Claritix

Excel Modeller Course Overview

Modules: Design & Development

Modelling basics

- What is a model and why do we model?
- Examples of financial, operational and strategic models, and their use.
- Why best practice techniques are needed in modelling.

Development

- The Model Development Framework.
- Why a framework is needed.

Design

- Top 10 fundamental principles of best practice modelling.
- Techniques to design a model before build.
- Scope and/or Specification of the model.
- Excel Dependency Trees and Calculation Chains.
- Comparison of approaches to model design.
- Overview of most useful functions in modelling.

Must knows

- Recap of essential functions - INDEX, MATCH, TRUE, FALSE, IF, AND, OR.
- Navigation using keyboard shortcuts.
- Other keyboard shortcuts useful for rapid modelling.
- Useful tools to aid modelling.

Modules: Building the Model

Timeline & Flags

- Why the Timeline is fundamental to the model and design.
- How to create and use the Timeline.
- What are flags and how do they help?

Outputs

- Designing outputs first.
- Time period summaries and flow of data.
- Using dummy figures in output construction.

Calculations

- Calculation blocks.
- Formula construction and dos & don'ts.
- Corkscrew calculations.
- Helper Cells – their benefits and when to use them.

Inputs

- How and where to structure your inputs.
- Using dummy inputs in model development.

Checks

- Why checks are needed.
- Incorporating checks into a worksheet.
- Creating a Check Sheet and linking checks throughout the model.

Modules: Review & Use

Review & Testing

- Tools to help test your model.
- Overview of techniques to test or review your model.
- Common modelling errors and how to identify them.

Using the Model

- Documenting a model.
- Version Control in modelling.
- Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) Analysis and Investment Appraisal – NPV, IRR, Payback.
- Goal Seeking an input.
- Data tables – how and when to use, and when to avoid.
- Building scenarios into a model.

What isn't covered

- VBA and Macros.
- Pivot tables.
- Graphs and graphical representations.
- Creation of specific types of models i.e. Project Finance models, M&A models, 3-way integrated models (i.e. Balance Sheet and Cash Flow inegrated) etc. This course is general modelling theory that can be applied to all models, as opposed to a detailed guide of how to build one specific type of model.

Course objectives & format

Course objectives

- Understand what a model is.
- Understand the key best practice modelling rules and principles.
- Follow a structured approach to model specification, design and build.
- Build and then link up components of a long range planning model from start to finish.
- Extend knowledge of Excel functionality relevant to modelling.
- Learn ways to increase the efficiency of your modelling.
- Increase speed with which you work in Excel and with models.
- Adopt techniques to identify, and avoid, errors in your models.

Format

- Theory is taught through a very comprehensive series of short video lectures, followed by video demos of the theory applied or explained within Excel.
- Whilst the Design & Development modules are predominantly theory-based, the Building the Model and Review & Use modules are a mix of theory and a large practical element.
- All model build and any standalone exercises are accompanied by a downloadable solution file.
- Regular quizzes are provided throughout the course to help test your knowledge.

This is for...

- Intermediate and advanced users of Excel with some experience of building formulae and creating sets of calculations.
- Modellers, Analysts, Accounting & Finance professionals, Consultants, Strategists and Others with a modelling requirement, aiming to learn or improve their knowledge of best practice techniques.
- Those looking to produce spreadsheets that span multiple worksheets.
- Those with a very basic appreciation of a P&L structure i.e. revenue, costs, profit etc. Participants do not need to be accountants or have had any accounting training.

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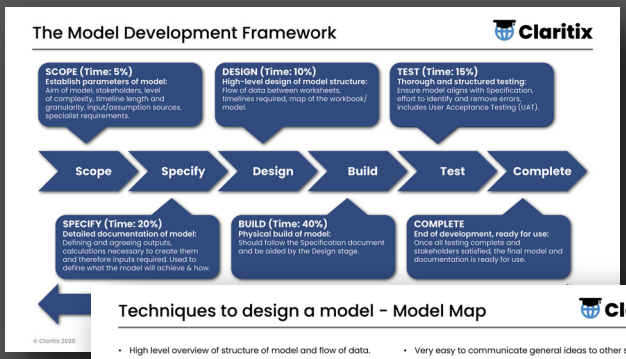
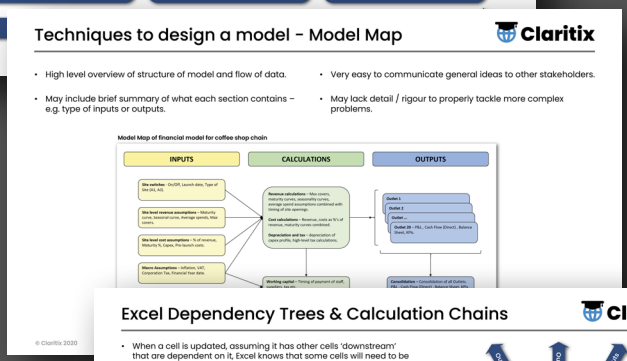
Content Examples

