

## The Importance of Good Design

There is an art to designing quality Excel applications. To making them reliable and easy to use, providing appropriate error checking, and making them flexible and adaptable to the changing demands of your business.

We have all had the unpleasant experience of working with poorly designed spreadsheets and know the problems they can cause. It does not have to be this way, compliance with a few basic principles can ensure reliable, effective results every time.

SolVu has developed the SUAVE Design Principles®, a development methodology that ensures all applications meet the highest standards of quality and reliability. Spreadsheets and other Excel applications developed in compliance with the SUAVE Design Principles® will be a pleasure to use, completely reliable and meet all specifications.

**SolVu** Consulting



Operational and Administrative Support Solutions

Excel Solutions to Everyday Problems

Design Principles  
SUAVE



# The SUAVE Design Principles

## The SUAVE Design Principles

Structure

Useability

Appearance

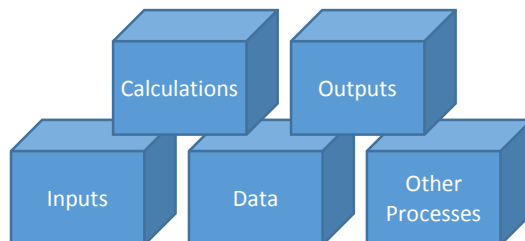
Verification

Error Checking and Protection

### Structure

Application components need to be clearly distinguished from each other and structured so they are

- Easy to Identify
- Easy to Use
- Easy to Verify
- Flexible



### Useability

Applications should be a pleasure to use:

- Fast and Easy to Use
- On Screen Help
- Error Checking
- Completion Checking
- Easy Navigation
- Data should NEVER have to be entered more than once
- Reports should be easy to generate and save
- Non-essentials should be hidden from sight

### Appearance

- Screens should be attractive and easy to read
- Screens should be laid out in a logical manner
- User requirements should be easily identified
- Colour schemes, font choices and page structures should be uniform where possible
- Documents should be easy to identify

### Verification

- Verify data at the Point of Entry
- Do not allow user to proceed if essential data is missing

### Error Checking and Protection

Error Checking:

- Error checking should be built into each calculation set:
  - Calculation Errors
  - Data Type Errors (#VALUE, #N/A, etc.)
- Error identification to be highly visible
- Error Check Summary to be provided

Protection:

- All non-data entry fields to be protected from modification
- All templates to be protected from modification
- Access to calculation and data sets should be limited to authorised personnel

