MegaStat Frequently Asked Questions (Windows version)

This FAQ document will focus on questions related to installation, requirements, and current issues related to the most recent Windows version of MegaStat (10.4). Questions related to using MegaStat are found in Appendix B of the MegaStat User's Guide.

1. **MegaStat is an add-in program. What is an add-in?**

   An Excel Add-in such as MegaStat is a program that provides extended functionality to Excel. Once MegaStat is installed it will be available on the Excel Data ribbon although it can be copied to other ribbons.

   The advantage of having MegaStat as an add-in is that Excel is used for data entry, data manipulation, and printing. That allows MegaStat to be a relatively compact program that focuses on statistics and without having to deal with data management. Also, Excel is a very common data file format and many other file types can be converted to Excel files.

2. **Will MegaStat run on all versions of Excel and Windows?**

   MegaStat 10.4 will run on 32 bit or 64 bit Excel 2013, 2016, 2019, 2021 and Excel from Microsoft 365. As of January 15, 2018, MegaStat is no longer supported on Excel 2010 although it might work with Windows 7.   As of May 1, 2015, MegaStat is no longer supported on Excel 2007 or earlier. MegaStat will work with Windows 10 and Windows 11. Earlier versions of MegaStat possibly would still run with Windows 7, 8, Vista, and XP but are no longer supported.

   We have not tried all combinations of Windows and Excel versions. It is best to have the Excel version more or less consistent with the Windows version. For example, running Excel 2016 on Windows Vista or earlier might be a problem. If you can run Excel, you can probably use MegaStat; however, the latest updates of Excel and Windows are recommended.

3. **What is the difference between Excel 2013/2016/2019/2021 and Excel from Microsoft 365 or Office 365?**

   All of these versions are functionally the same regarding the use of MegaStat. Microsoft 365 is a subscription method of using Excel 2016/2019. Microsoft 365 was formerly called Office 365. The name was changed in May 2020.

4. **What is new in version MegaStat 10.4** (August 2016)

   The main difference is that MegaStat 10.4 has new 'front door'. MegaStat has been available for over fifteen years and has always been accessed with a drop-down expanding menu. MegaStat now starts from the Data ribbon and instead of a drop-down menu appearing when it is clicked a dialog box appears with the menu displayed.

   The menu structure is still the same so if you have used previous versions it will look familiar to you and any previous documentation and tutorials will still be relevant. The options dialog boxes and output formats have not changed.

Why the change? It was initially necessitated by the version of MegaStat for Mac Excel 2016 that no longer supports drop-down menus. Once that version was done, it looked good and had certain technical advantages, so it was decided to do the Windows version also in order to be consistent. One advantage is that MegaStat can now be copied from the Data ribbon to other ribbons. See the user's guide for instructions.

The other major change with MegaStat 10.4 is that it uses an Excel workbook for the installation instead of using a third-party installer program.

Why the change? MegaStat just needs to be copied to the Add-ins folder so there is no need to use an installer program to do that since MegaStat does not use the Windows registry. An Excel workbook can copy the files and has the added advantage of being able to place MegaStat on the Data ribbon. The installation workbook can also uninstall MegaStat.

5. **Why is MegaStat installed on the Data ribbon and not the Add-ins ribbon?**

The Add-ins ribbon is not always automatically visible after installation so instead of requiring another installation step, the Data ribbon seemed like a logical place. If the Excel Data Analysis add-in is activated, it will be next to MegaStat on the data ribbon.

Also, the Mac version has MegaStat on the Data ribbon so the consistency between the versions was another reason.

The **MegaStat User's Guide** shows how to copy MegaStat to other ribbons and place it on the Quick Access Toolbar.

6. **How large is MegaStat?**

MegaStat.xlam and the help file, MegaStat.chm, are less than 2MB. MegaStat does not require a large amount of memory. If you can run Excel, you can probably run MegaStat.

7. **Does MegaStat have data size restrictions.**

Multiple regression is limited to 12 predictor variables with Excel 2013 and earlier; however, MegaStat does not generally have arbitrary restrictions. MegaStat (and Excel) will work best with moderate size data sets. Computation can become slow with very large data sets.

8. **Will MegaStat run on a network?**

MegaStat was not developed specifically for network use and is not supported for network use; however, some users have reported successful network usage.

Check with McGraw-Hill regarding network licensing before attempting a network installation.

9. **Where are the MegaStat files stored?**

On all versions of Windows 7 and later the location for add-ins is:
C:\Users\{yourusername}\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\AddIns.

If you do not to see the AppData folder in your folders list you will need to do the following:
    File Explorer > File tab > Change folder and search options > View tab > click Show hidden files, folders, or drives.

10. Can MegaStat be used without running the installer program?

It is generally preferable to set up MegaStat via the installation workbook since this will put the files in the default locations and automatically place MegaStat on the Data ribbon. However, you can copy MegaStat.xlam and the help file MegaStat.chm to any folder and then Browse to that folder from the Add-Ins list.

If you open MegaStat.xlam directly without installing it as an add-in, it may work with some versions of Excel, but the Help buttons will not be functional.

11. MegaStat was installed, but it has disappeared from the Data ribbon. What happened?

This would probably be because *MegaStat* was installed without 'Unblocking' the downloaded files. You can unblock *MegaStat.xlam* and MegaStat.chm by using this procedure: right-click the file name > click Properties > check Unblock. See the installation instructions in the download file for more details.

12. I get errors when I enter decimal values, what is the problem?

This is probably caused by changing the decimal separator from a period to a comma. MegaStat requires that the decimal separator be a period.

13. Does MegaStat use the Windows registry?

MegaStat does not directly use the Windows registry; however, Excel uses a couple entries related to add-ins. When an add-in is activated by being checked in the add-ins list, Excel creates a registry key like this: HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Office\16.0\Excel\Options. Note: the '16.0' in the registry key refers to Excel 2016. The value for Excel 2013 is 15.0, Excel 2010 is 14.0.

There will be several values listed for this key, but the ones of interest for add-ins are OPEN, OPEN1, OPEN2… depending on how many previous add-ins have been activated. Each entry stores the name of an active add-in file (and its location if it is not in the add-ins folder). Excel uses this key to know which add-ins to show as checked in the add-ins list.

If an add-in is unchecked, an entry is made in HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Office\16.0\Excel\Add-in Manager.

If the registry entry specifies a folder location it will take precedence over the default add-ins folder.

Excel only checks and updates registry entries when it is opened and closed.

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