

Using Excel as a Music Player

Executive Summary

For my project I used Excel to find .mp3 files within a directory the user specifies, then list them in a spreadsheet with each path listed as a link. The application recursively searches the directory supplied, then stores the path of each file in a collection which is later used in a loop to print out the results. When clicked, the files will open and play in the default media player.

Implementation

It is pretty simple, really; there is a button on Sheet 1 of the workbook entitled "List .mp3 files" (figure 1).

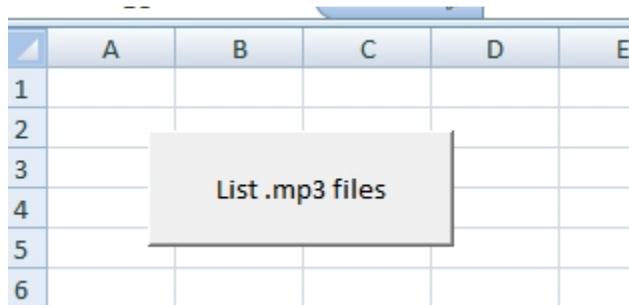


Figure 1

After clicking the button, the Windows Explorer opens and the user then must select the directory to be searched (figure 2).

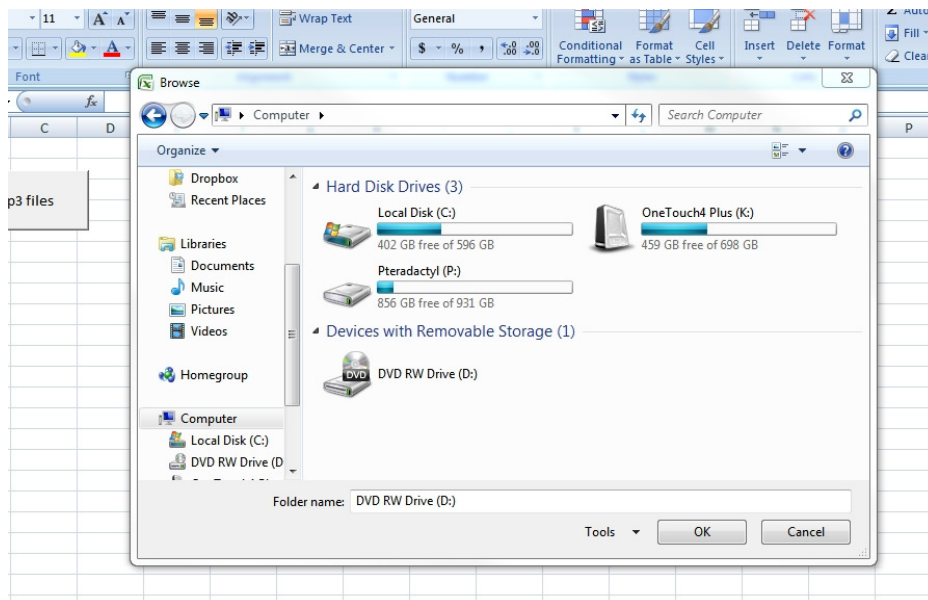


Figure 2

After selecting the desired folder, then clicking "ok" the application will list all the .mp3 files inside that folder on Sheet2 of the workbook (figure 3).

