

# Revealing Missing Excel Sheets

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Comments and corrections are always welcome ☺

Power Users and IT professionals are well aware of the productivity improvements gained by using two (or more) monitors. There are studies that suggest 9% to 10% gains, but I would personally suggest that results of up to 100% are obtainable, depending on the nature of the job.

I recently had occasion to work on a project where two Microsoft Excel 2003 files were used to log equipment maintenance. These were separate password protected "xls" files, not just tabbed sheets in the same workbook. On a PC with two 19" monitors, in order to view both sheets simultaneously, it was convenient to open Excel in the left side monitor, and then drag Excel's right boarder all the way across to the right side of the second monitor (ie. a nice wide Excel pallet). With Excel still open, I would then open the first sheet via "File | Open" and position Sheet1 on the Excel pallet on the left monitor (ie. not Maximized across the entire Excel pallet). I would then open the Sheet2 and put it on the same Excel pallet on the right monitor. This provided plenty of area to view and work with the two sheets at the same time.

When I was finished with the task, I clicked the Excel 2003's "file exit" red X (ie. blue X in Office 2007) on the top right corner of the left monitor sheet and saved it. Now the right monitor sheet needed closed and I closed it the same way.

Weeks had passed and I needed to open Sheet2 again. Recall that Sheet2 is the one that was saved while on the left monitor side previously. This time I was on a single monitor system. To my surprise, when I opened the xls file, it was nothing more than an empty gray Excel pallet. There were no cells, no tabs, no horizontal or vertical scroll bars. I pulled the same xls file off of several backups and the same result: nada, nichts, bon à rien . Feel the perspiration ?

I went back to my office, opened Excel on the left hand monitor as usual and opened the xls file. But alas, there was no joy and the "I'm screwed" syndrome took hold. I then tried different selections on Excel's "View" menu, tried increasing to 500% and decreasing to 10%. Nothing worked.

In a panic, I clicked for the red "file exit" box on the top right corner of the (gulp) empty Excel program. Perhaps it was the nervous hand shaking that caused me to mistakenly grab Excel's top right hand corner instead of the red "file exit" box. This sloppy mousing caused the Excel pallet's right side to drag over onto the second monitor. Guess what . . . Immediate joy !

There, over on the right side monitor, I could see a piece of the missing sheet. Dragging the Excel pallet's right hand border completely to the right hand monitor's right side presented the entire sheet. I then dragged that windowed sheet back across the pallet over to the left hand monitor, and pulled Excel's right hand border back to the left side monitor (ie. for a normal single monitor view of Excel). I saved the xls file, closed Excel, opened Excel and opened the xls file and all was well in Denmark again.

If you care for more information on the benefits of "dual monitoring" you may find the following articles interesting:

Two Screens Are Better Than One

<http://research.microsoft.com/displayArticle.aspx?id=433>

Two Monitors Are Better Than One

<http://www.microsoft.com/athome/moredone/twomonitors.msp>

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