



Altio Excel Control

Document Version 1.0

Document Definition

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Integra SP Limited
1 Liverpool Street
London EC2M 7QD
United Kingdom
<http://www.integrasp.com>

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1 Introduction

This document gives an overview of the Altio Excel Custom Control and how to use it.

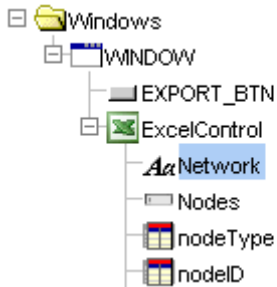
The custom control is available in two forms; one for Altio v4.x and one for Altio v5.x which are equivalent in functionality. The main difference is that the v4.x version does not display an Excel icon on the window on which it has been placed, whereas the v5.x version does.

1.1 Installation

To install the custom control, please follow the AltioLive documentation regarding control installation: place the **xldeployvX.jar** file in the **altioXX\WEB-INF\classes\controls** directory, and then deploy using AltioLive Studio.

1.2 Control Overview

The functionality of the control is to collate XML data contained within the Altio client memory, and export this to an Excel document. Exactly what XML data, and what attributes to display and how to display it can all be configured on the control using the designer. Here is a screenshot of the control in the designer View Explorer:



Nearly all of the configurable options of the control are done via subcomponents of the control. There are three such subcomponents:

- 1) **Network** Worksheet – This represents a worksheet, or tab, inside the Excel document to be generated.
- 2) **Nodes** XML Block – This represents a block of data in Excel. In Altio this is XML.
- 3) **nodeType** Column – This represents a column in a block of data in Excel. In Altio, this is an XML attribute.

Where application runtime is concerned, the Excel control is a non-graphical control. It is currently identified by an Excel icon in the position it has been placed on a window (v5 control only), however it can be hidden if this no visual representation is required.

1.3 Control Design Time Properties

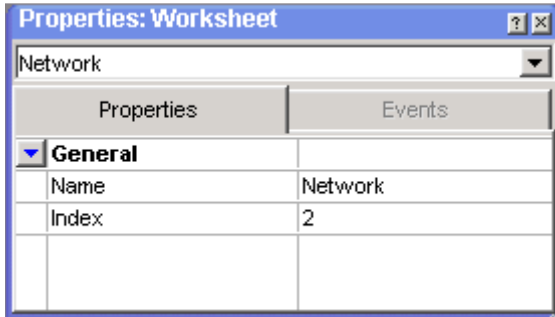
This section discusses the properties of the Excel control when developing in the Designer.

1.3.1 Excel Control

The Excel control itself has no new properties, just those of a basic control.

1.3.2 Worksheet

Configuring a Worksheet subcomponent in your Excel control signifies that you would like a worksheet of this name to appear in your Excel document. For example, if you configure three worksheet subcomponents, then three worksheets will appear in your Excel document.

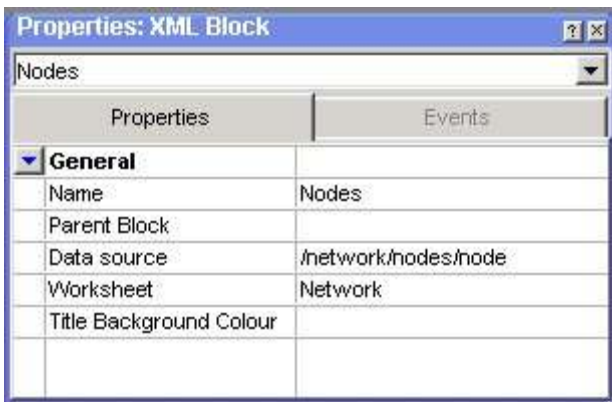


The configuration of this subcomponent is pretty straightforward; the text that you enter in the Name field will be the name that will appear on your worksheet.

