

Remove Sheet and Workbook Protection from Excel Sheets



The Attack

Recap

- Cracking Excel file Passwords (Opening File)
- Removing the read-only restriction

Aim of this Lecture

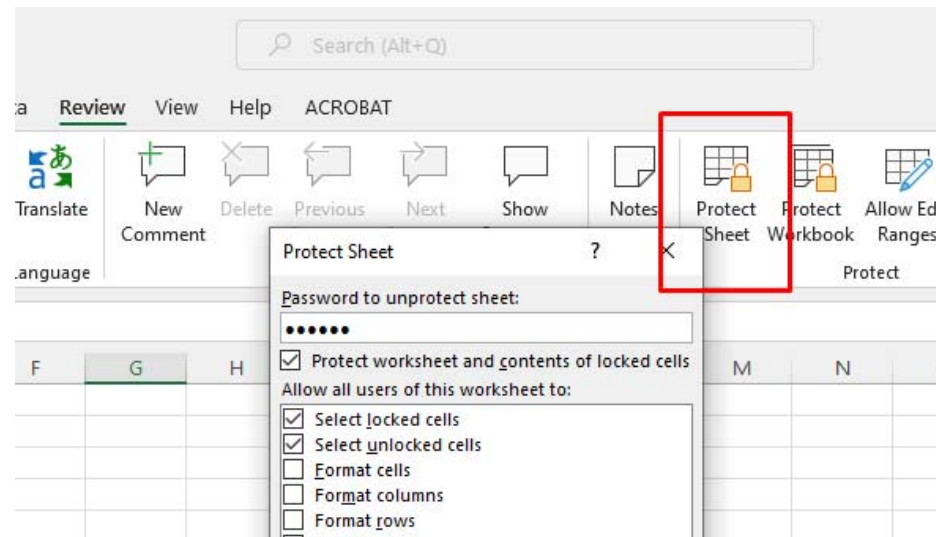
- Removing the Excel Sheet Protection
- Removing the Excel Work Book Protection

Remove Sheet Protection

Step- 1

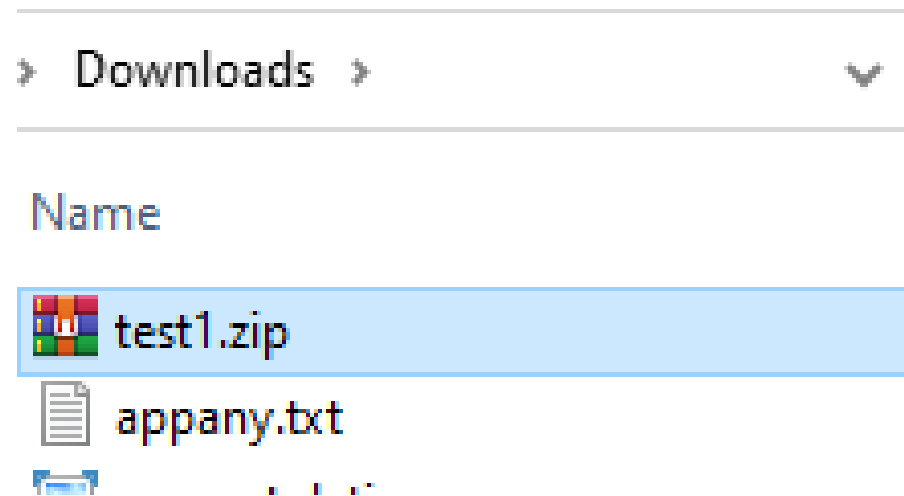
- ❖ You can protect a sheet from the review tab in Excel. A protected sheet limits any modification in the sheet

