How can I use the ERROR.TYPE function in Excel?

Authored by

stats writer

June 29, 2024

The ERROR.TYPE function is a built-in feature in Microsoft Excel that allows users to identify the type of error in a specific cell. This function can be used to troubleshoot and fix errors in formulas, as well as provide a more detailed understanding of the type of error that has occurred. By simply inputting the cell reference, the function will return a number code corresponding to the type of error, such as #N/A, #DIV/0!, or #VALUE!. This can help users efficiently identify and correct errors in their spreadsheets, leading to more accurate and reliable data analysis.

This article describes the formula syntax and usage of the **ERROR.TYPE** function in Microsoft Excel.

Description

Returns a number corresponding to one of the error values in Microsoft Excel or returns the #N/A error if no error exists. You can use ERROR.TYPE in an IF function to test for an error value and return a text string, such as a message, instead of the error value.

Syntax

ERROR.TYPE(error_val)

The ERROR.TYPE function syntax has the following arguments:

Error_val Required. The error value whose identifying number you want to find. Although error_val can be the actual error value, it will usually be a reference to a cell containing a formula that you want to test.

If error_val is	ERROR.TYPE returns
#NULL!	1
#DIV/0!	2
#VALUE!	3
#REF!	4
#NAME?	5
#NUM!	6
#N/A	7
#GETTING_DATA	8
Anything else	#N/A

Example

Copy the example data in the following table, and paste it in cell A1 of a new Excel worksheet. For formulas to show results, select them, press F2, and then press Enter. If you need to, you can adjust the column widths to see all the data.

Data		
#NULL!		
#DIV/0!		
Formula	**Description**	**Result**
=ERROR.TYPE(A2)	Number of the #NULL! Error(1).	1
=IF(ERROR.TYPE(A3)<3,CHOOSE(ERROR.TYPE(A3),"Ranges do not intersect","The divisor is zero"))	Checks cell A3 to see whether the cell contains either the #NULL! error value or the #DIV/0! error value. If it does, then the number for the error value is used in the CHOOSE worksheet function to display one of two messages; otherwise, the #N/A error value is returned.	The divisor is zero