

“Does VBA have a function to check if a string contains another string?”

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VBA (Visual Basic for Applications) is a programming language commonly used for automating tasks in Microsoft Office applications. It offers a wide range of functions and capabilities to make programming more efficient and effective. One of the frequently asked questions by VBA developers is whether there is a function available to check if a string contains another string. The answer is yes, VBA does have a built-in function called "Instr" which allows the user to check if a string contains a specific substring or character. This function returns the position of the substring within the string, if it exists, and returns zero if the substring is not found. This feature can be very useful in various applications where the manipulation of strings is required, such as data processing and text parsing.

VBA: Check if String Contains Another String

You can use the Instr() function in VBA to check if a string contains another string.

This function uses the following basic syntax:

Instr(start, string1, string2, ...)

where:

start: The starting position for the search
string1: The string to search
string2: The string you're attempting to find

The following example shows how to use this function in practice.

Example: Use VBA to Check if String Contains Another String

Suppose we have the following dataset in Excel that contains information about various basketball teams:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Team	Points				
2	Mavs	100				
3	Lakers	114				
4	Cavs	94				
5	Spurs	99				
6	Rockets	104				
7	Hornets	115				
8	Warriors	100				
9	Magic	103				
10						
11						
12						
13						
14						
15						
16						
17						
18						
19						

Now suppose that we would like to check if each string in the Team column contains "avs" somewhere in the string.

We can use the following syntax in VBA to check if each string in the Team column contains "avs" and, if so, return the entire row in the columns D and E:

Sub StringContains()Dim i AsInteger, i_num

AsIntegerFor i = 2 To 9

If InStr(1, LCase(Range("A" & i)), "avs") <> 0 Then

i_num = i_num + 1

Range("D" & i_num & ":E" & i_num) = Range("A" & i & ":B" & i).Value

End IfNext i

End Sub

When we run this macro, we receive the following output:

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Team	Points		Mavs	100	
2	Mavs	100		Cavs	94	
3	Lakers	114				
4	Cavs	94				
5	Spurs	99				
6	Rockets	104				
7	Hornets	115				
8	Warriors	100				
9	Magic	103				
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Notice that each of the rows that contained the string "avs" somewhere in the Team column are returned in columns D and E.

In this example, only two teams (Mavs and Cavs) contained "avs" in the Team column.

To search for a different string, simply replace "avs" in the code above with the string of your choice.

Note #2: You can find the complete documentation for the Instr() function in VBA .

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks using VBA: