

PART II



A Real World Example

In this part, you examine and investigate a real world example based on many of the core concepts introduced in the first part. This real-world example is inspired by a real spreadsheet I developed for a client.

Chapter 6 proposes a new method of taking in user input by using the spreadsheet rather than ActiveX controls and UserForms. You begin by investigating a very simple Excel-based input form and learn how custom formats can aid in form validation. You then move onto a more complicated example of user input—a spreadsheet-based wizard. You spend the rest of the chapter reverse engineering the components of the wizard and learning the mechanics.

Chapter 7 takes you through a type of storage pattern using the spreadsheet as the database while also extending the wizard built in the previous chapter. You'll reverse engineer several of the spreadsheet components. Throughout the chapter, I'll show you how to add, delete, and edit records with methods that are based on both formulas and code.

Chapter 8 will implement a real world model built on top of the wizard from the previous chapters. You begin by reviewing metrics from a real study by the World Health Organization and implement a weighted average model based on the study. You then develop features of the analysis portion of your model to allow for sorting and scrolling using form controls.

Chapter 9 focuses on perfecting the presentation of the spreadsheet application you've built over the previous three chapters. You work on implementing a one-way sensitivity analysis system for the metric weights. You also incorporate a formula-based sorting method. Finally, you review design aesthetics and decide upon the best colors and layout to use so as not to overwhelm the visual field.