

What's Left is Right

#01 Overwrite vs. Override

Terms to use -- or -- avoid

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- “Override” vs. “Overwrite”
- “RIDE” vs. “WRITE”
- When we ‘ride’ – we leave nothing behind (except for maybe *temporary* tire skid marks, or tracks in the mud/dust)
- When we ‘write’ – we leave behind a *permanent* ‘record’

Override vs. Overwrite

- To “overwrite” means to write on top of.
This usually means “out with the old and in with the new”.
- Overwrite has several possibilities:
 - Ex. In an Excel cell one can:
 - 1- Delete the entire cell contents (= overwrite with NULL/blank)
 - 2- Replace the entire cell contents (= overwrite with other cell)
 - 3- Replace only selected text (= overwrite with new text)
 - 4- Replace only selected substring (= overwrite with new text)
 - 5- Insert text (≠ overwrite)

Overwrite

- 3) Replace only selected text (= overwrite with new text):
 - Original TEXT = "Hello World" [11 characters, including blank]
 -
 - New text to replace "World" with is "Humanity"
 - [note that World is 5 chars , and Humanity is 8 chars long]
 -
 - Result may be:
 - "Hello Humanity" [15 characters, including blank]
 - Or truncated as:
 - "Hello Human" [11 characters, including blank]

Overwrite

- 4) Replace only selected substring (= overwrite with new text):
 - Original TEXT = "Hello World" [11 characters, including blank]
 -
 - New text to replace **within** "Hello World" with is "man"
 - [note that **man** is 3 chars long]
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 - Depending on where you place the string, the result may be:
 - "Hel**man**World" [11 characters, including blank]
 - "Hello **Wo**man" [11 characters, including blank]
 - Etc...

Overwrite

- 5) Insert text (\neq overwrite):
 - Original TEXT = "Hello World" [11 characters, including blank]
 - New text to insert is "Nice"
 - [note that Nice is 4 chars long]
- Result may be – assuming inserting is allowed and this will increase the size of the resulting phrase:
 - Depending on where you place the string, the result may be:
 - "Hello NiceWorld" [15 characters, including blank]
 - "HelNiceWorld" [15 characters, including blank]
 - Etc...

Overwrite

- To “**override**” means to circumvent.
- This usually means to ignore, avoid, or otherwise overrule an existing process.
- Note my use of the term ‘process’ – **overriding** does not change any of the original data per se – in fact it ignores it – that’s the whole idea of the “override”.

Override

- That having been said,
- ... there are cases where there is a certain overlap in meaning – where **overwriting** some crucial data may cause something to **override**.
- An example is when resetting some flag by **overwriting** it (e.g. setting it from **ON** to **OFF**) – and this causes the system to **override** whatever the process was doing.

Override

- To summarize:
- **Overriding** and **Overwriting** is not the same thing – explain this to your SMEs
- Overwriting - in effect - destroys, deletes, modifies, and/or replaces the original text/contents with something new (may be NULL)
- Overwriting may result in or cause Overriding
- Overriding does not in and of itself affect the original text/contents that it is 'overriding'

Override vs. Overwrite

- Thank you for your attention