

# ExcelGeneration

## How to generate XLS from Cocoon

XLS is the binary format used by Microsoft Excel spreadsheets. XLS can be produced by Cocoon, using a component called [POI](#), itself an Apache project. For an example on how integrate this with Cocoon, see [XLSSerializer](#).

A very good outline on why and how to use POI is available at [xml.com](#), under [Excel Reports with Apache Cocoon and POI](#), showing how to use XSL to generate the Gnumeric file. Note it does not use the [XLSSerializer](#).

Bear in mind that the Cocoon will not "automagically" generate XLS - you still need to write an intermediate stylesheet to convert XML to the Gnumeric File Format used by POI.

## Reader comments

- Note that if you are planning to color your cells, you should be aware of the color limits in Excel - see <http://www.mvps.org/dmccritchie/excel/colors.htm>
- It is also possible to call the POI/Hssf classes from flowscript. This can be used for limited processing/small spreadsheets (Complicated logic is better done in your own Java classes).
- The JXTemplate generator is a powerfull tool for generation of excel spreadsheets. You have a rudimentary Gnumeric XML file as a template with JX directives. You can then use JX to fill your rows (using varStatus in jx:forEach). This is extremely handy in flowscript generated excel sheets.