

Dropdown option list and price lookup

Introduction

It is often desired in systems and projects to have a dropdown list that allows a user to choose from a selection of predefined items, then for the system to work out the price of the item. This is also good for your validation procedures within your project.

An example

An example of this is a dropdown list of optional items to be added to a sale. And then the price for the optional item is added to a total. There has to be a separate list of items and their corresponding prices. See below for the list of items and their prices.

Item group 2	Price
b item 1	£34.00
b item 2	£45.00
b item 3	£23.00
b item 4	£546.00
b item 5	£34.00
b item 6	£563.00

The desired outcome is shown below:

1	A	B	C	1	A	B	C	1	A	B	C
2	Item Group	Item	Price	2	From Item group 1			2	From Item group 1		
3	From item group 2	b item 5	£34.00	3	From item group 2	b item 5	£34.00	3	From item group 2	b item 6	£563.00
4				4		b item 1		4			
5				5		b item 2		5			
6		Total:	£34.00	6		b item 3	£34.00	6		Total:	£563.00
7				7		b item 4		7			
8				8		b item 5		8			
9				9		b item 6		9			
10				10				10			

Notice how you can use the dropdown box to select an item and the price (and their for total) changes according to the item you have selected.

Making the system

The steps to do this are detailed in the below stages.

Make an item list

First of all you have to make a list of items in excel like the one to the right of this text.

Remember that you must leave space between groups if there is a chance more items may wish to be added and to always take advantage of space and use clear labelling. Changes are an end user will not see this worksheet. Notice how in this example there is another item group with a lot of space between them.

To make a group highlight the cells you want in the group (including the blank cells if you want to provide some space for expansion), I selected A2 to A12. In the “Name Box” (top left of the above, right image) type in a name for the selection, I imaginatively called it “Group1”.

Name Box

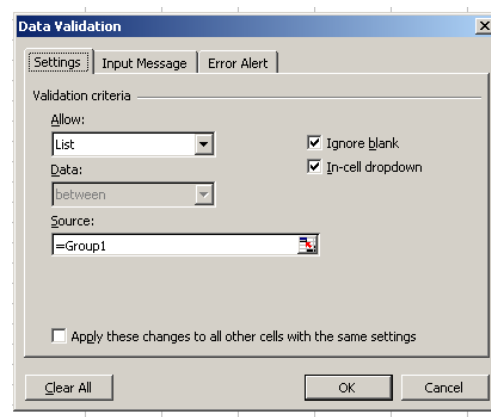
B32

1	A	B
2	Item group 1	Price
3	a item 1	£34.00
4	a item 2	£53.00
5	a item 3	£543.00
6	a item 4	£34.00
7	a item 5	£34.00
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13	Item group 2	Price
14	b item 1	£34.00

Implementing the dropdown

To make the dropdown list follow the numbered instructions below. The screen shot on the right shows my Data Validation box before I clicked “OK”.

1. Click on the cell that you want to contain the dropdown list to select it.
2. From the menus at the top of the screen select: Data > Validation
3. In the “allow” box select “list”.
4. In the “source” box insert =<GroupName> mine was =Group1 .
5. Click “OK”



Implementing the Vlookup

The last part of this is the VLOOKUP which is a formula based function for a cell allowing it to lookup some values.

1. Select the required “Price” cell (in my case C2).
2. click on the “Insert Function” button .
3. In the dialog that appears select the category of “All” from the dropdown.
4. Then find the codeword “VLOOKUP” from the list and click “OK”.
5. In the dialog that appears (see right) fill in the boxes as detailed below:
 - a. “Lookup Value” This is where the cell monitors for changes, for us it is the cell with the dropdown list. In my case B2.
 - b. “Table array” is where the information is coming from. This is a little more complex. Essentially this is the column where the information in the list is from and the column (usually next to it) where the price you want to reference is. To select these click on the button at the end of the box and the dialog shrinks, you can now click on the tab for the sheet containing your original list (in my case sheet1) and then highlight the column headings of the desired columns (in my case A and B)
 - c. “Col index num” this is the column to get the information from, In our example it is the second column so enter here “2”.
 - d. “range lookup” for our purpose we don’t need this so just enter “false”
6. Click “OK” and you’re done.

