

## XLS TABLES

WebSource Configurator allows the use of data from non-standard tables during the configuration process. An administrator can pull information from database tables to be used in defining attributes, pricing, costs, shipping, weight, etc. This is done through uploading Excel files and converting them to database tables.

For example, in addition to standard rules and formula based pricing, certain part numbers need to be priced based on negotiated contract prices. These contract prices may be managed using Excel files. In order to address this requirement, WebSource Configurator allows any Excel file to be uploaded, converted to a database table and used in the configuration process.

Figure 31-1 shows an example of an Excel spreadsheet with prices for Processors and Memory.

	A	B	C
1	sku	Price	Cost
2	AMT3	200	10
3	PMD3	300	20
4	PMD5	400	30
5	PMD8	600	50
6	1GB	200	90
7	2GB	280	150
8	4GB	400	300
9	512MB	90	50

Figure 31-1 – Pricing Spreadsheet

When creating a spreadsheet to be imported into the system, certain guidelines need to be followed. The spreadsheet needs to be setup so that it can easily be converted to a database table.

To tell the system which data to import, a **Named Range** needs to be created in the spreadsheet. To create a Named Range in Excel (refer to Excel help for more information on naming ranges of cells):

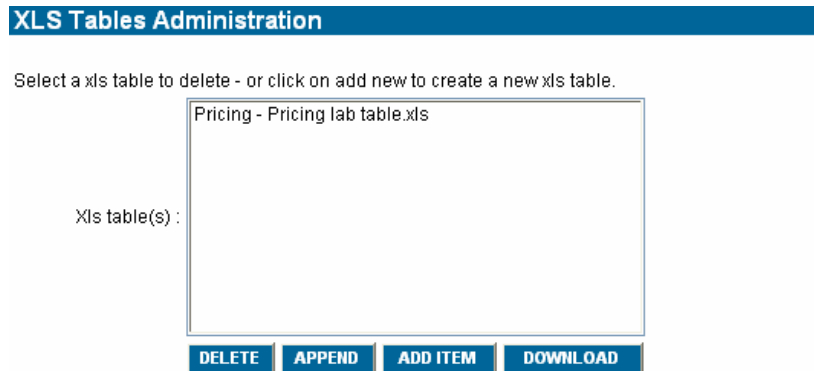
1. Under the **Insert** menu, point to **Name**, and then **Define**
2. In the Define Name dialog box, enter a name for the Named Range
3. In the **Refers to:** box, click the Collapse Dialog button at the right end of the box to select the range the name will refer to
4. Click **Ok** in the dialog box to save the changes.

**NOTE:** When importing a spreadsheet, the system assumes that the first row of the specified range contains the column headings. Therefore, the Named Range must include the column headings.

When creating column headings, they should not contain spaces. Headings consisting of numbers should also be used sparingly because the system can misinterpret them.

In order to prevent the unnecessary space allocation, each field is limited to 20 characters. If longer fields are needed, please contact Webcom, Inc.

After an Excel file is prepared, it can be imported through the **XLS Tables** link under the **Add-Ons** menu. This brings up the screen shown in Figure 31-2.

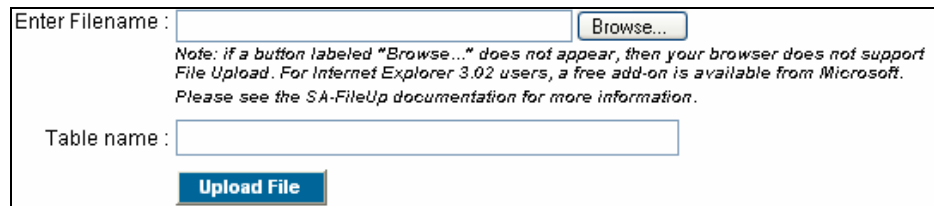


The screenshot shows a web interface titled "XLS Tables Administration". Below the title is a blue bar with the text "Select a xls table to delete - or click on add new to create a new xls table." Below this is a text area labeled "Xls table(s) :" containing the text "Pricing - Pricing lab table.xls". At the bottom of the text area are four buttons: "DELETE", "APPEND", "ADD ITEM", and "DOWNLOAD".

Figure 31-2 – XLS Tables Administration

**XLS Tables Administration** allows the addition and deletion of XLS Tables. Appending more information to a table can also be done here. In addition, existing files can be downloaded for editing if necessary.

