What is Excel Pivot Tables

Excel pivot tables are very useful and powerful feature of MS Excel. They can be used to summarize, analyze, explore and present your data. In plain English, it means, you can take the sales data with columns like salesman, region and product-wise revenues and use pivot tables to quickly find out how products are performing in each region.

Here are some example uses of pivot tables:

- Summarizing data like finding the average sales for each region for each product from a product sales data table.
- Listing unique values in any column of a table
- Creating a pivot report with sub-totals and custom formats
- Making a dynamic pivot chart
- Filtering, sorting, drilling-down data in the reports without writing one formula or macro.
- Transposing data – moving rows to columns or columns to rows.
- Linking data sources outside excel and be able to make pivot reports out of such data.

Once you have finished looking at the summarized data, you can quickly re-sort your data and look at it from a totally different perspective, and all of this can be done without using functions or formulas. Despite being so useful, many people shy away from using them, on the belief that they are hard to use. They aren’t really, and once you get the hang of them, you’ll use them at every opportunity.

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