

How can I use the WEBSERVICE function in Excel to retrieve data from a web service?

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The WEBSERVICE function in Excel allows users to retrieve data from a web service directly into an Excel worksheet. This function can be used by entering the URL of the web service into the formula and specifying the desired data to be retrieved. This enables users to easily access and integrate live data from web sources into their Excel spreadsheets, eliminating the need for manual data entry or updating. The WEBSERVICE function is a powerful tool for efficient data analysis and reporting, providing users with real-time and accurate information from various web services.

The **WEBSERVICE** function returns data from a web service on the Internet or Intranet.

Notes:

The WEBSERVICE function is only available in Excel 2013 and later for Windows.

The WEBSERVICE function may appear in the Excel for Mac function gallery, but it relies on Windows operating system features, so it will not return results on Mac.

Syntax

WEBSERVICE(url)

The WEBSERVICE function syntax has the following argument.

Argument	Description
url Required	The URL of the web service to be called

Notes:

If arguments are unable to return the data, WEBSERVICE returns a #VALUE! error.

If arguments result in a string that is not valid or that contains more than the allowable cell limit of 32767 characters, WEBSERVICE returns a #VALUE! error.

If url is a string that contains more than the 2048 characters that are allowed for a GET request, WEBSERVICE returns a #VALUE! error.

For protocols that aren't supported, such as **ftp://** or **file://**, WEBSERVICE returns a #VALUE! error.

Example

Here's an example using a fictitious webservice:

=WEBSERVICE("http://mywebservice.com/serviceEndpoint?searchString=Excel")

Tips:

For the best results, the URL for **WEBSERVICE** should be encoded before prior to inclusion in the formula.

To encode a URL, use the **ENCODEURL** function. Then reference the cell with the encoded URL in the **WEBSERVICE** formula.

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