Go to Review tab then select the option to protect sheet, Give it a Password



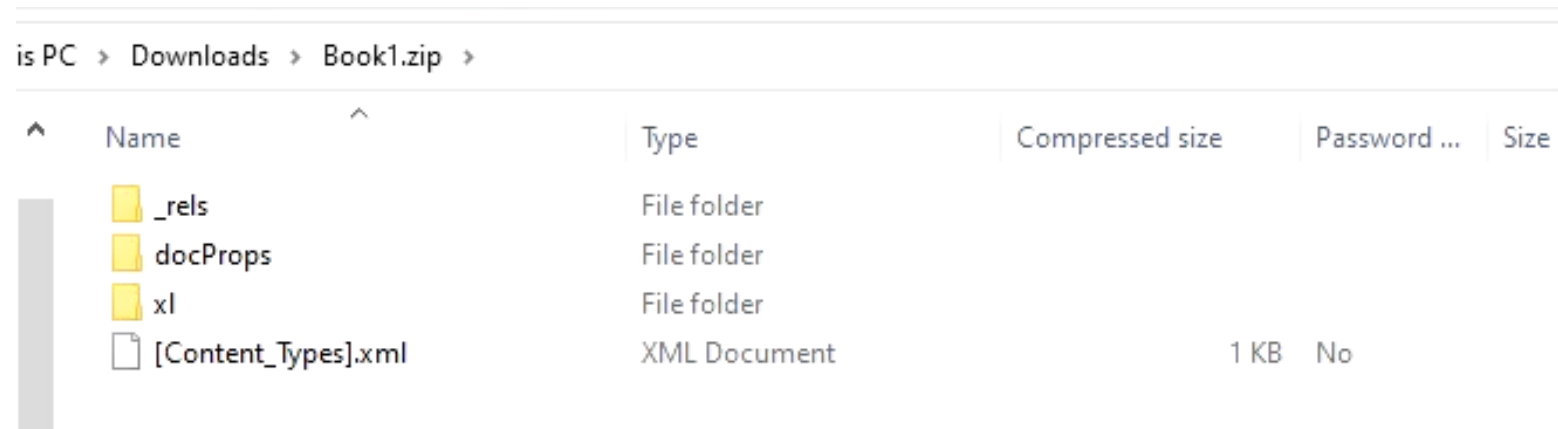
Step- 2

❖ Change the File extension to ZIP



Step- 3

- ❖ Open the ZIP folder in Windows explorer or Winrar



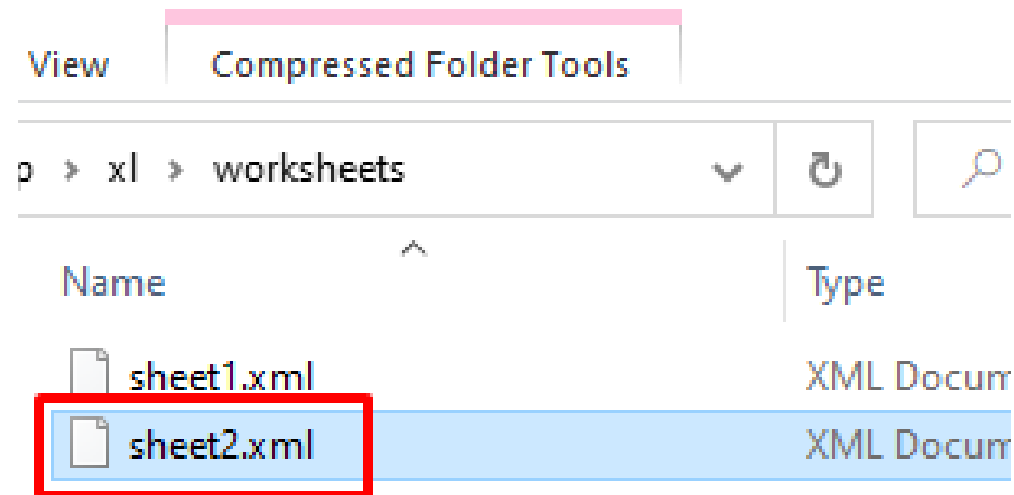
The screenshot shows a Windows Explorer window with the address bar displaying 'is PC > Downloads > Book1.zip >'. The main area shows a table of files and folders extracted from the ZIP file.