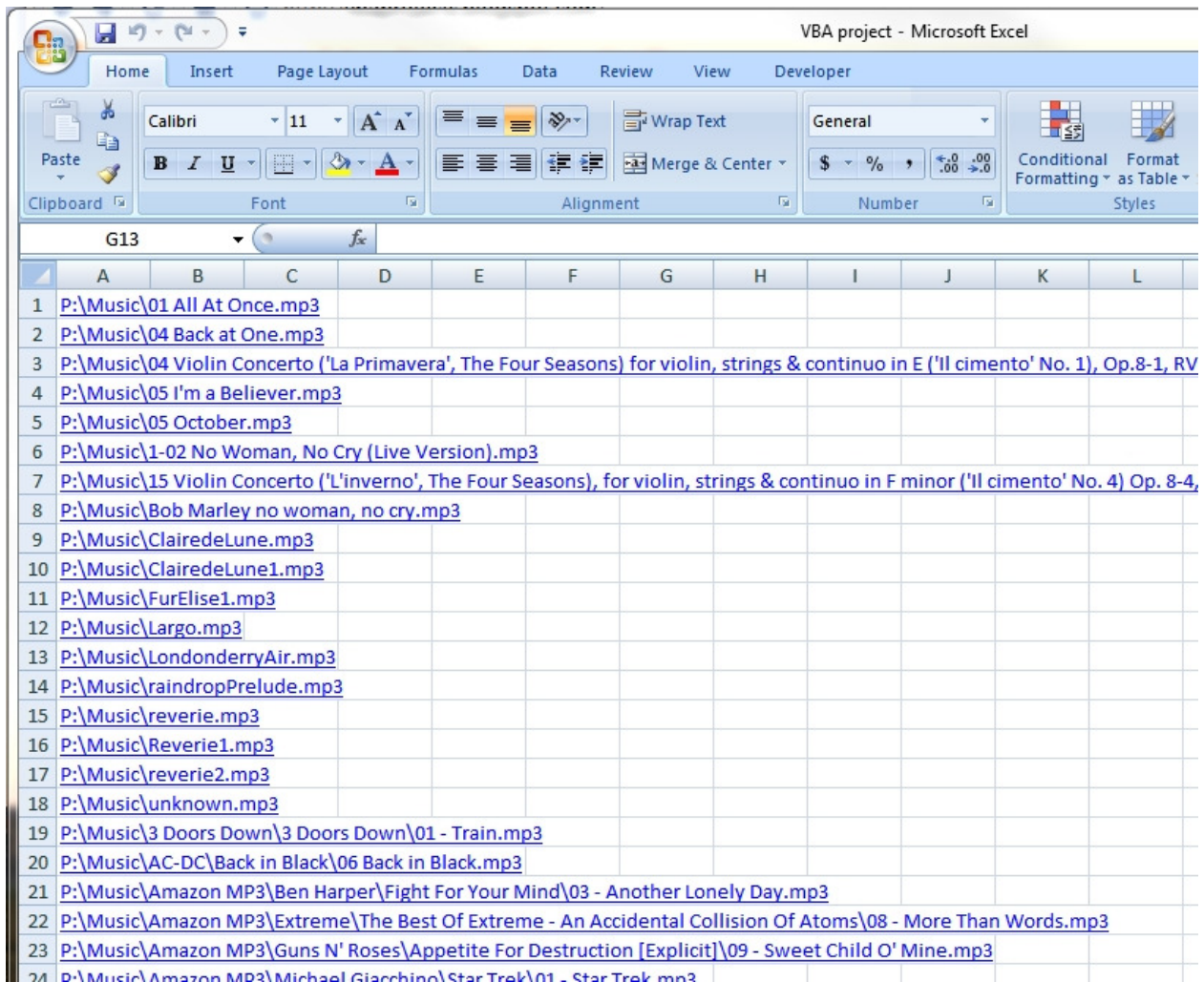


Figure 3

That's all there really is, no frills, just good clean fun.

Learning and difficulties

This project was scaled down significantly in its scope, partly due to time constraints and the difficulty of the original proposed project. I found some helpful tutorials online on recursion through the directory structure, and several different methods of doing it, but none of them were exactly what I wanted. I ended up modifying an approach using the FileSystemObject, but even then the results were a bit messy to work with and it took some fiddling with to get it to store the results in a collection correctly.

In the future I plan to expand the functionality of this project to include the ability to compare the list of files to online wish lists, such as amazon.com mp3 downloads and Pandora radio bookmarked songs.