

## **Greetings...** And thanks for buying my book.

I really think that you'll enjoy this book. There are, of course, many Excel books on the market (I've seen them all). I've found that these books tend to fall into one of two categories: (1) trivial books that look good on the surface, but really don't reveal anything new; or (2) massive tomes that provide every intricate detail of Excel -- and make you work too hard to find what you want to know.

I've tried to make my book different. For example, you'll find more than 5 megabytes of examples files -- equivalent to about four floppy disks. As far as I know, this is the first spreadsheet book that comes with a CD-ROM. If you haven't had a chance to explore the CD, I urge you to do so. It has hundreds of of useful files on it, including the Excel workbook files that I use in the chapter examples. This will make it easy for you to follow along with the text. I've found that most people can learn more with a good example than by reading dozens of pages in a book. Consequently, I spent about as much time developing these files as I did writing the text. And I hope it shows.

Besides the example files, the CD-ROM also contains some useful Excel shareware, Windows 95 shareware, and -- without a doubt -- the largest collection of Excel games ever assembled. Besides being fun, these files demonstrate some useful techniques that you may be able to use in your work.

One of the shareware products on the CD is my very own <u>Power Utility Pak</u>. This is an add-in that brings lots of new features to Excel. I've received some excellent feedback on this product, so I'm sure that you'll enjoy it. The registration fee is normally \$39.95. But since you bought my book I'll knock \$30 off the price. That means you can get the full registered version for under \$10. Use the coupon in the back of the book to order your copy.

Finally, I want you to know that I welcome your comments and feedback. If you find that one or two chapters were especially helpful, please let me know. And on the other hand, if you think I didn't devote enough space to a particular topic, let me know that too. Or, if you just want to say Hello or ask a question, that's also fine. The best way to contact me is by electronic mail -- but you can also write to me in care of the publisher. My e-mail address is:

## 70363.3014@compuserve.com.

Thanks again for selecting my book. And I hope you enjoy it.

John Walkenbach