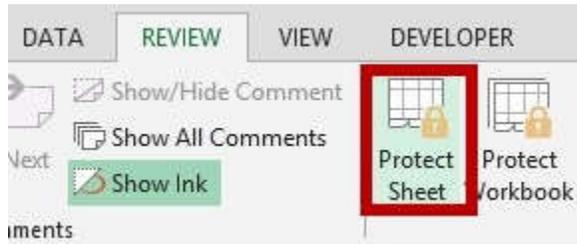


"God Mode" trick to remove Excel password - no software or Google needed

Author: Rishabh Pugalia

Almost **ALL Excel users wish** at some point or the other, that they had some **magic to remove the "Protect Sheet" password** so that they can see the formula and make changes. * Please note that this is the *worksheet* password and not the *workbook* password *



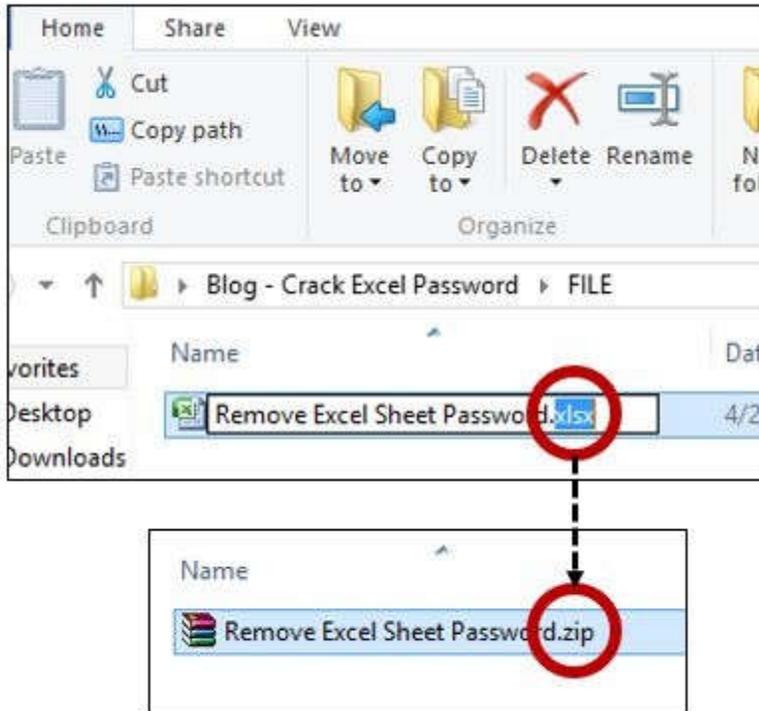
They take the help of **Google**. They are redirected to 100s of sites who ask you to download some software.

- 1) Some of those software apps will display only first 2 or 3 characters of the password (trial version).
- 2) Some will install interesting pictures and set your default browser homepage to some malicious website. You get the drift!

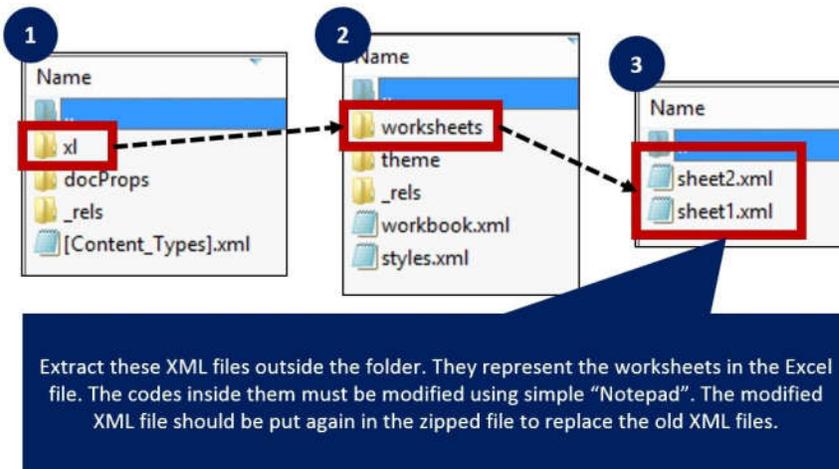


3) Some (paid versions) will display 129+ hrs. of computing time to crack the password in case the password is not a simple dictionary word. (BTW dictionary word passwords can be easily cracked using a technique called "Dictionary attack". Rest needs "Brute Force attack" technique)

