & SMTP error

1	Other Error
---	-------------

If the returned error code is not ‘0’ then you will have to check the log files to see what’s wrong.

1.2.7 Log files

Xls2Html® will write log files under:

<default temp directory>\Xls2HtmlLog

The log files will be named like “**yymmdd.txt**” (year/month/day).

1.2.8 Configuration files

You can have several distinct settings/configuration files and pass them by command-line to Xls2Html® in batch-mode (see “batch-mode”)

The following settings are possible:

EXCEL_Workbook	Path & filename of the Excel workbook to convert. This is the file containing the data you want to extract.
----------------	---

HTML_Output	Path & filename of the conversion's output HTML file. This is the file that can be FTP-published or mailed.
HTML_Template	Path & filename of the HTML template file used for the conversion. This file contains the special HTML tags.
HTML_Editor	Path & filename of the program used to edit the HTML files (e.g. Microsoft FrontPage express).

FTP_Host	The name (e.g. mail.domain.com), or the IP address (e.g. 123.123.123.123) of your FTP server.
FTP_Port	Xls2Html® will attempt to connect to your FTP server, to the port specified here (Default = 21).
FTP_Remote_Dir	The HTML file will be published to this directory on your FTP server.
FTP_Remote_File	The HTML file will be published using this name on your FTP server.
FTP_User_Id	Name of the user on your FTP server. Along with the Password, makes it possible to log into your server.
FTP_Password	Password for the user specified in FTP_User_Id.
FTP_Proxy_Server	Specifies the address of the proxy server. Normally not used.
FTP_Proxy_Port	Specifies the port of the proxy server. Normally not used.
FTP_Proxy_Type	<p>0 -> [None] - Sends the FTP_User_Id/Password. (Default)</p> <p>1 -> [UserSite] - Sends the FTP_Proxy_User_Id/Password, followed immediately by the FTP_User_Id/Password.</p> <p>2 -> [Site] - Sends the FTP_Proxy_User_Id/Password, sends the SITE command and the FTP_Host, and the FTP_User_Id/Password.</p> <p>3 -> [Open] - Sends the FTP_Proxy_User_Id/Password, sends the OPEN command with the FTP_Host, and the FTP_User_Id/Password.</p> <p>4 -> [UserPass] - Calls SendCmd with the command USER user@proxyuser@host, calls SendCmd with the command PASS pwd@proxypwd, or optionally PASS pwd.</p> <p>5 -> [Transparent] - Sends the FTP_Proxy_User_Id/Password, followed immediately by the FTP_User_Id/Password.</p>
FTP_Passive_Mode	<p>Determines the FTP data connection method:</p> <p>0 -> No (Default)</p> <p>1 -> Yes</p>
FTP_Proxy_User_Id	Specifies the proxy user name. Normally not used.
FTP_Proxy_Password	Specifies the proxy password. Normally not used.

SMTP_Host	The name (e.g. mail.domain.com), or the IP address (e.g. 123.123.123.123) of your SMTP server.
SMTP_Port	Xls2Html® will attempt to connect to your SMTP server, to the port specified here (the default port is 25).
SMTP_User_Id	Specifies the user account for the SMTP server. Normally not used.
SMTP_Password	Specifies the password used for SMTP account authentication. Normally not used.
SMTP_From	Contains the address of the sender (e.g. your email address).
SMTP_Subject	The subject line of the mail message.
SMTP_To	A list of recipients. Recipients will appear in the message. Multiple email addresses have to be separated by commas (e.g. info1@rec1.com , info2@rec2.com , info3@rec3.com).
SMTP_Cc	Contains a list of carbon copy recipients. Carbon copy recipients do appear in the message. Multiple email addresses have to be separated by commas (e.g. info1@rec1.com , info2@rec2.com , info3@rec3.com).
SMTP_Bcc	Contains a list of blind carbon copy recipients. Blind carbon copy recipients do not appear in the message. Multiple email addresses have to be separated by commas (e.g. info1@rec1.com , info2@rec2.com , info3@rec3.com).
SMTP_Authentication	0 -> [None] - No authentication is required. (Default) 1 -> [Login] - Simple SMTP_User_Id/Password authentication is required.

Batch_Convert	Only used in Batch mode (command-line parameter “-B”): 0 -> Do not convert. 1 -> Make automatically the conversion.
Batch_FTP	Only used in Batch mode (command-line parameter “-B”): 0 -> Do not FTP-publish. 1 -> Publish automatically the output HTML file to your FTP server.
Batch_EMail	Only used in Batch mode (command-line parameter “-B”): 0 -> Do not mail. 1 -> Mail automatically the output HTML file to the specified recipients.