Name	Type	Compressed size	Password ...	Size
^				
^				
_rels	File folder			
docProps	File folder			
xl	File folder			
[Content_Types].xml	XML Document	1 KB	No	

Step- 4

- ❖ Look for the sheet file in the xl/worksheets folder and open it in text editor

sheet2.xml



Step- 5

- ❖ Search for the content “sheetprotection”. Remove all contents within the tags <> </>

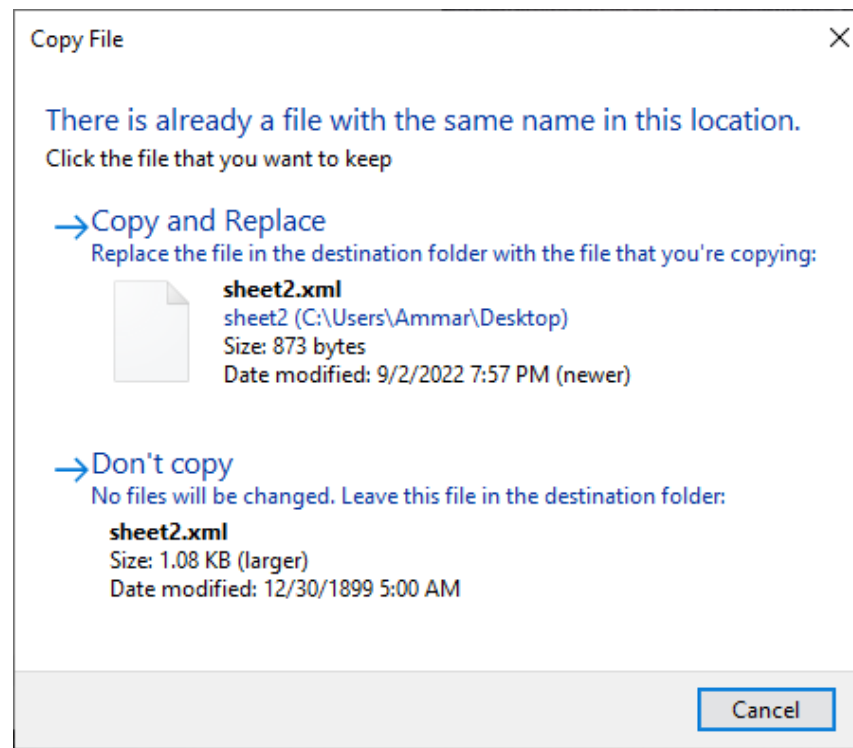
sheet2.xml - Notepad

File Edit Format View Help

```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="UTF-8" standalone="yes"?>
<worksheet xmlns="http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/spreadsheetml/2006/main" xmlns:r="http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/officeDocument/2006/relationships"
xmlns:mc="http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/markup-compatibility/2006" mc:Ignorable="x14ac" xmlns:x14ac="http://schemas.microsoft.com/office/spreadsheetml/2009/9/ac"><dimension
ref="A1:G11"/><sheetViews><sheetView tabSelected="1" workbookViewId="0"><selection activeCell="G11" sqref="G11"/></sheetView></sheetViews><sheetFormatPr defaultRowHeight="15"
x14ac:dyDescent="0.25"/><sheetData><row r="1" spans="1:7" x14ac:dyDescent="0.25"><c r="A1" t="s"><v>1</v></c></row><row r="11" spans="1:7" x14ac:dyDescent="0.25"><c r="G11"
t="s"><v>2</v></c></row></sheetData><sheetProtection algorithmName="SHA-512" hashValue="nMQh584avwmM1eUuPtsxV3nDqHVf00Z+KMauKU/6XpGrR8JAzQbZ2FkpaSGSzyExVQmxD9TabaxfK1ojSUNGQ="
saltValue="BBmQ7K11zQTfk9G0surIvA==" spinCount="100000" sheet="1" objects="1" scenarios="1"/><pageMargins left="0.7" right="0.7" top="0.75" bottom="0.75" header="0.3"
footer="0.3"/></worksheet>
```


Step- 6

- ❖ Save the file separately with the same name and then drag it to the actual archive and replace the original file



Step- 7

- ❖ Change Back the File Extension to xlsx and your sheet protection will be removed

test1.xlsx

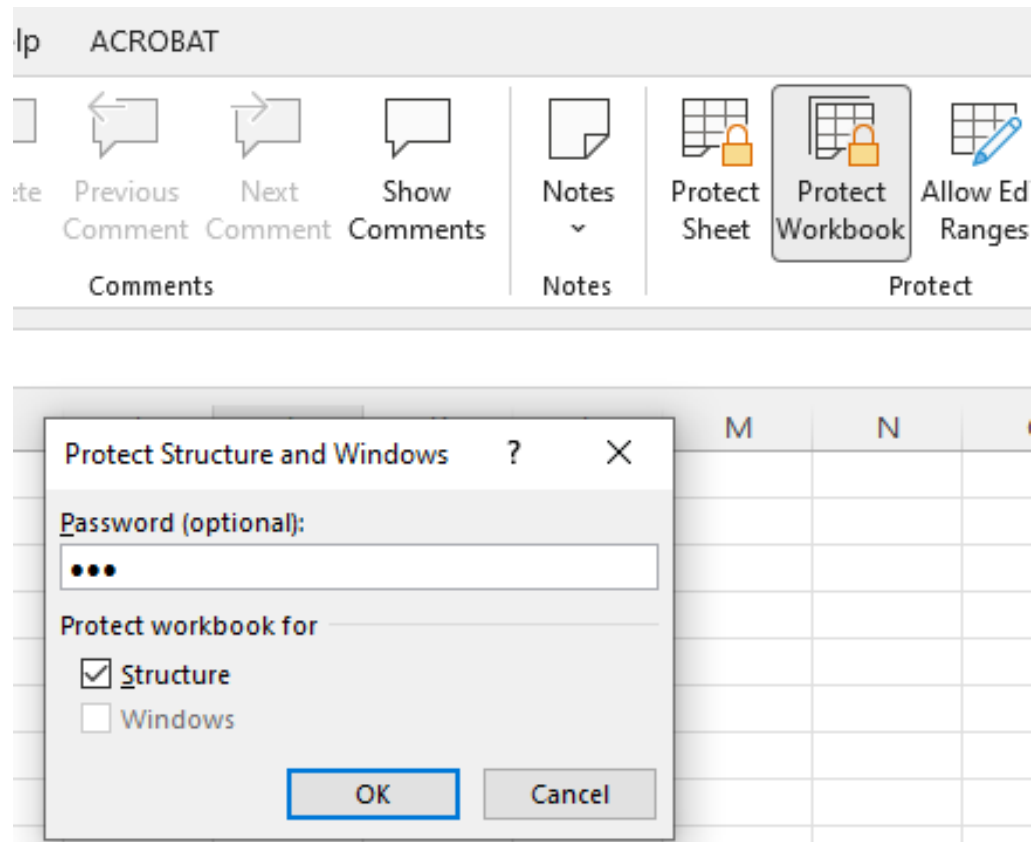
Remove Workbook Protection

Step- 1

- ❖ You can protect a workbook from the review tab in Excel. A protected workbook limits any modification in the sheet structure. You can not add or delete sheets. You can not hide or unhide sheets

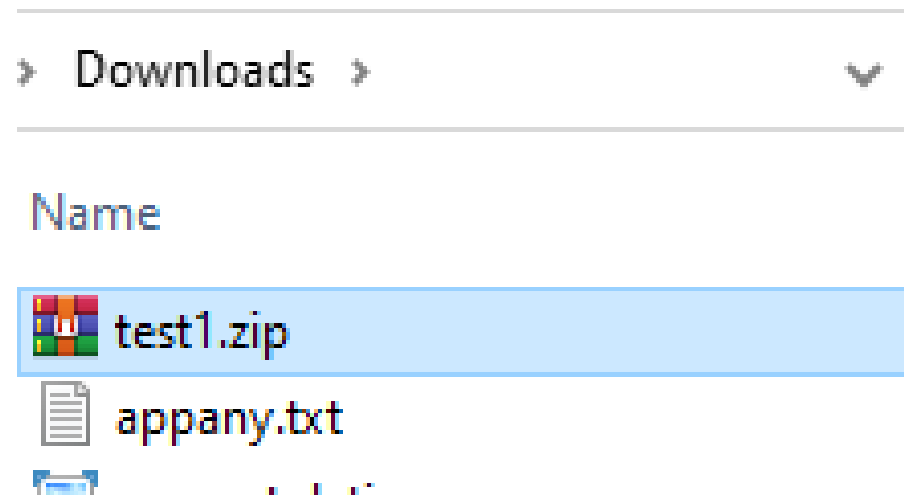
Go to Review tab then select the option to protect workbook, Give it a Password

