

Flexfind Manual, version 5.3

1 History

Triggered by a question in The WUGNET Microsoft Office Forum I created FindItAll, (as first published in the excel experts e-letter somewhere around 1998) which searched through all worksheets in a workbook. From that version, I expanded its options to include:

- A dialog to list the found entries (and renamed to FlexFind)
- Replace options (version 4)
- S&R in Objects (version 5)
- S&R in PivotTable (external sourcedata) (version 5.1)
- Resizable userforms (version 5.2)
- Search all open workbooks (5.2)
- A better UI (5.3)
- Select multiple areas of cells when multiple found entries are selected (5.3)

2 Installing Flexfind

To ease the process of installation, a setup file is included, called "Setup Flexfind.xls". To use this, you need to do the following

- Open the Zip file
- Unpack **all** files from the Zip file into one directory.
- Close the Zip file
- Go to the directory to which you unzipped the files to
- Right-click each Excel file (in turn!), choose Properties and check the "Unblock" box
- Open the file called "Setup Flexfind.xls". Make sure you enable Macros.
- Click the setup Button.

You can also manually install Flexfind

- Extract the file called "Flexfind.xlam" from the Zip file to any convenient directory
- Right-click the extracted Excel file, choose Properties and check the "Unblock" box
- Open Excel, then click the File tab, click Options, and then click the Add-Ins category.
- In the Manage box, click Excel Add-ins, and then click Go. The Add-Ins dialog box appears
- In the Add-Ins dialog box click Browse and go to the location where you extracted the add-in, select the Add-in then click OK.
- The Add-Ins dialog box appears again with the Add-in "Flexible Find & Replace Utility" already checked (otherwise check that box yourself)
- Click OK

3 Removing Flexfind

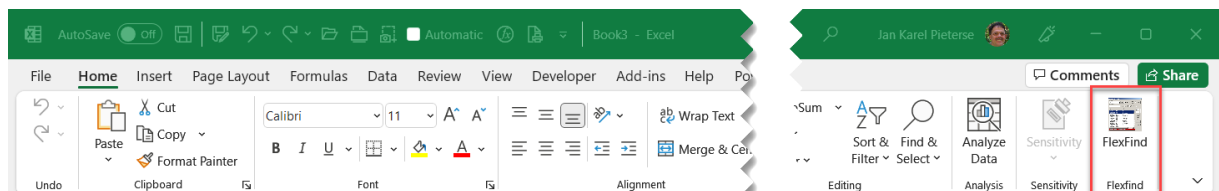
The Setup file also includes a removal option. Should this fail, follow these instructions.

- Start Excel
- Open Excel, then click the File tab, click Options, and then click the Add-Ins category.

- In the Manage box, click Excel Add-ins, and then click Go. The Add-Ins dialog box appears
- Uncheck “Flexible Find & Replace Utility”
- Close Excel
- Open the windows Find files or folders dialog (press the windows-key in combination with the letter f or click start, find, files or folders)
- Search for “flexfind.xlam”
- Delete all files with (exactly!) that name
- Start Excel again
- Open Excel, then click the File tab, click Options, and then click the Add-Ins category.
- In the Manage box, click Excel Add-ins, and then click Go. The Add-Ins dialog box appears
- Try to check “Flexible Find & Replace Utility”
- Have Excel remove it from the add-in list.

4 Working With Flexfind

Flexfind’s button is added to the Home tab, on the far right of the ribbon:



After using any of these, Flexfind’s dialog screen will open.

Note that a demo workbook is included with most of Excel’s controls. You can freely search and replace in this workbook to test flexfind and don’t loose any functionality in one of your own workbooks.

In the Demo book, typically you could search for an equal sign, a dollar sign or for the string “123”.

4.1 Description of the dialog screen’s elements.

Flexfind’s dialog screen is in Modeless state. This means you can have the dialog open and work in Excel at the same time.

Flexfind’s dialog can be resized to your needs.