1.2.9 Sample settings/configuration file

```
[Xls2Html]

;--Input Excel Workbook-----
EXCEL_Workbook=C:\Temp\Xls2Html\Input.xls

;--Output HTML File-----
HTML_Output=C:\Temp\Xls2Html\Output.htm

;--Template HTML File-----
HTML_Template=C:\Temp\Xls2Html\Template.htm

;--Settings HTML Editor-----
HTML_Editor=C:\Programme\Microsoft FrontPage Express\bin\fpexpress.exe

;--Settings FTP-----
FTP_Host=ftp.test.com
FTP_Port=21
FTP_Remote_Dir=/test_dir
FTP_Remote_File=new_output.htm
FTP_User_Id=user
FTP_Password=password
FTP_Proxy_Server=
FTP_Proxy_Port=
FTP_Proxy_Type=0
FTP_Passive_Mode=0
FTP_Proxy_User_Id=
FTP_Proxy_Password=

;--Settings SMTP-----
SMTP_Host=mail.test.com
SMTP_Port=25
SMTP_User_Id=
SMTP_Password=
SMTP_From=xls2html@test.com
SMTP_Subject=Xls2Html Test Mail Message
SMTP_To=rec1@host1.com
SMTP_CC=
SMTP_BCC=rec2@host2.com,rec3@host3.com
SMTP_Authentication=0

;--Settings Batch Mode-----
Batch_Convert=1
Batch_FTP=1
Batch_Email=0
```

1.3 The HTML template

The HTML template file is a simple HTML file that can be created using a standard HTML editor (for example Microsoft FrontPage). Extended HTML tags are inserted directly in the HTML code. The correspondent Excel cell-value will, during the conversion, replace those tags. Xls2Html® supports three types of extended HTML tags:

1.3.1 HTML tag type I

Example:

```
<#EXCEL Sheet="3" Cell="B7">
```

Everything between “<” and “>” inclusive brackets will be replaced with the content of cell “B7” from the Excel worksheet number “3”.

Remember to update the HTML template each time the layout of the Excel workbook changes.

1.3.2 HTML tag type II

Example:

```
<#EXCEL Name="Xls2Html_PRICE">
```

Everything between “<” and “>” inclusive brackets, will be replaced with the content of the cell named “Xls2Html_PRICE” from the Excel workbook

There must be a cell with an assigned name “Xls2Html_PRICE” in the Excel workbook.

1.3.3 HTML tag type III

Example:

```
<#EXCEL Sheet="1" Chart="1">
```

Everything between “<” and “>” inclusive brackets will be replaced with the chart file name that will be exported from the Excel workbook as a .gif (the MS Excel/Office GIF filter is required installed)..

The exported .gif chart file will be in the same directory as the output HTML file and will be named like:

```
<output HTML file>_<number>.gif
```

Example:

If the specified output HTML file is “Output.htm” then the chart will be exported as .gif to a file named “Output_1.gif” and everything between “<” and “>” inclusive brackets in the template file, will be replaced with “/Output_1.gif”.

1.3.4 Cells not found

If a defined cell is not found or if the cell is empty, then the HTML tag is replaced with the HTML code “ ” (non-break space). This corresponds to an invisible placeholder.

