

FIGURE 5. Range Names

CPI=OFFSET(reference cell, range begins rows away, range begins columns away, range is rows tall, range is columns wide)

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CPI=OFFSET('Alpha data'!$B$12,0,COUNTA('Alpha data'!$B$6:$AY$6)-1,1,'Alpha data'!$M$48)
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configure these files for uploading to the Internet or Intranet, I used Excel FILE, SAVE AS WEB PAGE to save it as a HTML files. The files names are Alpha Project.htm, Bravo Project.htm, and Charlie Project.htm. I used WS_FTP free-ware software to upload the HTML files onto my Web site at <http://amarkell.home.mindspring.com>.

One Contract in One Minute

A major goal of mine was to make this system extremely easy to use and update, and I believe I accomplished that goal. With my contract performance information system, a user could conceivably perform a monthly update of one con-

tract in one minute. Just about anyone can fit that into his or her schedule.

The input data fields are colored red. If you input data where the print is black, you made a mistake. I keep a set of charts updated for one contract at the second level Work Breakdown Schedule, and I find that it saves me time rather than costing me time. If called upon, I can produce a variance or index graph very rapidly.

Potential Improvements

A very obvious improvement would be to add a variance analysis and a corrective action plan. They are very impor-

tant, but they are usually influenced by management's tendency to present problems in the best light and long-time delays. Knowing about a problem sooner, however, is better than waiting for a variance analysis and corrective action plan.

How to Get a Copy of the Program

My program could easily be modified to adapt to your contract. Again, the Web site for my fictional Alpha, Beta, and Charlie contracts output is <http://amarkell.home.mindspring.com> and the file names are Alpha Project.htm, Bravo Project.htm, and Charlie Project.htm. I hope some readers of this article are motivated to use my program to show their contract performance information.

Anyone that would like a copy of my program can e-mail me a request at amarkell@mindspring.com.

USDA Graduate School Honors DAU as Runner-up for W. Edwards Deming Award

On Sept. 12, during a ceremony held at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Graduate School Annual Faculty Reception, the USDA Graduate School presented the W. Edwards Deming Outstanding Training Award to the Air Force Audit Agency. USDA also honored the Defense Acquisition University, Maintenance and Logistics Command Atlantic, and Department of Energy Idaho Operations Office with the Training Recognition Award as runners-up for the 2002 W. Edwards Deming Outstanding Award. Presented annually, the award honors a Federal Government civilian organization or branch of the military that has successfully completed an innovative employee development and training program.

The Deming Award honors Dr. W. Edwards Deming and recognizes his 22-year career with the Graduate School as a mathematics and statistics faculty member and curriculum chair. Deming, known as the father of the Japanese post-war industrial revival, was regarded by many as a cutting-edge quality guru. Before his death in 1993, he authored hundreds of papers and published *The New Economics*, a synthesis of his ideas on quality and leadership.



USDA Graduate School Training Recognition Award—presented to DAU during the USDA Graduate School Annual Faculty Reception, Sept. 12, 2002. Pictured from left: Christopher St. John, DAU Advanced Distributed Learning; Frank J. Anderson Jr., DAU President; and Dr. Jerry Ice, Executive Director, Graduate School, USDA.

Photo by Army Sgt. Kevin Moses