

MegaStat Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will MegaStat run on an Apple Mac computer?

There is not a Mac version of MegaStat because Excel 2008 for the Mac does not support add-ins. Unless Microsoft/Apple update Excel, the only way it can work is to install Windows Vista or Windows 7 and Excel 2007 or 2010 and use Boot Camp to run Windows

2. How large is MegaStat?

The MegaStat download file is approximately 4MB. About half is the program and the other half is the MegaStat User's Guide. MegaStat does not require a large amount of memory. If you can run Excel, you can probably run MegaStat.

3. Will MegaStat run on all versions of Excel and Windows?

MegaStat 10.2 has been tested with Microsoft Excel 2003, Excel 2007, and Excel 2010. The MegaStat menus, Help, and documentation have been updated to focus on Excel 2007/2010; however, the changes are minor and MegaStat still functions properly with Excel 2003.

MegaStat has been tested with Windows XP, Windows Vista, and Windows 7.

The latest updates of Excel and Windows are recommended.

MegaStat was originally developed using earlier versions of Windows and Excel and will probably continue to work with them, but it has not been recently tested. It is also expected that MegaStat will work with future versions of Windows and Excel, but, obviously that remains to be tested.

4. What are the differences between MegaStat 10.1 and 10.2?

The actual MegaStat add-in is mostly the same with a few (mostly internal) improvements; however, some of the terminology has been changed to be consistent with Excel 2007/2010. Other changes with version 10.2 are:

1. There is a new installation program. Our previous installer was no longer being supported so we had to change.
2. The help system was converted from WinHelp to HTML help.
3. The MegaStat User's Guide (previous known as Getting Started with MegaStat) was expanded and updated and uses Excel 2007/2010 screenshots.

5. Why was the help system changed on version 10.2?

The WinHelp system used by earlier versions of MegaStat was no longer being directly supported by Microsoft (since Vista) and required a download to function and even then the message box Help buttons did not function. You will notice that the new HTML help looks similar to the help on many other Windows programs.

6. Why is it important to uninstall earlier versions before installing version 10.2?

Since version 10.2 uses a new installer program, it cannot automatically uninstall installations created by the previous installer and you could end up with two MegaStats on the Add-Ins ribbon. Version 10.2 and later updates should automatically uninstall before updating. (See also FAQ #10)

7. Will MegaStat run on a network?

MegaStat was not developed specifically for network use and is not supported for network use; however, some users have reported successful network usage. FAQ #16 might be useful for network installations.

Check with McGraw-Hill regarding network licensing before attempting a network installation.

The switch to HTML help with MegaStat 10.2 may be a problem with networks because of Microsoft security regarding .chm files. Some work-arounds might be found on the Internet.

8. Where are the MegaStat files stored?

With MegaStat 10.2 the files are stored as follows:

The MegaStat.xla add-in file and the MegaStat.chm help file are stored using the installer program's <AppData> variable. On Windows 7 and Vista this location is: C:\Users\{yourusername}\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\AddIns. On Windows XP this location is: C:\Documents and Settings\Administrator\Application Data\Microsoft\AddIns

Other support files and the Megastat_Users_Guide.pdf are stored using the installer program's <CommonAppData> variable. On Windows 7 and Vista this location is C:\ProgramData\MegaStat (Note this is ProgramData, not Program Files.) On Windows XP this location is: C:\Documents and Settings\All Users\Application Data\MegaStat

9. The column widths don't look correct on my MegaStat output. What happened?

When MegaStat appends new output at the bottom of an existing output sheet, it adjusts the column widths for the most recent output and that may not look correct for the output above. You can usually adjust the columns to make it look OK. If having proper column widths is important for all output, start a new Output sheet before each output.

10. Why do I have two MegaStat items on my Add-ins ribbon? And what do I do about it?

This is probably because you did not uninstall a prior version before installing version 10.2 or later. (see FAQ #6). The best thing would be to see if both of the MegaStats work, and, if so, go to the Utilities menu and click Remove or Deactivate (these both do the same thing). Then go to Control Panel and uninstall any MegaStats you find there. Finally, re-install the latest version of MegaStat.

11. Why doesn't the Output sheet have gridlines?

We feel the output looks cleaner without the Excel gridlines; however, you can turn them back on the View → check gridlines.