1.3.5 Sample HTML template file

```
<html>

<head>
<meta http-equiv="Content-Type" content="text/html; charset=iso-8859-1">
<title></title>
</head>

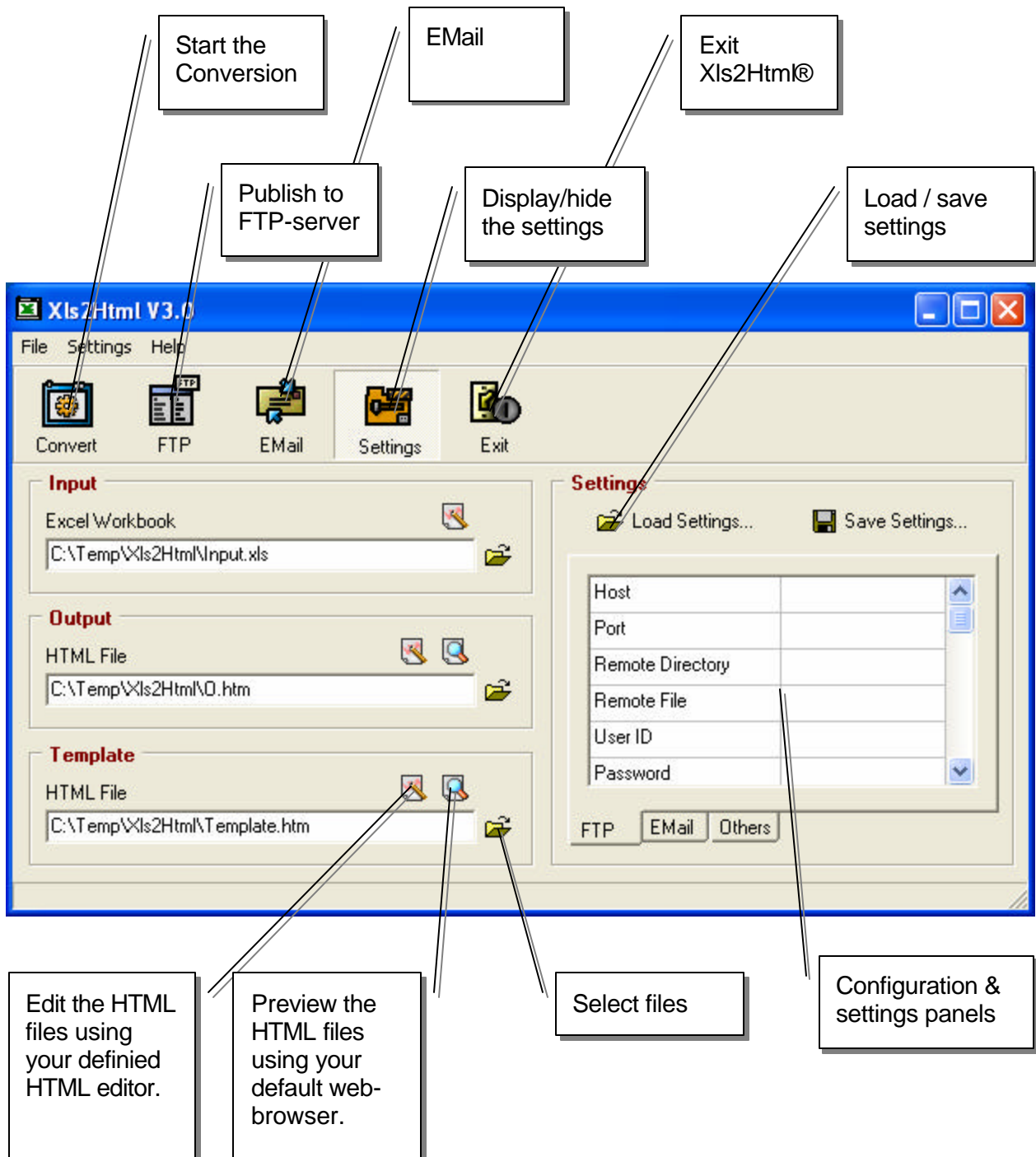
<body link="#0000FF" vlink="#800080" bgcolor="#FFFFFF"
style="font-family: Times New Roman; font-size: 12">

<table border="1" cellpadding="2" cellspacing="0" width="100%">
  <tr>
    <td width="100%"><table border="0" cellpadding="0" cellspacing="0" width="100%">
      <tr>
        <td width="50%"><strong><font face="Times New Roman" size="5">
          <#EXCEL Name="PRICE"></font></strong></td>
        <td align="right" width="50%"><strong>
          <font face="Times New Roman" size="4">Buy</font></strong></td>
      </tr>
      <tr>
        <td width="50%"><strong><font face="Times New Roman" size="2">
          <#EXCEL Sheet="1" Cell="C11"></font></strong></td>
        <td align="right" width="50%"><strong><font face="Times New Roman" size="2">
          <#EXCEL Sheet="2" Cell="A2"></font></strong></td>
      </tr>
    </table>
  </td>
</tr>
</table>

<table border="0" cellpadding="0" cellspacing="0" width="100%" height="15">
  <tr>
    <td width="100%"></td>
  </tr>
</table>

...
```

1.4 User interface



1.5 Trial & registration

Xls2Html® is shareware with a trial period of 14 days. During your trial period, you will be presented a dialog box indicating the number of days left. At any point during the evaluation you may register.

Please check <http://www.binf.ch/xls2html> for infos on how to register.

When you register you will get by email a software key to convert your Xls2Html® trial software to retail software.

Registration gives you the right to install and use one copy of Xls2Html® on one single computer.

1.6 Support

For support contact us at:

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Home Page: <http://www.binf.ch/xls2html>

Chapter 2

The Excel add-in

2.1 Description

Xls2Html® can be integrated directly into your Excel user interface.

For this purpose, the Excel add-in “**Xls2Html.xla**” has to be installed. The add-in will display a small menu-bar with one button to the Excel user interface.

2.2 Technique

2.2.1 Install the add-in

To install the Excel add-in:

- **Make sure to add the Xls2Html Installation directory to your Windows system **PATH** variable!**
- Start Excel.
- Use the Excel add-ins manager to install the add-in.
- Make sure to activate the add-in in the list.
- You should now notice a small new menu-bar with one button.

2.2.2 Remove the add-in

Microsoft Excel does not provide a direct function to remove installed add-ins. However there is a solution:

- Start Excel.
 - Start the Excel add-ins manager.
 - Make sure to disable the add-in “**Xls2Html**” in the list.
 - Close Excel.
 - Rename the file “**<install directory>\Xls2Html.xla**”.
 - That’s it. The small menu-bar should now disappear from the Excel user interface.
-