Step- 1



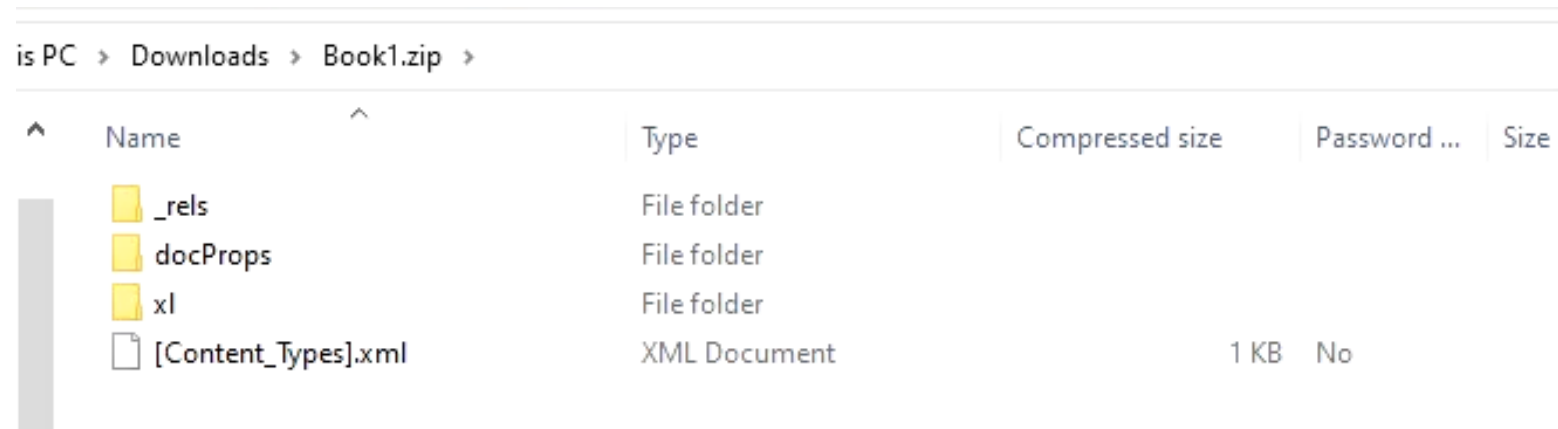
Step- 2

❖ Change the File extension to ZIP



Step- 3

- ❖ Open the ZIP folder in Windows explorer or Winrar



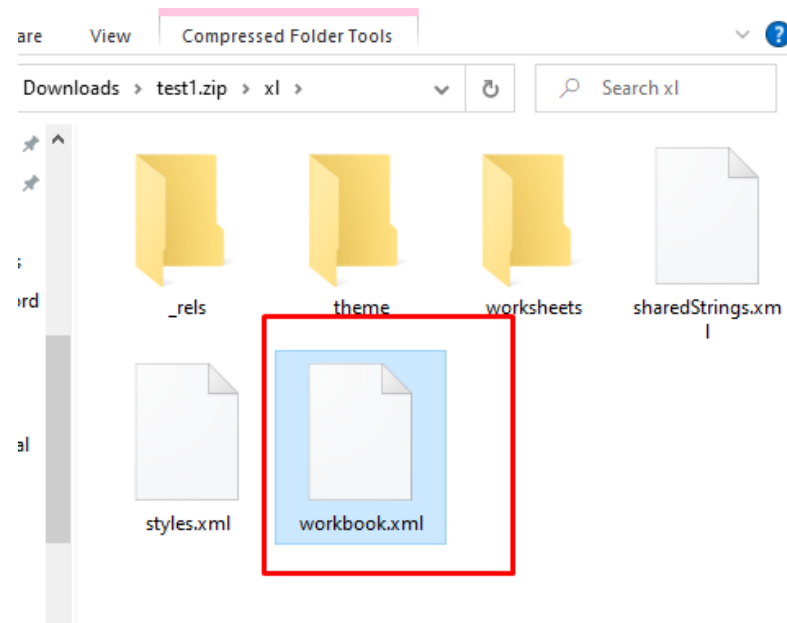
The screenshot shows a Windows Explorer window with the address bar displaying 'is PC > Downloads > Book1.zip >'. The main area shows a table of files and folders extracted from the ZIP file.

