Absolute_Pixel_Width?

Taming Column Widths in the ExcelXP Tagset

\[
\text{WIDTH_POINTS} = '12'
\]
\[
\text{WIDTH_FUDGE} = '.0625'
\]
\[
\text{ABSOLUTE_COLUMN_WIDTH} = '<\text{col widths in pixels}>'
\]

ExcelXP Tagset version: 1.130 (released 08/02/2013)
Column Width Options in the ExcelXP Tagset

In his 2011 paper, “Creating Stylish Multi-Sheet Microsoft Excel Workbooks the Easy Way with SAS”, Vince DelGobbo describes three parameters that control column widths in the ExcelXP tagset: WIDTH_POINTS, WIDTH_FUDGE, and ABSOLUTE_COLUMN_WIDTH.

- WIDTH_POINTS – point size from the data or header style elements
- WIDTH_FUDGE – uniform scale factor for column widths
- ABSOLUTE_COLUMN_WIDTH – width in characters of the longest value

Column widths are computed using the following formula:

\[
\text{ColumnWidth} = \text{WIDTH_POINTS} \times \text{WIDTH_FUDGE} \times \text{ABSOLUTE_COLUMN_WIDTH}
\]

New Option: \text{ABSOLUTE\_PIXEL\_WIDTH}

We can fix the first two parameters such that the third represents the number of pixels displayed in Excel. The ABSOLUTE_COLUMN_WIDTH then essentially becomes an ABSOLUTE\_PIXEL\_WIDTH. The necessary parameter values are:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{WIDTH_POINTS} & = '12' \\
\text{WIDTH_FUDGE} & = '.0625' \\
\text{ABSOLUTE\_COLUMN\_WIDTH} & = '<\text{column widths in pixels>}'
\end{align*}
\]

For example, if we want the variable Region to be displayed in a column 204 pixels wide, we could specify ABSOLUTE\_COLUMN\_WIDTH = '204'.

There is no autofit_width option in the ExcelXP tagset. However, if you manually autofit column widths in Excel, the resulting widths in pixels can be specified in the ABSOLUTE\_COLUMN\_WIDTH option.

ODS tagsets.ExcelXP Options( WIDTH_POINTS = "12" WIDTH_FUDGE = ".0625" ABSOLUTE\_COLUMN\_WIDTH = "204, 129, 126, 70, 117, 117, 95");

PROC PRINT of SASHELP.SHOES: Using above tagset options to mirror autofit column widths in Excel.
Managing Strings of Column Widths

The ABSOLUTE_COLUMN_WIDTH list can be cumbersome to manage, particularly when creating multiple reports using the same data set. Reordering columns, or simply expanding a column to accommodate a currency symbol, requires adjusting the correct values in the string.

Report A: PROC PRINT of SASHELP.SHOES, displaying all variables.

Report B: Tabulation of SASHELP.SHOES, summarized by Region.

Report C: Summary of SASHELP.SHOES by product.

Using a Metadata Data Set

Rather than manually scanning the list of column widths to identify the values that needs to be changed or reordered, we can manage the list by employing a metadata data set. For example, the DATALINES at left construct a data set that lists each variable in our report data, and has variables for the desired order and column width in each report. Using PROC SQL, we can pull the correct width values for each report and assign them—in the correct order—to a macro variable. The macro variable would then be used in the tagset option instead of the individual widths:

ABSOLUTE_COLUMN_WIDTH = 

Updating widths in the metadata is trivial, as we may look up report items by the name of the corresponding variable. Order is also made explicit, so inserting a new column only requires updating the order variable for that report.

The metadata data set could be maintained in Excel and imported into SAS. There are many papers on managing report metadata in Excel, which could also include labels and column formats for report items.

References:

Sessions on Reporting with the ExcelXP Tagset:

**SAS050 - Creating Multi-Sheet Microsoft Excel Workbooks with SAS®: The Basics and Beyond Part 1** *(Hands-On Workshop)*
Vincent DelGobbo - Sr Software Developer, SAS
Tuesday, Mar 25, 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM – National Harbor 10-11

**1854 - Exporting Formulas to Microsoft Excel Using the ODS ExcelXP Tagset** *(Quick Tip)*
Joseph Skopic - Budget Analyst, Federal Government
Tuesday, Mar 25, 2:00 PM - 2:10 PM – National Harbor 6-7

**SAS177 - Secrets from a SAS® Technical Support Guy: Combining the Power of the Output Deliver System with Microsoft Excel Worksheets** *(Breakout)*
Chevell Parker - Sr Principal Technical Support Analyst, SAS
Wednesday, Mar 26, 12:00 PM - 12:50 PM – Potomac 1-4