Flexible find & replace utility

Text to Find

123

Find

<<

<

>

>>

Keep selection ☐

Close

Text to replace with

Replace

Select All

☒ Acknowledge

Book/sheet

Found in

Found in text

Sheet1	Note in \$A\$4	jankarelp:¶test12	5
Sheet1	Note in \$A\$1	jankarelp:¶test12	5
Sheet1	Formatcond1 form	=123	6
Sheet1	Formatcond1 form	=123	6
Sheet1	\$A\$4	123	1
Sheet1	\$B\$2	123	1
Sheet1	\$D\$3:\$D\$4	=IF(C3="a","123",'	1
Sheet1	\$D\$6	Text for datalabel	1
Sheet1	\$D\$7	Chart Title	123
Sheet1	\$D\$8	y-axis title	123
Sheet1	\$D\$9	x-axis title	123
Sheet1	\$A\$1	123123123123	1
Sheet2	Note in \$A\$9	jankarelo:¶test12	5

Look In:

Formulas

Book

☐ Whole cells

☐ Match Case

☒ Objects

☐ VBA

☐ Row

☒ Column

List

About

To Excel

Found in text (double click list above to update and highlight found items)

=IF(C3="a","123","123")

7 / 20

Changes made in excel will NOT be automatically reflected in flexfind. Edits done whilst Flexfind is showing will not be reflected in the dialog. Clicking the Find button will rebuild the list.

If you want to change things using Excel's normal methods or through VBA, please:

- Either close Flexfind before making the changes.
- Or click the Find button again after making the changes.

4.1.1 Text To Find Editbox

Use this box to enter the string to search for. Wild card characters are allowed. Use the dropdown to choose from previous search strings.

If you want to look for special characters, type their ascii code like this:

Chr(10)

This will ensure Flexfind looks for the alt-010 character. Note the underscore characters!

4.1.2 Find button

Press to start the search.

4.1.3 < button

Click to go to the last found item on the previous sheet. When the first sheet is already selected, goes to the first item.

4.1.4 << button

Click to go to the previous item. When the first item is selected, goes to the last item.

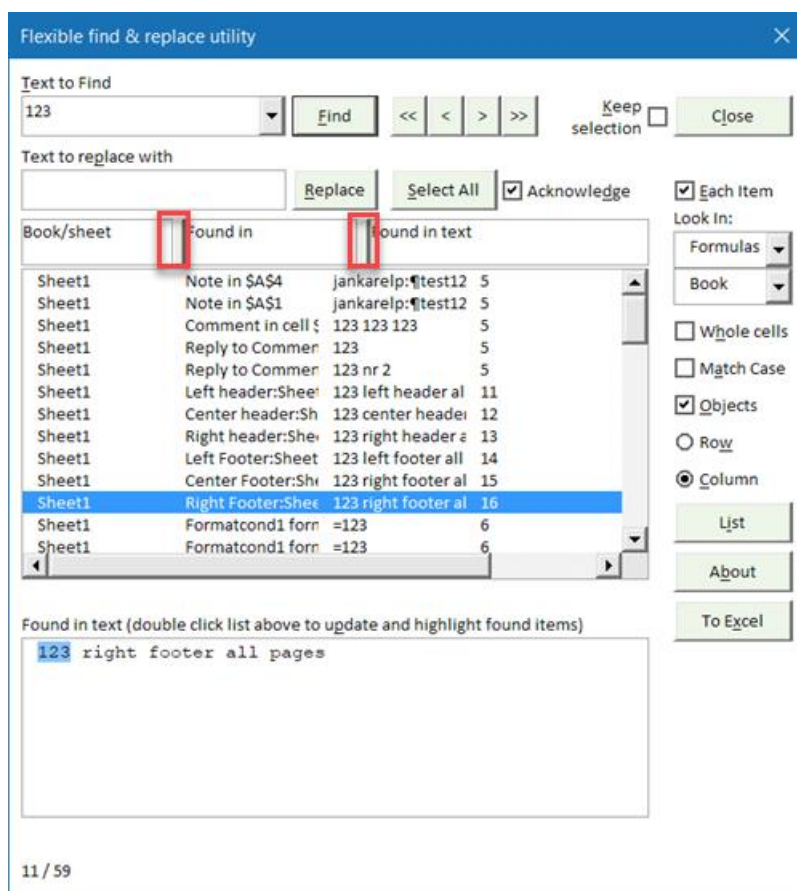
4.1.5 >> button

Click to go to the next item. When the last item is selected, goes to the first item.

4.1.6 > button

Click to go to the first found item on the next sheet. When the last sheet is already selected, goes to the last item.

4.1.7 Split buttons



Drag these buttons to move the split between the columns of the two listboxes. Double click these buttons to set the columnwidths to automatic size.

4.1.8 Close Button

Closes Flexfind.

4.1.9 Found entries listbox

Lists all found items of the active workbook. Click an entry to go there, double click an entry to have the found string shown in the “Found in text” box at the bottom. If multiple occurrences are there, another double-click will select the next found occurrence.

