

OCS Inventory

Windows Install Date : Excel Formula

Introduction

In order to complete the inventory made in a company, i needed to have the Windows install date.

“Unix time” is the system used to define the install date : it indicates the number of seconds passed since 01/01/1970.

(Source : <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unixtime>)

The problem i had to face with : it's not human readable !

Excel Export

What I've done first : define a registry query :

DATE INSTALLATION	2	SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion	installdate
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- HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows NT\CurrentVersion\ *InstallDate*

Once inventories are sent, the value is correctly retrieved :

DATE INSTALLATION
1056523898
1170742983
1080593983

Next, I export the results to a *.csv file. To be more comfortable, i use the “Convert” option present in the “Data” Excel menu :

- Choose “Delimited” as original data type :

Type de données d'origine

Choisissez le type de fichier qui décrit le mieux vos données :

Délimité - Des caractères tels que des virgules

Largeur fixe - Les champs sont alignés en colonnes

- Choose “Comma” as delimiter :

Séparateurs

Tabulation Point-virgule Virgule

Espace Autre :

- When finished, we have a sheet correctly displayed :

F	G	H
RAM(MO)	CPU(MHz)	DATE INSTALLATION
512	2799	1056523898
512	3059	1170742983
224	2405	1080593983
512	1694	1019831120

Next, I type a very simple excel formula in a new blank cell :

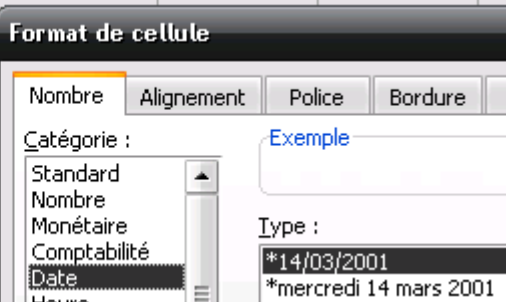
H	I
DATE INSTALLATION	
1056523898	=H2/86400 + 25569
1170742983	
1080593983	

Once typed, I apply this formula to all the cells placed below :

H	I
DATE INSTALLATION	
1056523898	37797,28586
1170742983	39119,26601
1080593983	38075,8748
1019831120	37372,60093
1160859407	39004,87277

Then, I change the format of these cells (I selected the column) to the "Date" format :

H	I
DATE INSTALLATION	
1056523898	37797,2859
1170742983	39119,266
1080593983	38075,8748
1019831120	37372,6009
1160859407	39004,8728
1184747008	39281,3496
1052726622	37753,3359



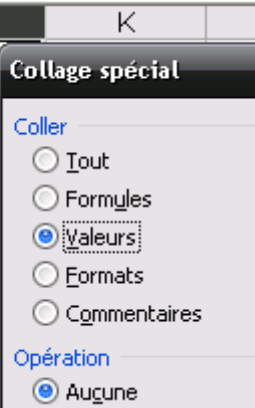
Now, we have the human readable version of the Windows install date :

H	I
DATE INSTALLATION	
1056523898	25/06/2003
1170742983	06/02/2007
1080593983	29/03/2004
1019831120	26/04/2002

Then, I needed to have an excel sheet with only static data (no formulas), so I did it like this :

I copied all the column (with "Date" cells) and pasted it to a new column, using the "Paste Special" function :

I	J	K
25/06/2003		
06/02/2007		
29/03/2004		
26/04/2002		
14/10/2006		
18/07/2007		
12/05/2003		
14/08/2007		
09/10/2008		
07/10/2004		



I selected the "Values" box, which gave me the values in a static way, which means without any formula :

I	J
25/06/2003	37797,2859
06/02/2007	39119,266
29/03/2004	38075,8748

Just define the cells type as "Date" and it's done :

H	I	J
DATE INSTALLATION		DATE INSTALL
1056523898	25/06/2003	25/06/2003
1170742983	06/02/2007	06/02/2007
1080593983	29/03/2004	29/03/2004
1019831120	26/04/2002	26/04/2002
1160859407	14/10/2006	14/10/2006

As you can see, we now have a human-readable install date, with static data in the cells.

Explanations

Now that I gave the solution, let me explain you how the excel formula was chosen.

As I said previously, "InstallDate" uses the "Unix Time" system, which indicates the number of seconds passed since 01/01/1970.

But Excel is based on a different time system indicating the number of days passed since 01/01/1900.

(Source : <http://support.microsoft.com/?scid=kb%3Ben-us%3B214094&x=24&y=11>)

So, we have to choose a common basis for the Install date calculation : I choosed a day basis.

First step : days passed between 01/01/1900 and 01/01/1970 : **25569**

Second step : days passed between 01/01/1970 and the "Install Date" : for this, we can simply convert the "Installdate" value in days, by this way :

Number of seconds since 1970 / Number of seconds in 1 day = **InstallDate / 86400** = days passed since 01/01/1970.

Third Step : days passed between 01/01/1900 and the "Install Date" : we just have to sum the results obtained at the two previous steps. So, the sum is :

$$\text{"InstallDate"} / 86400 + 25569$$

Fourth step : Convert the previous result in a "calendar format" : simply **change the cell type to "Date"** and it's done !

Conclusion

Even if the "installdate" isn't decrypted on the fly by OCS, we can, with a few and quick steps, obtain the install date in a human-readable format.

In my case, the company only needed the install date value, in a full excel export. So, instead of trying to find a magic solution in OCS, I opted to this method.

Finally, let me give you a quick link to convert a "installdate" :

<http://www.ilopia.com/Private/installDate.aspx>