

A Visual Step-by-step Approach to Converting an RTF File to an Excel File

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Abstract

Rich Text Format (RTF) files incorporate basic typographical styling and word processing features in a standardized document that many programs and applications are able to read. In today's high-tech arena sometimes the contents of an RTF file needs to be viewed as, and even converted to, an Excel file. You would think that since both RTF and Excel are Microsoft standards that this would be a simple process to achieve, but you may be surprised to find out that is not the case. This paper and presentation highlights a visual step-by-step approach to converting an RTF file to an Excel File using the SAS® software.

Introduction

A file's format determines what you can do with it and which programs can open it. Essentially a file's format is composed of its own language where the format is understood by a specific application and/or platform. In today's vast dialect of file formats, technology offers users with an assortment of different file formats to use and choose from. Popular file formats include PDF, HTML, RTF, Word, CSV, Excel, image formats like JPG and PNG, video formats like , and audio formats like MP3 and MP4, to name a few. The popularity and variety of file formats provides users with unique and powerful capabilities, but can also make sharing between one software vendor's file format and another file format more complicated. This paper and presentation will highlight a few "free" online conversion tools, along with their approaches, for converting an RTF file to an Excel file.

Converting RTF (or Word) Files to Excel Files Using Watermark-Images.com

The "free" online converter offered by Watermark-Images.com provides users with not only a very "friendly" user interface, but makes converting an RTF file to an Excel file as easy as 1-2-3. The Watermark-Images.com online app is shown below.



Converting an RTF (or Word) file to an Excel file with Watermark-Images.com is accomplished in three easy steps.

1. Click the "Select DOC File" button and navigate to the location of the desired RTF (or Word) file.
2. Click either the "xlsx" or "xls" radio button for the version of Excel file you want to create.
3. Click the "Convert to XLS" button to initiate the conversion process and download the converted Excel file to your download location.

Converting RTF (or Word) Files to Excel Files Using CoolUtils.com

The "free" online converter offered by CoolUtils.com provides users with not only a very "friendly" user interface, but makes converting an RTF file to an Excel file as easy as 1-2-3. The CoolUtils.com online app is shown below.

COOLUtils.com
file converters

Home Products Customization Support

DOC to XLS - Free Online Converter

- 1 Upload DOC file to convert**
+ Select files...
moments.rtf is ready to convert
Allowed file types: doc, docx, docm, wbk, wps, dot, dotx, rtf, rvf, odt, sxw, abw, txt
- 2 Set convert options**
Convert to
▶ PDF
▶ **Excel**
▶ HTML
▶ JPEG
▶ Text
▶ TIFF
Options
▶ Header & Footer
- 3 Get converted file**
DOWNLOAD CONVERTED FILE

Converting an RTF (or Word) file to an Excel file with CoolUtils.com is accomplished in three easy steps.

1. Click the "Select files..." button and navigate to the location of the desired RTF (or Word) file.
2. Click the "Excel" radio box from the list of filetypes to set the conversion option and type of file you want to create.
3. Click the "Download Converted File" button to initiate the conversion process and download the converted Excel file to your download folder.

Converting RTF Files to Excel Files Using Traditional SAS Programming Methods

A final approach often used by SAS users to convert an RTF file to an Excel file is provided below.

1. Use MS-Word to open an existing RTF file.
2. Click "File" and select "Save As" then select type "Plain Text".
3. In the File Conversion Dialog window, select "Windows (Default)" for the Text Encoding and also select "CR / LF" for insert line breaks.
4. Assign and save "Plain Text" with a file name.
5. Using SAS software, import the "Plain Text" file to create a SAS dataset.

6. If necessary, modify dataset structure using PROC SORT, Arrays, DATA step Merge, PROC SQL joins, PROC TRANSPOSE, metadata, Hash objects, etc.
7. Use the ODS Excel destination to save contents of SAS dataset / output / results to an Excel file.
8. Open and verify the successful conversion of the RTF file to an Excel file.

Conclusion

Because of the abundance of file formats being used by different software applications and platforms, SAS users are often faced with the need to convert one file format to another. This paper highlights three approaches along with step-by-step instructions to help SAS users needing to convert an RTF file to an Excel file without the need to process SAS data sets. The ability to accomplish this becomes particularly important to reduce processing requirements as the size of input SAS data sets, or input data sources, grow in size.

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