4.1.10 Lookin dropdowns

The first dropdown has two choices: Formulas or Values. What will be searched is listed in the chapter “List of searched items”.

The second dropdown enables limiting the search to all workbooks, the active workbook, the active sheet or the current selected range. The range selection does not apply to object search, all objects on the current sheet will be searched when object search is enabled.

4.1.11 Whole Cells checkbox

Check this to only list items that contain just the entire search string. Otherwise also items that contain the search string as a part of their content are shown.

4.1.12 Match Case checkbox

Check to match case.

4.1.13 Objects check box

Check to also search in objects as listed in “List of searched items”.

4.1.14 VBA checkbox

Check to search (and replace) in the VBA code of the workbook(s).
When you click on a found VBA entry, the Flexfind window may be hidden behind the VBA editor. Best to move the flexfind window next to the VBA Editor window for best experience.

4.1.15 Row or Column option buttons

Select to search either by rows or by columns.

4.1.16 List Button

Press this button to get a list in a worksheet showing all found items and (if a replace string is entered) the possible result after a full replacement.

4.1.17 Replace edit box

The text to replace the found text with.

If you want to replace with special characters, type their ascii code like this:

`_Chr(10)_`

This will ensure Flexfind inserts the alt-010 character. Note the underscore characters!

4.1.18 Replace button

Starts the replacement procedure.

4.1.19 Select All Button

Selects all entries in the Replace listbox for replacement.

4.1.20 Acknowledge checkbox

Check to acknowledge each replacement.

4.1.21 Each Item checkbox

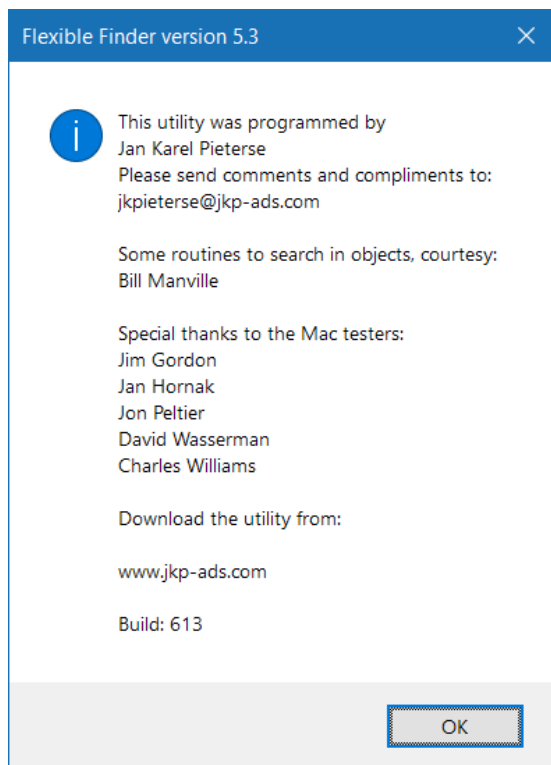
Check to confirm replacement of each occurrence of the found string in each item individually.

4.1.22 Keep orig. selection checkbox

Check to go back to your original selection after closing Flexfind. This checkbox is cleared automatically when you click any entry on the found listbox.

4.1.23 About Button

Shows this message:



4.2 Flexfind's Replace Options

There are three modes using flexfind's replace options:

- No Acknowledgement
- Acknowledge once for each found item
- Acknowledge each occurrence in each item

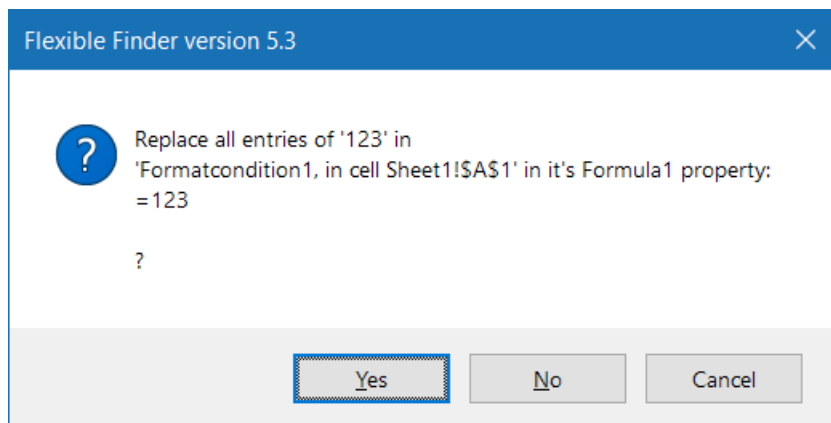
After all replacing, the search is executed again to ensure Flexfind's dialog reflects the changes.

