

HSSF

Alternatives to HSSF

by Andrew Oliver, Glen Stampoultzis

1. Alternatives

Maybe it's unwise to advertise your competitors but we believe competition is good and we have the best support reading and write Excel workbooks currently available.

Product	URL	Description
JSC	jsc.tomschuetz.com	Reading, calculating standard and VBA functions with Java at runtime.
Formula One	ReportingEngines (division of Actuate Corporation)	An alternative to this project is to buy the \$5000 per server installation.
Visual Basic	www.microsoft.com	Give up XML and write Visual Basic code on a Microsoft Windows based Environment or output in Microsoft's beta and primarily undocumented XML for office format.
JExcel	http://stareyes.homeip.net:8888	Frequently unavailable. Little currently known about it's capabilities.
JWorkbook	http://www.object-refinery.com/jworkbook/	This code supports Gnumeric and Excel, however the Excel part is done using POI anyway.
xlReader	http://www.sourceforge.net/projects/xlreader/	Provides decent support for reading Excel.
Excel ODBC Driver	http://www.nwlink.com/~leewal/comp/odbc/excel/	ODBC offers a somewhat awkward method for using Excel.
ExtensXLS	http://www.extentech.com/products/ExtensXLS/	Commercial library for reading, writing and calculating Excel workbooks.

		modifying and writing Excel spreadsheets. Not cheap but certainly a lot more affordable than Formula 1. No idea as to it's quality.
J-Integra Java-Excel Bridge	http://www.intrinsyc.com/products/usingjintegra.asp	Uses JCOM to an Excel instance on a windows machine.
Perl & C	-	There are a number of perl and C libraries, however none of them are consistent.
VistaJDBC	http://www.vistaportal.com/products/vistajdbc.htm	VistaJDBC however works with both StarOffice and Excel spreadsheets and can access data using standard SQL statements without any API programming. VistaJDBC also implemented ability to choose by not just rows and columns but by specific cells, ranges of cells, etc.
Coldtags Excel Tag Library	http://www.servletsuite.com/servlets/excel/	This library outputs a simple CSV file, in which cells can contain numbers or text. You could output a CSV file without its help, but it gives a little more readability/structure to the code, and could be extended to handle more complexity. When you invoke one of these JSP pages from your browser, you open up an Excel spreadsheet. There's no formatting, worksheets, or anything fancy like that. So it's not strictly a competitor but it does the job.