

The Fast Environmental Regulatory Evaluation Tool - FERET
June 2001
A Benefit-Cost Template For Regulatory Analyses

FAQs-Frequently Asked Questions

- 1) What do I need to run this program?
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- 3) What are macros and should I enable them when starting up the program?
- 4) What are these gray buttons for?
- 5) My numbers seem to be stuck, even though I am running a simulation.
- 6) Are there other applications?
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1) What do I need to run this program?

You will need a Windows/PC computer, Microsoft Excel for PC, and Decisioneering Crystal Ball. Crystal Ball can be installed from the CD on a 7 day trial basis, or purchased at www.decisioneering.com. Crystal Ball is required to take advantage of the uncertainty analyses. At this time, we do not support @Risk or Macintosh products. These versions of FERET were created in Excel 97 (Office 98) and Excel 2000; Crystal Ball Professional v4.0 and CB 2000 Pro v5.0 and may not be fully functional in other versions.

2) Where do I start?

Installation Instructions: Windows 95/98/2000

- A. Insert the FERET CD into your CD drive.
- B. Open your existing Microsoft Excel. This has been tested with Excel 97 (included with Office 98) and Excel 2000 but may not be fully functional in other versions.
- C. Open Decisioneering's Crystal Ball. This has been tested with 4.0 Pro and CB 2000 Pro v5.0 but may not be fully functional in other versions. If you do not own this program, a 7-day trial version is provided on the CD that you should install or see their website (www.decisioneering.com).
- D. Select drive D:, or whichever drive is your **CD drive**.
- E. From the **File** menu, select **Open**. You can copy all the material or run it from the CD.
- F. To view the calibration to EPA's study, select **FERET2010.xls**.
- G. To open the general template for a new analysis, select **FERETzero.xls**. From the **File** menu, select **Save As...** and **save it as a name of your choice**. Do not save any changes in the CD version or they may be permanent!
- H. In the FERET title page, select "First Time User", "Start" or go to the User Input worksheet.

We strongly suggest reading the introduction and/or user's manual before starting a benefit-cost analysis with FERET.

- 3) What are macros and should I enable them when starting up the program?
Macros are pieces of computer code that automate tasks. If you are opening Crystal Ball and a box comes up to ask whether you should enable macros, please do so. If you are opening FERET, you will need to enable macros to use the gray buttons located throughout FERET to assist new users. If you choose to disable macros, you will lose functionality in both Crystal Ball and FERET. Macro viruses do occur, but to the best of our knowledge and software there are not any viruses associated with the files on this CD.
- 4) What are these gray buttons for?
The gray boxes are small “buttons” that can assist new users by demonstrating pages, demonstrating the structure of FERET, and helping you to run the entire simulation. If you are familiar with simulation software and spreadsheets, these buttons are not required for use.
- 5) My numbers seem to be stuck, even though I am running a simulation.
If you are expecting some equations to update but they are “stuck”, Excel may have switched from automatic to manual updating. To change this, go to the *Tools* menu, click on *Options*. Then find the “*Calculation*” tab, and change to “*Automatic*”. If you have several FERET worksheets open, they will likely all run simultaneously which can also cause errors.
- 6) Are there other applications?
Other environmental media applications are under consideration. Please send your suggestions to feret@u.washington.edu, or fill out the questionnaire provided on the CD.
- 7) I need help!
Try contacting us at feret@u.washington.edu and we will try to answer your questions, or try to see if your question is on our updated frequently asked questions page at depts.washington.edu/feret.