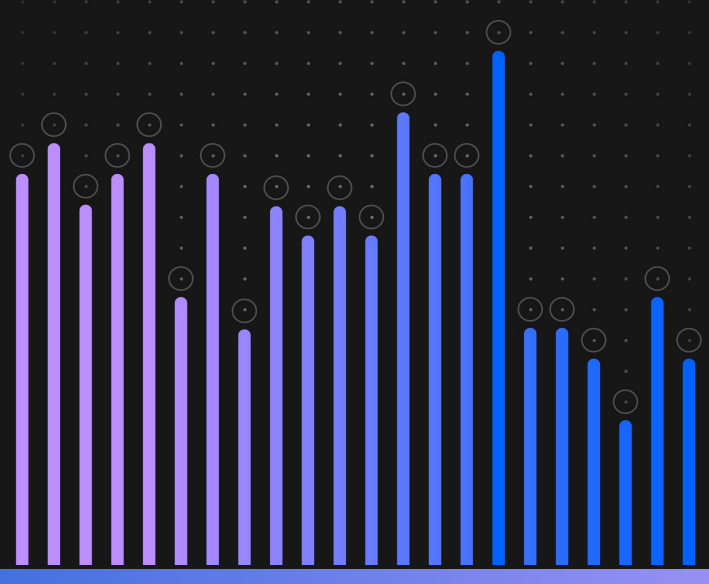
Risks of using spreadsheets

Spreadsheets are ubiquitous low-cost resources that are relatively simple to use. Not surprisingly, then, they frequently serve as many organizations' default data analysis and management tools. But there's a downside to this approach:



01

Spreadsheets Have Errors

Research[1] has found that up to **90 percent** of all spreadsheets have errors that affect their results. These errors are classified as functional, outlier and stealth errors.

02

Lack Of Spreadsheet Training

Research[2] shows that 71% of spreadsheet users learned spreadsheet through self-tutoring. This shows that these users are not formally trained in approaches to planning software, managing data and objectively testing for errors.

03

Overconfidence

A survey[2] shows that although none of the respondents had a certified training, more than three quarters claimed that they are on or above the intermediate level.

Causes of spreadsheet errors.

Mistakes in logic

Incorrectly copied formulas

Accidentally overwritten formulas

Misuse of built-in functions

Omitted factors

Data input errors

Sorting numbers

Cell orientation

Adding new data

Limitations of spreadsheets for statistical analysis?

Limited formulas

No metadata

Limited data validation capabilities

Absence of data preparation

Absence of data manipulation

Few analytical techniques

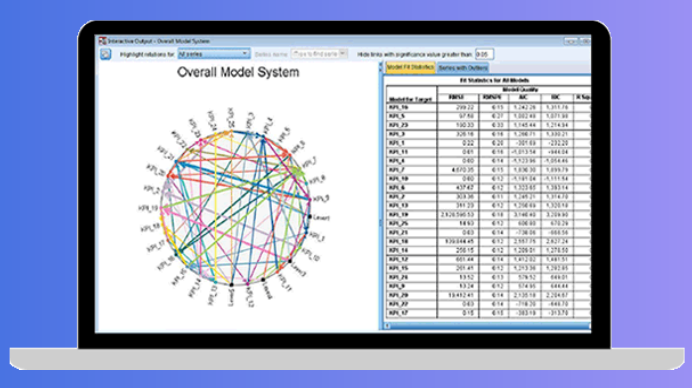
No automated reporting

IBM SPSS Statistics

SPSS Statistics addresses the complete analytical process, starting with accessing data from an entire spectrum of data file formats, as well as via ODBC, and supporting the full gamut of data management and manipulation capabilities, followed by analysis, reporting, and deployment.

It helps users quickly understand large and complex datasets using advanced statistical procedures ensuring high level of accuracy to drive quality decision-making.

SPSS Statistics has an easy to use graphical user interface which also supports a powerful syntax language. It also lets you integrate R/ Python extensions or your own code.



Prevents errors

Follows analytical process

Access data from multiple sources

Ability to process raw data

Access to advanced analytical techniques

Export result capability
Automation

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Source: [1] ZDNet: Excel errors: How Microsoft's spreadsheet may be hazardous to your health ; [2] Proceedings of the EuSpRIG 2016 Conference 'Spreadsheet Risk Management' pp49-69 ISBN: 978-1-905404-53-7 ; [3] Excel errors: How Microsoft's spreadsheet may be hazardous to your health