The index field is the order in which the worksheet will appear in the workbook. This is optional, since the order in which you arrange the worksheets in the designer (from top to bottom) is the order that they will appear in the workbook.

1.3.3 XML Block

To get a block of data to appear in your Excel document, you need to configure an XML Block subcomponent.



The Name field is currently an identifier for this block of data. The name is inserted into the Excel document as a title above this block of data. The Title Background Colour field configures the background colour of this title.

Parent Block is an advanced field, and should not normally be required. In the case where this XML block is to appear as a child to another block with multiple rows, another XML block can be specified here. The result of this will nest this block of data with every related row of the specified parent in the Excel

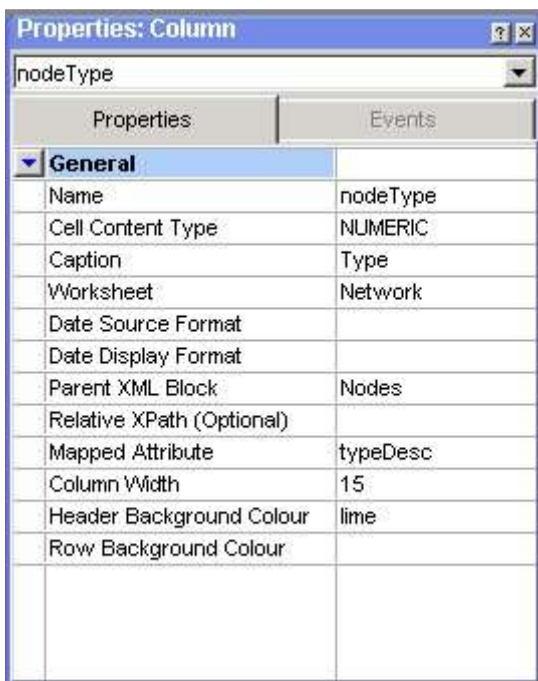
document. Please see the second worksheet of the accompanying sample application for an example of this.

Data Source is the XPath that identifies where the XML for this block of data is located. If a Parent Block has been specified, and the XML is a subnode of the parent block, only contextual data will be displayed with every row in the Excel document.

Worksheet is the worksheet on which this block of data is to appear. A worksheet subcomponent needs to be created before this field can be mapped.

1.3.4 Column

This is the configuration of a column in a block of data in the Excel document. It maps from an attribute in the XML data block to which this column belongs.



Name – this is the identifier of the column.

Cell Content Type – This field can have the following values:

STRING (Default) – The text in this attribute is a string – apply no special formatting to this field

NUMERIC – Format the value in this attribute as a number

DATE – Format this field as a date, using the Date Source Format and the Date Display Format fields

HYPERLINK – If the attribute contains an URL, using this setting will insert a launchable hyperlink in the Excel document.

Caption – This is the title of the column in the Excel document.

Worksheet – This is the worksheet that this column will appear on in the Excel document. A worksheet subcomponent needs to be created before this field can be mapped.

Date Source Format – If the attribute contains a date, this specifies the source format of the date in the XML file. Common options are given in a dropdown in this field, though other formats can also be entered. A typical Altio date format is: yyyyMMdd.

Date Display Format – This is the format that the date is to be displayed as in the Excel document. This field works in the same way as the field above. For more information on this date syntax, see the Java SimpleDateFormat API documentation.

Parent XML Block – This is the XML block to which this column belongs. An XML subcomponent needs to be created before this field can be mapped.

Relative XPath (Optional) – This optional field can be configured to reference a child XML node of the XML block if the data for this column is located in a child node.

Mapped Attribute – This field is the attribute name in the XML block which contains the data for this column.

Column Width – This is the width of the column in Excel terms. Note that if other blocks appear below this one and also use the same column, the column widths in the last block will override previous ones. This is a limitation of Excel.

Header Background Colour – This is the background colour of the title cell.

Row Background Colour – This is the background colour of the column.

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