



## Demon strate

- **The Devil's DP Dictionary**
- **Computer Science:**
  - a study akin to numerology and astrology, but lacking the precision of the former and the success of the latter
- **Currently appearing in:**



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## The Devil's guide to spreadsheet creation

- **Just do it. Jump in and do it. The users will have to accept whatever you produce anyway.**
- **Fire, then aim. You know what is really needed without having to ask.**

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## The Devil's guide to spreadsheet creation

- **Never simplify (that just makes it easier for other people to get your job); just keep adding bits without removing old stuff.**
- **Deadlines live on.**
- **Documentation is for wimps; specifications are for the timid.**

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## The Devil's guide to spreadsheet creation

- **Don't obtain test data; whatever the spreadsheet result is, is right.**
- **Don't protect the sheet; that restricts the users' right to improve your formulas by typing in what they want.**



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## The Devil's guide to spreadsheet creation

- **Don't fill in the properties sheet, they'll find out you were the author.**

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## The Devil's guide to spreadsheet creation

- **VBA (Very Buggy Application) debugging is easy; just keep making changes until something appears to work, then your responsibility is finished.**
- **Never use in-cell comments or help text on the page; users should just know what to do.**



## The Devil's guide to spreadsheet creation

- **If you know what units of measure are used, you can safely assume everybody else does too.**
- **Mix input data with calculation cells to keep the users on their toes.**



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## The Devil's guide to spreadsheet creation

- **Never mix absolute and relative references, it can shorten billable time.**
- **Hide some data in cells so that when users trip over it, their respect for your cleverness increases.**
- **If asked to do a test run, ask "Don't you trust me?"**

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## The Devil's guide to spreadsheet creation

- **Format with as many decorative colours and styles as possible, to relieve boredom.**
- **Don't keep backup copies of different versions of a spreadsheet; the latest is always the best.**

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## The Devil's guide to spreadsheet creation

- **Hardcode constants in formulas; after all, they don't change.**
- **Cross-tot checking is merely redundant calculation.**
- **To test a spreadsheet, you only need to check whether the answers look reasonable.**

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## If you don't believe it...

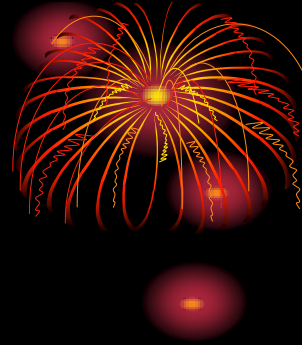
- **You could end up like the Excel 95 development team:**



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**The End is nigh**



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