Step 2: Change the extension of you Excel file from .xlsx to .zip



Step 3: Open the zipped file and extract the relevant XML file from the zipped file - follow the picture trail

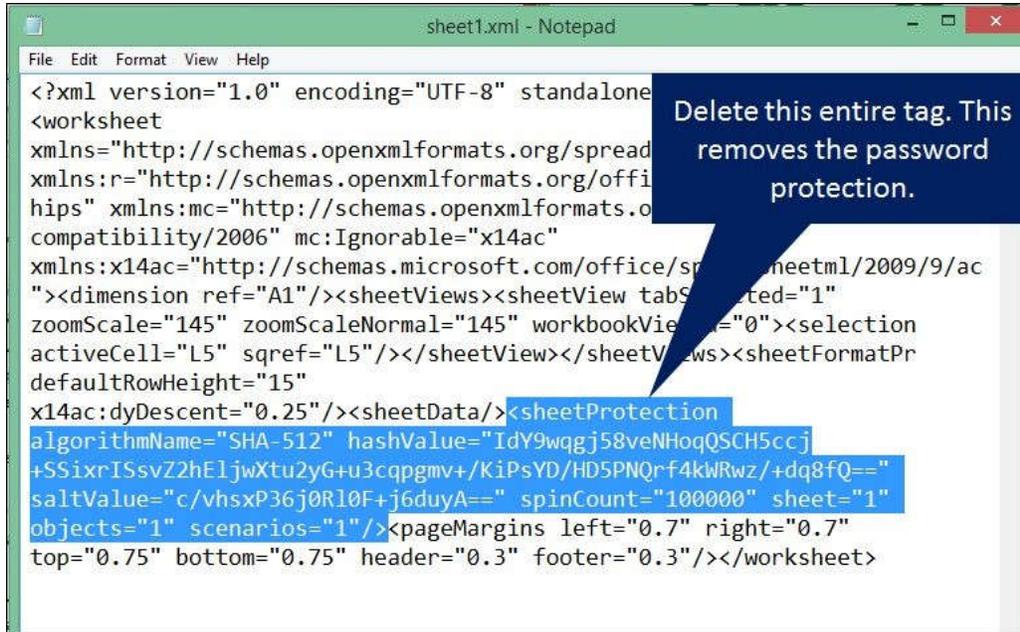


Extract these XML files outside the folder. They represent the worksheets in the Excel file. The codes inside them must be modified using simple "Notepad". The modified XML file should be put again in the zipped file to replace the old XML files.

Step 4: Open the XML file in a Notepad and delete the following tags marked in double quotes below

v. 2007-10 - "sheetProtection password=... />"

v. 2013 - "sheetProtection algorithmName=.../>"



The screenshot shows a Notepad window titled "sheet1.xml - Notepad". The XML code is displayed, and a blue callout box with white text points to the following tag: `<sheetProtection algorithmName="SHA-512" hashValue="IdY9wqgj58veNHoqQSCH5ccj+SSixrISsvZ2hEljwXtu2yG+u3cqpvmv+/KiPsYD/HD5PNQrf4kWRwz/+dq8fQ==" saltValue="c/vhsxP36j0R10F+j6duyA==" spinCount="100000" sheet="1" objects="1" scenarios="1"/>`. The callout box contains the text: "Delete this entire tag. This removes the password protection." The tag and its content are highlighted in blue in the original image.

Step 5: Save the XML file and put it back in the zipped folder from where it was initially extracted. It will replace the original XML files.

Step 6: Closed the zipped file and change the extension back to .xlsx (reverse of Step 2 above)

Step 7 - Enjoy the GLORY my friend :) - The relevant sheets for which corresponding XML files were modified will not ask for any password any more