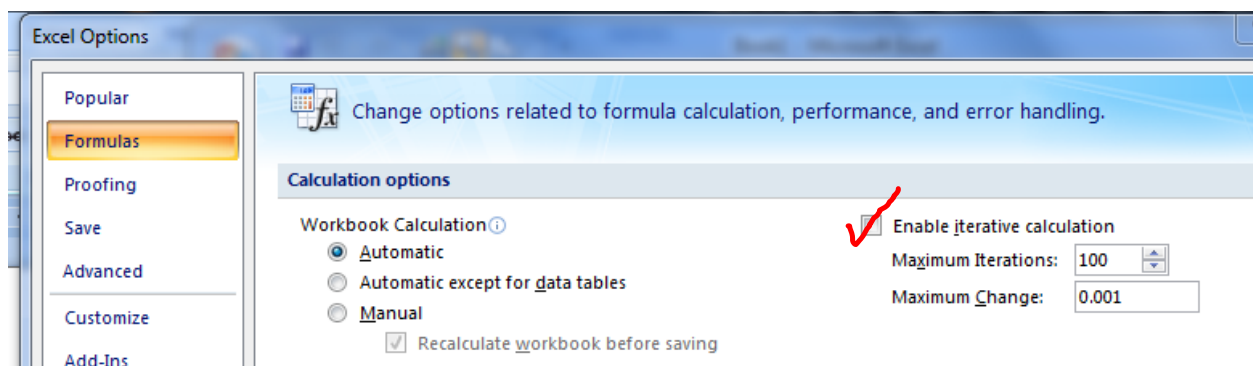


A problem that I struggled with for a long time was how to get Excel to record a timestamp for the data entry into a cell. It is easy to do with the “now” function except that “now” updates across the entire spreadsheet each time it is activated and that means all timestamp cells end up with the latest current time.

Like others, I wanted to have each cell targeted to hold the relevant timestamp and not update when a different cell was entered.

The solution involves setting a cell loop and specifying iteration.

The first thing we need to do is make sure iteration is enabled in excel. Excel Option: Formulas: Enable iterative calculation. Just tick that box and you are set.



Next you need to use a formula which updates when a cell has information entered into it.

=IF(A1<>"",IF(B1="",NOW(),B1),"")

If the target cell A1 is not empty then operation will perform, (you must enter data into A1 to activate)

Then If cell B1 is also empty then the date stamp will occur (using the NOW() function) placing the value into B1. A loop is then forced (a circular calculation) which the iterative calculation limits.

