AIMMS Excel Add-In User's Guide - Using the AIMMS Excel Add-In

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Chapter 4

Using the AIMMS Excel Add-In

This chapter

This chapter explains in more detail how the AIMMS Excel add-in can be used. You will find the details about the default sequences and the storage of the interface setup data, as well as the methods available to run one or more execution sequences.

4.1 Interface setup defaults and storage

Default sequences

When you start using the AIMMS Excel add-in with a new spreadsheet, you will be supplied with two default execution sequences, called

- `Initialization`, and
- `Main`.

The **AIMMS Interface Setup** dialog box will never allow you to delete these two sequences.

The `Initialization` sequence

The `Initialization` sequence is automatically called by the AIMMS Excel add-in directly after the AIMMS project has started. You can use this sequence, for instance, to initialize data in the AIMMS model that does not change throughout the session.

The `Main` sequence

The `Main` sequence is not called automatically by AIMMS, but can serve as a main execution entry in the **Execute** menu of the **AIMMS** menu or toolbar. To indicate this status, the **Main** sequence will always have an associated icon in the **Execute** menu, as illustrated in Figure 4.1.

Figure 4.1: The **AIMMS-Execute** toolbar

Not mandatory

Although you cannot delete the default sequences, you have the freedom to ignore them and remove them from the **Execute** menu, by unchecking the **Include in Execute Menu** checkbox on the **Execution Sequences** tab of the **AIMMS Interface Setup** dialog box.

Setup data storage

The AIMMS Excel add-in will store all interface data that you entered in the **AIMMS Interface Setup** dialog box in a hidden sheet in your workbook, called `__AIMMS_SETUP__`. In order to prevent the user from entering erroneous data on this sheet, which could cause the interface to stop functioning properly, the sheet cannot be made visible.

4.2 Running execution sequences

The execute menu

When you have defined some execution sequences using the **AIMMS Interface Setup** dialog and have checked the **Include in Execute Menu** checkbox for them, those execution sequences appear in the add-in provided **Execute** menu. Selecting an execution sequence from this menu will run it.

From Visual Basic

Another way to run an execution sequence is through the subroutine

```
ExecuteAimmsSequence(ByVal SequenceName As String)
```

which is exported by the AIMMS Excel add-in. You can call it from any Excel Macro that you've written. You only have to pass the name of the sequence defined in the **AIMMS Interface Setup** dialog box as an argument to this subroutine, as can be seen from the declaration. This way of running sequences offers an even more flexible way to integrate AIMMS projects into your Excel spreadsheets.

Include reference

To call the `ExecuteAimmsSequence` subroutine directly from within your Visual Basic code, you must include a reference to the AIMMS Excel add-in `Aimms.xla` to your spreadsheet through the **Tools-References** menu in the Visual Basic Editor. However, this is not strictly necessary, as you can also use the `Run` method to call `ExecuteAimmsSequence` directly from `Aimms.xla`, as illustrated below.

```
Run "Aimms.xla!ExecuteAimmsSequence", "Main"
```