

Taking a First Look at Excel's Reporting Tools

This chapter provides you with an overview of Excel's reporting features. It shows you the principal types of Excel reports and how you can use them to satisfy many of the business requirements you may face. It covers some of the benefits of using Excel reports, including real-time access, simplified report updates, and reduced cost of ownership. It also highlights the various types of reporting tools included in Excel and the related components in other Microsoft applications.

In this first chapter, I try to give you a snapshot overview of PivotTable and PivotChart reports, Spreadsheet reports, parameter queries (how you can map parameters to stored procedure variables), and web queries, along with a quick look at some of the related Microsoft Office components, such as Front-Page, Access, and MapPoint.

Keep in mind that this chapter just helps you get started with the basics. As you work your way through the other chapters, you have the opportunity to dive into these topics in a lot more detail. So let's begin!