12. MegaStat is installed, but it has disappeared from the Add-Ins ribbon. What happened?

This may happen occasionally; however, it happens so rarely that we have never been able to determine what (if anything) causes it and if anything can be done about it, but there is an easy fix. Use Excel Options → Add-Ins → Go to get to the Add-ins list. Uncheck MegaStat and click OK. Then get back to the Add-Ins list and check MegaStat again and click OK. That usually works. If not, try exiting Excel and restarting.

13. I get errors when I enter decimal values, what is the problem?

This is probably caused by changing the decimal separator from a period to a comma. MegaStat requires that the decimal separator be a period.

14. I'm getting a 'Subscript out of range.' Message. What is the problem?

This is usually caused by trying to run MegaStat by double-clicking the MegaStat.xla file. This might work with Excel 2003 and earlier, but since Excel 2007, MegaStat has to be run by being setup as an add-in via Excel Options. See the MegaStat Installation instructions for details.

15. MegaStat doesn't load or asks for a MegaStat password. What causes this and what can I do?

This issue appears to be with the Visual Basic for Applications program within Office, and some updates that may not have been performed in the background on a user's particular machine. Search for files with the extension of .exd on your hard drive. For Windows Vista and Windows 7 users these will usually be found in the \users folder area. It would be best to do a search across the entire hard drive, and not just on the \users folder. Once you find the files you should delete them. The files will be re-created by Windows on an as-needed basis.

Also, MegaStat requires that you enable macros on the security options.

16. Can MegaStat be used without running the installer program?

It is generally preferable to set up MegaStat via the installer program since this will put the files in the default locations and will allow uninstallation via the Control Panel. However, you can copy MegaStat.xla and MegaStat.chm to any folder and then Browse to that folder from the Add-Ins list.

17. I cannot get Help to work with MegaStat. What can I do?

This probably means you are using MegaStat 10.1 or earlier with Windows Vista or Windows 7. The best solution would be to upgrade to MegaStat 10.2 (see FAQ #4 and #5). If you need to continue with the earlier version of MegaStat, you can go to the Microsoft website and search for the WinHelp32 download patch.

18. Can I view and print the MegaStat help file.

You may double-click the MegaStat.chm file to open it and there is an option for printing. (See FAQ #8 for the file location.) Help files are viewed with the Windows help viewer program, not MegaStat.

19. Is MegaStat output 'live'? I.e., will the output automatically update if I change my input data?

MegaStat Output sheets consist of numbers and text, but not formulas and thus they do not automatically update if you change your data. While live output seems like a good thing, most MegaStat options involve calculations and operations beyond simple formulas. Also, live formulas can cause problems if output is pasted into other applications because the links can be broken or the data inadvertently changed. It is very easy to re-run MegaStat options after changing the data and that has the advantage of having the previous output for comparison.

One exception is the Generate Random Numbers option that can display live formulas.

However, all MegaStat charts are 'live' and they are linked to values on the Output sheet or on a ChartDataSheet (see the MegaStat User's Guide). Scatterplots are linked to your input data.

The reason charts are live is so you can click on them and see what values are being used. However, you need to be careful when you paste a chart into another Excel file or another application, such as Word. See FAQ #20 for details.

20. I copy/pasted a MegaStat chart into another application, it does not display properly. What can I do?

If you paste a MegaStat chart into another application, the default paste operation usually maintains links to the original data. That will probably work OK; however, it may be possible for the links to the original file to be broken if the original file is deleted, moved, or changed.

It is probably safest to do the chart creation and editing in Excel and then use Paste Special to paste a fixed image of the chart into the other file. This link discusses the guidelines for the various picture formats: <http://support.microsoft.com/kb/320314>. I usually use the Enhanced Metafile or .jpg option.

21. Does MegaStat use the Windows registry?

MegaStat does not directly use the Windows registry; however, Excel uses a couple entries related to add-ins. When an add-in is activated by being checked in the add-ins list, Excel creates a registry key like this: HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Office\14.0\Excel\Options. Note: the '14.0' in the registry key refers to Excel 2010. The value for Excel 2007 is 12.0 and Excel 2003 is 11.0.

There will be several values listed for this key, but the ones of interest for add-ins are OPEN, OPEN1, OPEN2... depending on how many previous add-ins have been activated. Each entry stores the name of an active add-in file (and its location if it is not in the add-ins folder). When the add-in is unchecked, the registry entry is removed the next time Excel is exited. Excel uses this key to know which add-ins to show as checked in the add-in list.

If you use Browse to find an add-in, Excel creates another registry key with the add-in name and location: HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Office\14.0\Excel\Add-in Manager. Excel does not automatically clear this entry if the add-in is removed.