

# Quest InTrust Microsoft Excel Knowledge Pack

## Benefits

- Saves time and improves efficiency by automating the complex process of spreadsheet change tracking
- Ensures information security by recovering “before” cell values
- Enables organizations to address regulatory compliance requirements by reporting on access to information

Understanding user activity at every level and in every application is imperative to the security of all organizations. Whether supporting an internal security requirement or external regulatory compliance initiative, collecting, storing and reporting on this data must be a priority for IT organizations.

However, while auditing activity in directory objects may be commonplace, the auditing of business applications, such as Microsoft® Excel™, has long been a problem. Very little security is typically applied to these spreadsheets, which often contain vital information such as payroll, financial data, or projected earnings. Chances are the processes in place to gather this information are manual and difficult to repeat.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) studies show that 80% of all violations to corporate policy are committed by authenticated users, or employees. Of this 80%, 43% are assisted by an accomplice within the company who has elevated rights. This drives the need for a complete auditing and reporting solution for the Windows environment.

The challenge is set: In order to meet external compliance objectives or internal security mandates, a company must audit and report on the lifecycle changes made to critical spreadsheets. In order to achieve a return on investment this must be done in an automated fashion.

The new Quest® InTrust Excel Knowledge Pack can help. It automates the process of auditing changes to Excel spreadsheets and offers easy-to-read reports; further strengthening a company's information

security and assisting in addressing compliance requirements.

Once change tracking has been enabled on spreadsheets the Knowledge Pack is able to automate the process of producing the .txt-based output log file containing all changes made to the spreadsheet during a specific time period. This log is collected at scheduled times. It is then stored in a secure location for analysis by compliance and/or security personnel.

Having this information available means an executive is now able to determine whether or not the changes made were valid or made by an authorized user. If an invalid change is made, the original value can be replaced. If a change is made by unauthorized personnel, their rights can be revoked and appropriate action taken against that employee. Additionally, InTrust allows for a documented violation to be produced in order to prove when an inappropriate action has occurred.

Reports can be generated on a daily, weekly or quarterly basis depending on a company's needs. The figure below represents a detailed view into the historical properties and values of a spreadsheet.

06.07.2006 16:07:32	1	12	4	None		Formula	
06.07.2006 16:07:32	1	21	6	None		Formula	
06.07.2006 16:07:32	1	2	2	Formula		Formula	
06.07.2006 16:33:36	1	21	7	None		Numeric	38363
12.07.2006 17:41:59	1	26	2	None		String	test
13.07.2006 20:15:29	1	27	2	None		String	test +1
13.07.2006 23:16:49	1	27	2	String	test +1	String	test +3

  

File Name		test20.xls						
User Name		Anton						
Date/Time	Sheet	Row	Column	Old Type	Old Value	New Type	New Value	
06.07.2006 16:07:32	1	2	3	Formula		Formula		

Figure 1: Excel Knowledge Pack Report Sample

Having this functionality means that companies can provide auditors and investigators with a complete view into changes made to critical spreadsheets.

For more information on how InTrust can help your organization address internal security mandates and external compliance requirements, regardless of your environment, visit <http://wm.quest.com/products/intrust/>.