

## SKILL BUILDING TIP: PIVOT TABLE BASICS

Presented to EAG by Jana Greer, Chair 10/5/11



Washington State

## **Executive Assistants Group**

PO Box 4275 Tumwater, Washington 98501 www.executiveassistantsgroup.com

# **Discussion Topics**

- What is a Pivot Table?
- Uses for Pivot Tables.
- Example of how a Pivot Table is created.
- Links to online training and reference sites.

#### What is a Pivot Table?

In data processing, a **pivot table** is a data summarization tool found in data visualization programs such as spreadsheets (for example, in Microsoft Excel, OpenOffice.org Calc, LibreOffice Calc, Google Docs and Lotus 1-2-3) or business intelligence software. Among other functions, pivot-table tools can automatically sort, count, total or give the average of the data stored in one table or spreadsheet. It displays the results in a second table (called a "pivot table") showing the summarized data

Source:

Wikipedia

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pivot\_table

### **Uses for Pivot Tables**

Pivot tables are very powerful and useful. There are numerous uses of pivot tables. Endless uses, the creator and end user defines these.

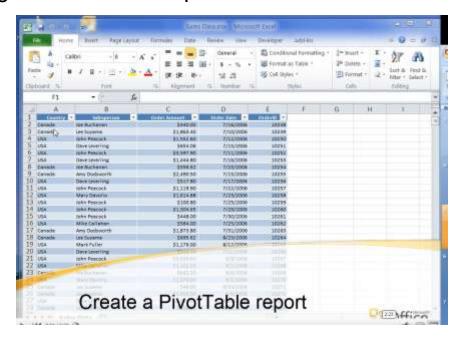
Some example uses of pivot tables:

- Summarizing data like finding the average sales for each region for each product from a product sales data table.
- Listing unique values in any column of a table
- Creating a pivot report with sub-totals and custom formats
- Making a dynamic pivot chart
- Filtering, sorting, drilling-down data in the reports without writing one formula or macro.
- Transposing data i.e. moving rows to columns or columns to rows. [learn more]
- Linking data sources outside excel and be able to make pivot reports out of such data.

## **Video: Create A Pivot Table Report**

## Microsoft Office Support: Create a Pivot Table

This video is a brief overview of how to create a pivot table. a very small look into the large world of this topic.



Source: Microsoft

#### Resources

Our State agencies are using Microsoft products and most are using Excel version 2007 or 2010.

The following links are resources to assist you with the basic of getting familiar with creating and using Pivot Tables.

PivotTable I: Get started with PivotTable reports in Excel 2007

Overview of PivotTable and PivotChart reports

What's New: Changes in PivotTables for 2010