

AIM Measurement Tools – Do they work on my system?

The AIM Measurement Tools were built in Excel for a local Windows system. They will work on some other systems – see the notes below.

AIM's Measurement Support Team (measurement@albertaAIM.ca) can help with questions about the functioning of the tool itself as well as setup of the tool on a local Windows system.

Unfortunately, AIM doesn't have the resources to support every system. If you are considering a non-Windows system, be prepared to manage your own system-specific problems. You will also need to adapt some of the instructions in the User Guide for AIM Applications.

While we can't support other systems, we have collected the experience of some of your peers. This document contains their suggestions.

Microsoft Windows XP / Vista with Microsoft Excel 2003 / 2007 - Standalone

The AIM Measurement Tools were developed for this system. This is by far the most common system in Alberta clinics. The AIM Measurement Support Team can help with issues around either Microsoft Excel 2003 or Microsoft Excel 2007 running in either Microsoft Windows XP or Microsoft Windows Vista.

Microsoft Windows 7

All the testing done by the AIM Measurement Support Team to date indicates the AIM Measurement Tools will run appropriately in Windows 7 - the newest Windows operating system.

NOTE: Users who have converted from Windows Vista to Windows 7 have experienced faster calculation times in the AIM Tools.

Windows Remote (a.k.a. ASP, Citrix, VBI, Thin Client , etc)

Some organizations provide Excel to the user's desktop by "hosting" it on a server. The AIM Measurement Tools can work in this environment but there are two important considerations. Depending on the exact setup, the power of the servers and the number of users you may find the tools run very slowly. You may also have trouble setting the security status (necessary to run the Analysis Tool). As this varies for every site the AIM Measurement Support Team cannot predict which sites will have adequate performance and which won't. Frequently even the site's technical support cannot reliably tell in advance. Users are strongly urged to test the tools, especially the analysis tools, before relying on Windows' remote.

Microsoft Excel 2004 for Mac

Users have reported that the AIM tools will run reliably on this version. Although full functionality of the tools has not been tested by AIM Measurement Support Team there are no reports of issues specific to this version.

As mentioned above, there are limits on the support the AIM Measurement Support Team can provide. The user will need to be self-proficient in the Mac and Mac-Excel environment.

Suggestions for Excel 2004 Mac Users

For your reference the following links outline shortcut key functions for Excel-Mac users.

- <http://www.keyxl.com/aaa6a61/227/Microsoft-Excel-2001-Macintosh-keyboard-shortcuts.htm>
- <sbtportal.wilkes.edu/PDFFiles/ITS/.../excel-quick-reference-2004.pdf>

Two Notable shortcut keys that differ between the Excel environments are:		
AIM Measurement Tool Procedure	Excel-Windows Users	Excel-Mac Users
To calculate the file (whenever you've changed information in a yellow field)	Press F9	⌘ + =
To conduct an alternate start-up for a toolbar function	Alt + F8	OPTN + F8

NOTE: to determine what version of Microsoft Excel for Macs your clinic is using, complete the following steps:

1. Open Excel
2. Under the Excel menu, select About Excel
3. In the window that appears, note the edition of Microsoft Office Excel for Macs loaded on the computer you are using

Microsoft Excel 2008 for Mac

It is extremely unusual for a software company to remove significant functions from their software when introducing a new version. However, this is exactly what happened with Microsoft Excel 2008 for Mac! Microsoft choose to remove the critical functions (Visual Basic / VB) when moving from 2004 to 2008 versions.

The result is that the AIM Measurement Tools **will not work** and **cannot be made to work** in Microsoft Excel 2008 for Mac.

Virtual Windows for Mac

There are several products that allow a Mac to function as a Windows PC. The most common are Bootcamp, Parallels and VMware Fusion. We are advised by physicians with considerable Mac experience that VMware Fusion is the most reliable and that speed should not be an issue if the Mac in question is relatively new.

To use virtual windows, you need to purchase the virtual product (e.g. Fusion), a copy of the Windows operating systems, and a copy of Microsoft Office for Windows (which includes Excel). As noted above the AIM Measurement Support Team cannot help with the setup, use and support of the virtual environment.

Open Office

The free online spreadsheet provided by Google's Open Office environment has significantly less function than Microsoft Excel. The result is that the AIM Measurement Tools **will not work** and **cannot be made to work** in Open Office.