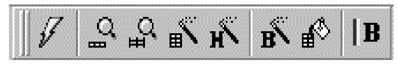
Getting Started with API

Your proprietary applications are only as good as the data that drives them! Using Bloomberg's API - Application Program Interface you can feed Bloomberg data - the industry standard into your applications via Microsoft Excel. Then using Excel functionality you can customize the data to fit your individual needs and make the best investment decisions!

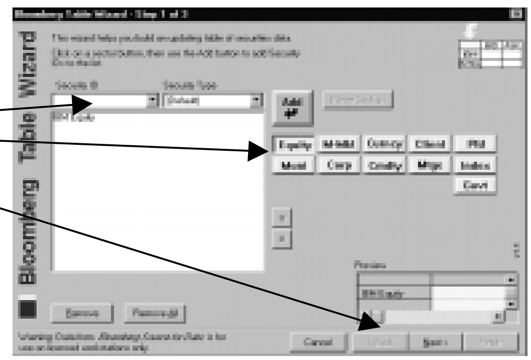
Step 1 - Locate the DDE Add-In Toolbar →



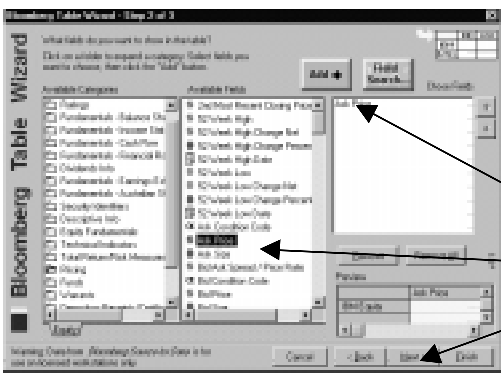
If you cannot locate this check your DDE Add-In. First Bloomberg should appear between Data and Window on the Excel toolbar. If not Click on Tools/Add-Ins and find the BLP.XLA. For more information on downloading the software and understanding the components of the API and communications, type **API <GO>**.

Step 2 - Creating a Basic Table using the Table Wizard

Click on the Table Wizard Icon



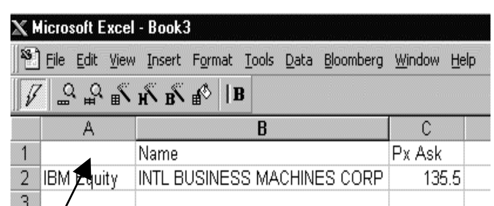
a) - *Step 1 of the Wizard* - Enter a security followed by clicking on the appropriate yellow sector key. Then click Add. Repeat for additional securities. Then Click Next>.



b) - *Step 2 of the Wizard* - Click on a folder, click the field you want then click Add. Continue for other fields. If you cannot find a particular field click the Field Search button and enter the name of the field. Click Next>.

c) - *Step 3 of the Wizard* - Specify the orientation of the Table and the Link type. Click Finish.

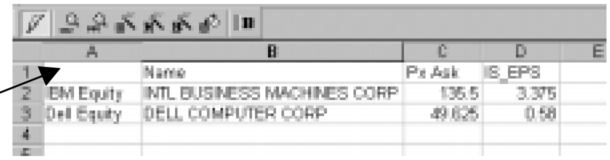
Your Table will appear in Excel. →

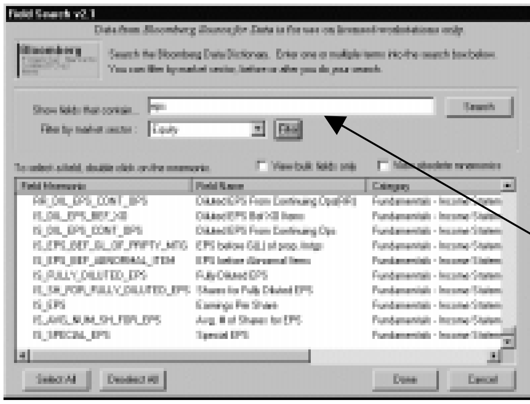


Step 3 - Editing the Table - Click on the "home cell" - the blank cell in the upper left corner of the table *(A1 in above example).* Now click back on the Table Wizard Icon Make your edits, then click Finish.

Step 4 - Edit Table Without Using the Table Wizard

a.) **To Add Securities** - Type additional security id's and yellow sector key beneath the original securities. Then click on "home cell" and then click on the Fill Range icon on DDE toolbar.





b.) **To Add Data Fields** - In the above example you will add data fields to the right of the original field i.e. D1. To find the appropriate field mnemonics click on the Field Search icon

You will get the a dialogue box where you enter the field name and run a search. Select from your search and either type the mnemonic in a cell or double click on the mnemonic then click Done. To fill the new data - Click on the "home cell" and click the Fill Range icon

Step 5 - BLP () Statements

You may also fill data into your spreadsheet by writing simple formulas or BLP Statements that write directly to the DDE server. The statements allow flexibility in the data layout and the customization of your own proprietary formulas.

The syntax is as follows:

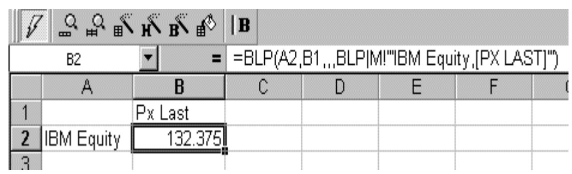
=blp(security,fields)

In the example, Cell B2 can be populated by writing any combination of the following:

=blp(A2,B2)

or

=blp("IBM Equity","Px Last") or =blp(A2,"Px Last")



Notice the formula in the formula bar. The DDE link is created once you type the formula and hit <GO>.

Step 6 - Turn On/Off the DDE Link

You may click on the Lightning bolt on the DDE toolbar to enable/disable the DDE link. Click on A dialogue box will appear and instruct you to either enable or disable the real-time updates.

Other DDE Tools:

There are two other Wizards on the DDE Toolbar that operate similar to the Table Wizard. The History Wizard allows you to download a time series of data. The Bulk Wizard allows you to download "bulk" information i.e. index members, bulk description, etc.

Data Messages:

You will see data messages i.e. #N/A or #REF in the fields for which you are requesting data. For a list of common messages and their meanings, please type **API <GO>.**

For more detailed instructions on using the Bloomberg API, type API <GO>.
FOR ASSISTANCE-- HIT THE <HELP> KEY TWICE