To import a spreadsheet, click the **Add Item** button. This will bring up the screen shown in Figure 31-3.



The screenshot shows a web interface for uploading a spreadsheet. It features an "Enter Filename :" text box with a "Browse..." button to its right. Below this is a note: "Note: if a button labeled 'Browse...' does not appear, then your browser does not support File Upload. For Internet Explorer 3.02 users, a free add-on is available from Microsoft. Please see the SA-FileUp documentation for more information." Below the note is a "Table name :" text box. At the bottom is an "Upload File" button.

Figure 31-3 – Uploading a Spreadsheet

Click the **Browse** button to open the Excel file. In the **Table Name** box, enter the Range Name used for this spreadsheet. When finished, click the **Upload File** button to import the spreadsheet. A confirmation page will be displayed stating the status of the import. Any problems that were encountered would be displayed here. Click the **XLS Tables** link under the **Add-Ons** menu to return to Table Administration. The newly added table is displayed in the list as the Range Name followed by the filename.

To **Append** more data to an existing table. Select the table from the list on the Tables Administration page and click **Append**. This brings up the same screen shown in Figure 31-3. Click the **Browse** button to open the file that will be used for appending. The Table Name field is filled already with the Range Name of the table selected on the Tables Administration screen and cannot be changed.

When appending data, ensure that the spreadsheet being used is set up the same as the table that it is being appended to. The column names and name range need to match the existing table. An error will be displayed on the confirmation page if the names do not match.

**NOTE:** Appending data is useful for adding data to a table, not changing the data in a table. To change or edit the data in a table, download the table, edit the data, then import it again.

To download a table, select the table on the Tables Administration screen and click the **Download** button. This allows the file to be saved and edited. It can then be imported into the system again. Downloading a table does not remove it from the system, though. The original table needs to be deleted from the system before importing the edited file. Otherwise there will be naming conflicts.

## ACCESSING DATA

Data from these tables can be accessed from anywhere on the Administration side of the WebSource Configurator. Data is obtained using the Tag:

```
<*AUX(RangeName, ReturnColumnName, ConditionColumn1Name, ConditionValue1,  
ConditionColumn2Name, ConditionValue2, etc...)*>
```

**Range Name** – Name given to the range of cells and is displayed before the filename on the Tables Administration screen.

**Return Column Name** – Name of the column under which the value that will be returned exists

**Condition Column x Name** – Name of the column under which the value that will be compared exists

**Condition Value x** – Value that will be compared to the value from the Condition Column

Example from Figure 31-1:

```
<*AUX(Pricing, Price, sku, <*ValueCode(Processor)*>)*>
```

**Pricing** is the name range given to those cells. The **Price** column contains the value that will be returned. Using this Tag, the system searches the **sku** column looking for the attribute value returned by the ValueCode tag. When that is found, the system takes the value from Price column in that row and returns it.

**NOTE:** The tag <\*XWS(AUXTABLE, ...)\*> can also be used to access data from these tables. For more information on the XWS tag and the AUX tag, see Appendix A.

**NOTE:** If a column in the Excel spreadsheet contains both text and numbers, the Excel ODBC driver cannot correctly interpret which data type the column should be. Please make sure that all the cells in a column are of the same data type. We recommend that all cells are of data type text.

The following three errors can occur if each cell in a column is not of the same type or have the types mixed between "text" and "general":

1. Microsoft OLE DB Provider for ODBC Drivers error '80040e21'  
The request properties can not be supported by this ODBC Driver.
2. Microsoft OLE DB Provider for ODBC Drivers error '80004005'  
The query is not updateable because it contains no searchable columns to use as a hopeful key.
3. Microsoft OLE DB Provider for ODBC Drivers error '80004005'  
Query based update failed. The row to update could not be found

While importing tables it is discovered that NamedRange must NOT spread over the whole width of the Worksheet.

It must have at least one free column at the end (or beginning), or Excel will automatically convert range description, for example, from:  
\$A\$2:\$IV\$3 to: \$2:\$3

Manually retying won't help, as, while saving, Excel changes it back again.

And CPQ importing procedure needs the full definition of range (does not understand the shorter form), or reports that file is successfully transferred, but no records to import.