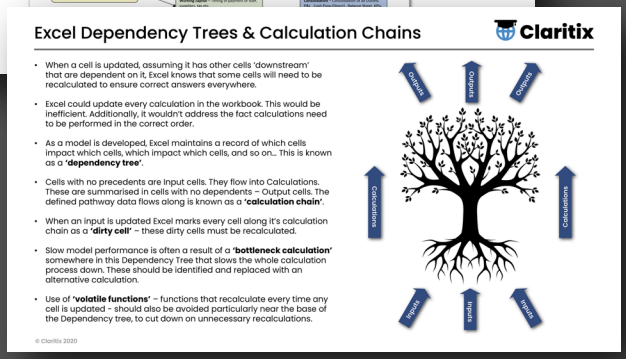
Theory Based

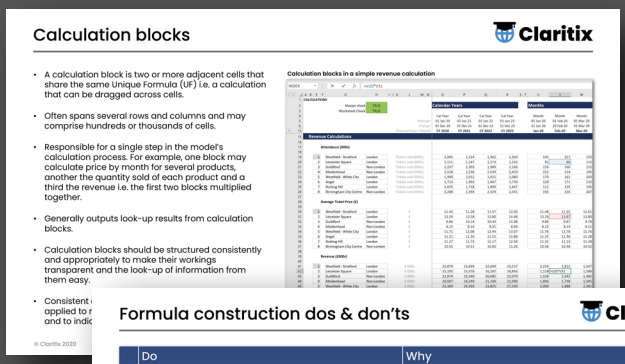
Theory is explained by way of video slides. These include thorough, descriptive explanation, and graphical examples.

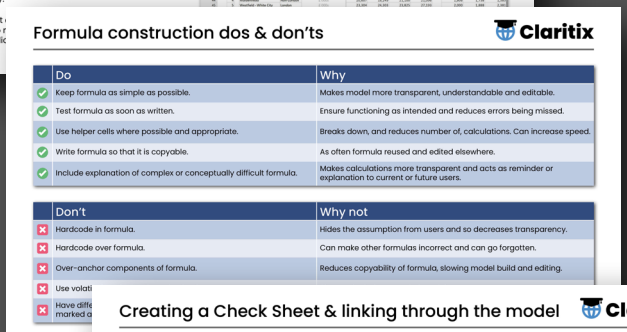
Videos slides are accompaned by further explanation or demonstration in Excel of how the theory is applied in modelling.

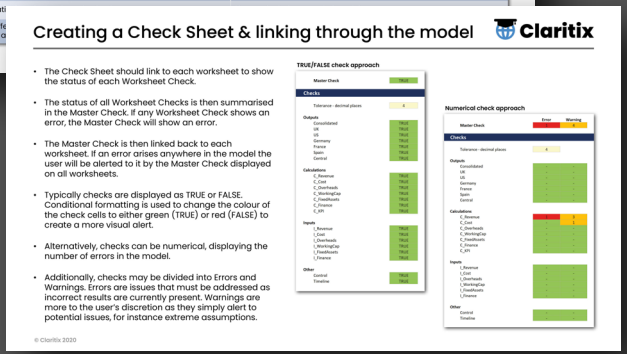












Practical Based

Participants will put the theory into practice by constructing a long range planning model, with the various stages of development following the relevant modules. This is supported by solution files.

Quizzes throughout the course further test your knowledge and ensure you are following the learning.

FINANCIAL MODELLING *EXPERTS*

All Claritix courses are created by Dan Stockdale, a former PwC modeller and trainer who taught best practice modelling and Excel courses within the Firm. Dan also has a background in Finance teams across several industries, having worked in Commercial Analysis and Management Accounting. He qualified with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) in 2010 and holds the ACMA and CGMA designations.

Our training courses are transformative. They have not been diluted down to go only halfway. They are broad and intensive, and expose participants to a wide range of Excel skills, as well as commercial knowledge, thinking and approach.

Practical experience in Finance, Analyst, Consulting and Strategy roles has been drawn upon to tailor content to include the most useful, powerful and relevant best practice modelling advice, to empower the widest range of modellers in any task they undertake.

Participants can expect to leave the course with a step-change in their Excel modelling knowledge and ability. This aims to improve technique, boost productivity, reduce risk in deliverables, and empower staff using the World's most prevalent and powerful business tool to add value in their work.