4.2.1 No Acknowledgement

All items selected in the replace listbox are replaced automatically without prompting. Note that cells with more than 1024 characters in will not be processed in this mode!

4.2.2 Acknowledge Once For Each Found Item

A messagebox similar to this one appears for each item selected in the replace listbox:



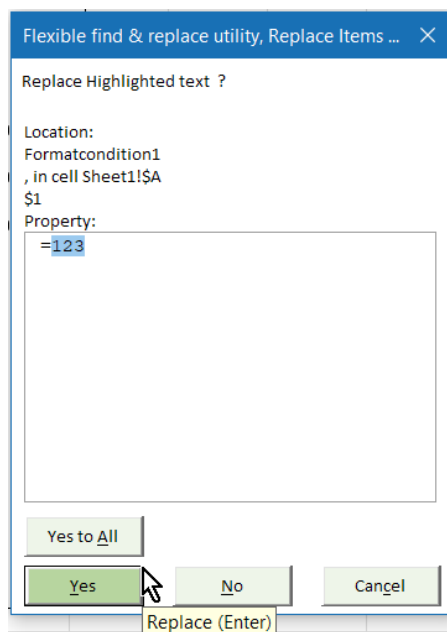
Click Yes to replace all occurrences of the searched text with the replace text.

Click No to skip this item

Click Cancel to stop the replacement routine. Note that cells with more than 1024 characters in will not be processed in this mode!

4.2.3 Acknowledge Each Occurrence In Each Item

This dialog appears:



The top of the form includes a description of the object (and its location) that contains the found text and what property of the object the text is found in.

The entry to be replaced is highlighted in the white textbox.

Click Yes to replace the highlighted entry.

Click No to skip the highlighted entry.

Click Cancel to stop the entire replacement procedure.

Click Yes to All to replace all found entries in this item **AND IN ALL SUBSEQUENT ITEMS!**

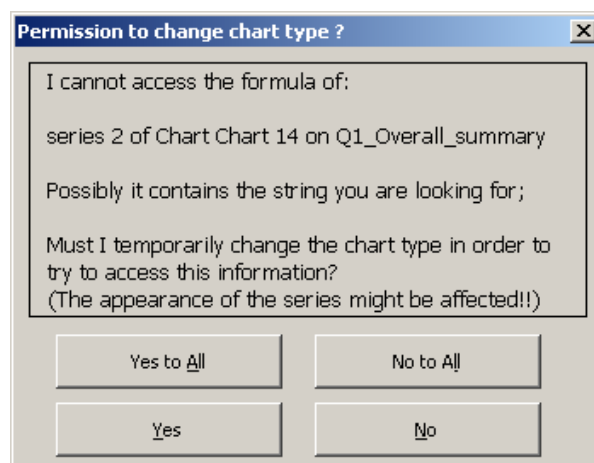
Note that this form can be resized too.

5 Accessing Chart objects

In some cases Flexfind will need to change the chart type of a chart in order to be able to access some of its elements. **Unfortunately, sometimes the formatting of the chart (or the individual series) may be affected.** When Flexfind encounters such a situation, the following dialog is shown:

Click **Yes** to have Flexfind (temporarily) do the change for this series only.

Click **Yes to All** to have Flexfind (temporarily) do the change for all subsequent series only (where needed).



Click **No** to avoid the change of chart type (Flexfind will not be able to access the specific object mentioned in the dialog, the objects not searched will be listed in the error list).

Click **No to All** to avoid any change of chart type (Flexfind will not be able to access some objects on charts, the objects not searched will be listed in the error list).

The **Yes To All** and **No to All** decisions will be reset when you close the Flexfind dialog.

