

# “How can I use the RTD function in Excel?”

Authored by  
**stats writer**

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The RTD function in Excel is a powerful tool that allows users to retrieve real-time data from a variety of sources, such as stock market feeds, weather updates, and currency exchange rates. It works by establishing a connection to a data source and continuously updating the data in the designated cell. This function can be used to create dynamic and up-to-date spreadsheets, making it a valuable tool for data analysis and decision-making. To use the RTD function, users must first set up the connection to the desired data source and then specify the data to be retrieved. With its versatility and convenience, the RTD function is a valuable addition to any Excel user's toolkit.

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

## Description

Retrieves real-time data from a program that supports COM automation.

## Syntax

RTD(ProgID, server, topic1, , ...)

The RTD function syntax has the following arguments:

**ProgID** Required. The name of the ProgID of a registered COM automation add-in that has been installed on the local computer. Enclose the name in quotation marks.

**server** Required. Name of the server where the add-in should be run. If there is no server, and the program is run locally, leave the argument blank. Otherwise, enter quotation marks ("" ) around the server name. When using RTD within Visual Basic for Applications (VBA), double quotation marks or the VBA **NullString** property are required for the server, even if the server is running locally.

**Topic1, topic2, ...** Topic1 is required, subsequent topics are optional. 1 to 253 parameters that together represent a unique piece of real-time data.

## Remarks

The RTD COM automation add-in must be created and registered on a local computer. If you haven't installed a real-time data server, you will get an error message in a cell when you try to use the RTD function.

When the server has been programmed to continually update results, unlike other functions, RTD formulas will change when Microsoft Excel is in automatic calculation mode.