

XLS Shrink FAQs

On October 15, 2015, Catalyst implemented an improved method for handling Excel files¹ (XLS) in Insight. This means Excel files load faster and are saved more quickly; additionally, bulk processes are more stable, and indexing speeds are more consistent.

XLS Shrink is applied to Excel-type files loaded after October 15th and does not affect files loaded prior to that.

What is XLS Shrink?

XLS Shrink is a process used to “shrink” the size of an Excel record by removing duplicated content, such as words, numbers, dates, etc. But, XLS Shrink retains unique combinations, so that despite reducing the record’s size, searching is not compromised.

Why use XLS Shrink?

If you’ve ever worked with Excel spreadsheets, you’re probably familiar with how large these files can be, sometimes 60 MBs and greater. While Insight is a large-scale database capable of hosting terabytes of data, reducing the size of Excel records speeds up the uploading, indexing, and storing processes.

Will my searches be as effective?

Yes, because unique words, numbers, and word phrases are retained, your keyword searches will still find the relevant Excel documents you need. XLS Shrink simply removes duplicate information, making indexing and searching faster.

How will I view an Excel record on which XLS Shrink has been performed?

You can still view the Excel files through our Excel viewer, which displays the entire Excel document (including all worksheets). And, as before, you still have the ability to download the spreadsheet and open it on your computer.

¹ Excel files include these extensions: xls,xlsx, xlsx, xlsm, xlsb, xltm, xlam, xla, xlb, xlc, xld, xlm, xlt, xlw.