6 List of searched items

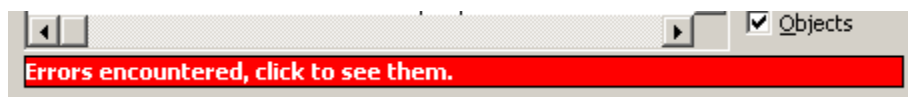
Object / Search type	Formulas option shows:	Values option shows:
Cells	Formula	Value
Names	Formula	Formula
DrawingObjects	OnAction (attached macro)	Caption
Form or Toolbox Controls	ListFillRange and LinkedCell	
ChartObjects	Formula	Caption
Notes (formerly known as comments)	Text	Text
Comments	Text	Text
Comments	Author	Author
FormatConditions	Formula1 and Formula2	Formula1 and Formula2
Validations	Formula1 and Formula2 ErrorTitle ErrorMessage InputTitle InputMessage	Formula1 and Formula2 ErrorTitle ErrorMessage InputTitle InputMessage
Hyperlinks	Address	TextToDisplay
PivotTables	SourceData	SourceData
Querytables	CommandText and Connection	CommandText and Connection
Headers and footers (including first page and even page headers and footers)	Their text	Their text
ChartObjects are scanned for titles, axis titles, series formulas, embedded objects, etcetera.		

7 Replacing when a cell has more than 1024 characters

Currently, in Excel it is impossible to replace text in a cell that has more than 1024 characters. With Flexfind you can. Make sure you use the option to acknowledge each change however, in "Replace All" mode this will not work (yet).

8 Errors

When errors are encountered during the search, Flexfind will try to collect them and will show a warning message in red on the main screen:



Click on the red box to see the error messages.

9 Credits

Thanks to:

Bill Manville	(for helping me to enable searching objects by permitting me to use parts of his FINDLINK code.)
Jim Gordon	for helping with debugging on Max
Jan Hornak	
Jon Peltier	
David Wasserman	
Charles Williams	

10 Version history

Version	Build	Date released	Remarks
5.0	522	July 2003	First release that includes search and replace in Objects. Also first release that includes this manual and an install utility.
5.0	523	July 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Added S&R in hyperlink SubAddress property.- Improved error handler- Ensures find box gets focus on reload.- Fixed problem with conditional formats when no formula is set.
5.0	524	November 2003	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fixed bug regarding decimal separator.
5.0	526	January 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fixed bug searching in web query.
5.1	527	May 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Enabled S&R in Pivottable sourcedata when the sourcedata is a database query
5.1	528	November 2004	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Prevented the hidden cells warning from showing multiple times.
5.1	531	January 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Changed error handling

Version	Build	Date released	Remarks
5.2	534	February 2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Added resizing to the userforms (Does not work with XL97) - Added movable split - Added "List" button - Alas, this version will not work on a mac.
5.2	538		- Fixed a couple of small bugs.
5.2	539	May 2005	- Enabled S&R in cells with more than 1024 characters
5.2	540	June 2005	- Added the "Allow Change Chart type" dialog screen to cater for possible changes in a chart's appearance.
5.3	558	March 2008	- Improved the dialog screen (removed the replace listbox) and included multiple selection of found cell areas.
5.3	562	Jan 2009	- Fixed some bugs and added a shortcut key to the menu
5.3	570	March 2011	- Enabled for 64 bit Office
5.3	571	Jan 2012	- Small bugfix reg. form resize
5.3	575	Nov 2012	- Fixed finding in formulas for international users
5.3	579	Aug 2013	- Fixed bug regarding replacing OnAction
5.3	581	Oct 2013	- Fixed replacing dates bug
5.3	584	May 2014	- Fixed replacing values bug
5.3	585	Sep 2014	- Improved List report
5.3	586	Dec 2014	- Fixed bug in List function
5.3	587	Sep 2015	- Fixed bug with regards to how Excel 2013 handles windows.
5.3	588	Oct 2015	- Fixed compile error in 64 bit Excel
5.3	600	Dec 2021	- Enabled search and replace in threaded comments
5.3	613	June 2022	- Works on Mac Excel

11 About the Authors.

Jan Karel Pieterse

Bio:

Jan Karel Pieterse, born 1961. Studied Chemical Engineering and did a post graduate on polymer technology. He has experience regarding "Experimental design", or DOE (Design Of Experiments) and therefore has some feeling for statistics. Jan Karel is the owner of JKP Application Development Services (www.jkp-ads.com). He has been a CompuServe TA for a number of years and has been granted the MVP status in 2002.

Contact Jan Karel at jkpieterse@jkp-ads.com.

Matthew Henson

Did all changes, additions and testing needed to get the utility to work on the Mac version of Excel.

Bio:

Bought his first copy of Excel for Mac in 1991 and began programming VBA in 2001

Contact Matthew at: mhenson@Mac.com

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