Excel Includer

Linked Excel files rendered inline on Azure DevOps work items — so the spreadsheet behind a decision is read where the decision is tracked.

Link it once. Read it in place.

DETECT	RENDER	EXPAND
Excel links on the work item are picked up automatically	A dedicated Linked Excel section, read-only	A larger view for wide or long sheets

The numbers live somewhere else.

Estimates, schedules, test matrices and cost breakdowns are still built in Excel. The work item holds a link to them — and every reader has to leave Azure DevOps to follow it.

WHERE THE GAP SHOWS UP

01 Context switching — every review means a new tab and a hunt for the right sheet.

02 Buried references — the link sits among attachments, comments and related items.

03 Stale copies — screenshots and pasted tables go out of date as soon as the file changes.

04 Uneven review — some reviewers open the file, others decide from the summary alone.

WHAT THE WORK ITEM GETS

LINKED EXCEL	A dedicated section on the work item form.
DETECTION	An Excel link added to the item is found automatically.
INLINE VIEW	The sheet renders on the page, not in a new tab.
EXPANDED VIEW	More rows and columns without leaving the item.
SOURCE FILE	Stays in OneDrive or SharePoint, untouched.

THE OUTCOME

Keep the spreadsheet as the source and the work item as the place of discussion. Reviewers see the data in context, and nobody pastes a copy that goes out of date.

LESS CONTEXT SWITCHING | ONE SOURCE FILE | CONSISTENT REVIEW

A viewer, deliberately.

Excel Includer adds one focused capability to the work item form. It reads linked files — it does not edit them, sync them or change them.

READ-ONLY BY DESIGN

Editing is not supported due to Excel restrictions. Changes are made in Excel; the work item shows the file.

MINIMAL FOOTPRINT

Only the configuration and link metadata needed to render files are stored in your Azure DevOps organisation. Rixter has no access to your data.

PERMISSIONS THE EXTENSION REQUESTS

VSO.EXTENSION.DATA	Read configuration and stored link metadata used for rendering.
VSO.EXTENSION.DATA_WRITE	Save configuration and link metadata in your organisation.
VSO.GRAPH	Confirm the installing user is a Project Collection Administrator.
VSO.MEMBERENTITLEMENTMANAGEMENT	Read the billable user count to determine the licence tier.

Pick the sheets people actually open.

Rollout is mostly a convention: agree which kinds of work items carry a linked spreadsheet, and where that file lives.

01 Install

Add the extension from the Visual Studio Marketplace — a 30-day trial is included.

02 Agree on the source

Keep linked workbooks in OneDrive or SharePoint locations the team can reach.

03 Link the file

Add the Excel link to the work item; the Linked Excel section picks it up.

04 Review in place

Read inline, expand for larger sheets, and open Excel only to change the data.

JUDGE IT BY REVIEW TIME PASTED SCREENSHOTS TAB SWITCHING

WHERE TEAMS USE IT

DELIVERY	QUALITY	FINANCE	PROGRAMME
Estimates and schedules beside the feature	Test matrices on the test item	Cost breakdowns on the epic	Capacity plans next to the objective

THE TAKEAWAY

A link says the data exists. Showing it inline is what gets it read.

Keep the spreadsheet in view of the work.

Tell us which workbook your team keeps opening in a second tab, and we will show you how it looks inline.

rixter

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Excel Includer displays linked files and does not modify them; storage and sharing of those files remain governed by OneDrive or SharePoint. Capabilities referenced were verified against Rixter and Visual Studio Marketplace public product material, October 2026.