Name	Type	Compressed size	Password ...	Size
^				
^				
_rels	File folder			
docProps	File folder			
xl	File folder			
[Content_Types].xml	XML Document	1 KB	No	

Step- 4

- ❖ Look for the sheet file in the xl folder and open it in text editor

workbook.xml



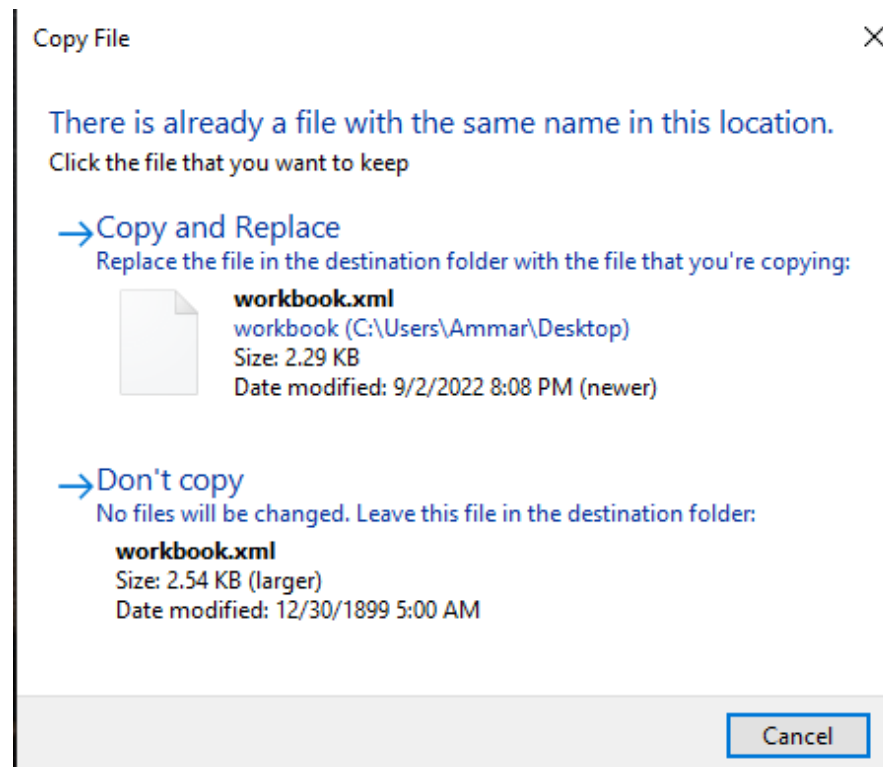
Step- 5

- ❖ Search for the content “workbookprotection”. Remove all contents within the tags <> </>

```
xmlns:xl1="http://schemas.microsoft.com/office/spreadsheetml/2016/revision1" xmlns:xl2="http://schemas.microsoft.com/office/spreadsheetml/2016/revision2"
xmlns:xl10="http://schemas.microsoft.com/office/spreadsheetml/2016/revision10" xmlns:xl2="http://schemas.microsoft.com/office/spreadsheetml/2015/revision2"><fileVersion appName="xl"
lastEdited="7" lowestEdited="7" rupBuild="25427"/><workbookPr defaultThemeVersion="166925"/><mc:AlternateContent xmlns:mc="http://schemas.openxmlformats.org/markup-
compatibility/2006"><mc:Choice Requires="xl5"><x15ac:absPath url="C:\Users\Ammar\Downloads\"
xmlns:x15ac="http://schemas.microsoft.com/office/spreadsheetml/2010/11/ac"/></mc:Choice></mc:AlternateContent><xr:revisionPtr revIDLastSave="0" documentId="13_ncr:1_{8A2E9586-02BC-4457-9/
19523CF62130}" xr6:coauthVersionLast="47" xr6:coauthVersionMax="47" xr10:uidLastSave="{00000000-0000-0000-0000-000000000000}"/><workbookProtection workbookAlgorithmName="SHA-512"
workbookHashValue="NTxsR+GEbGzFP9sXRrhIY5+4MUp1KL8HQqzUEl+giTNMA37XNAEF1VHJUBe1GvjYjIVoKM1uJJSSpyFuqeHA==" workbookSaltValue="gDgskOVbLYZ1L2TgiuN5Fw==" workbookSpinCount="100000"
lockStructure="1"/></bookViews><workbookView xWindow="-120" yWindow="-120" windowWidth="20640" windowHeight="11160" activeTab="2" xr2:uid="{00000000-000D-0000-FFFF-
FFFF00000000}"/></bookViews><sheets><sheet name="Sheet1" sheetId="1" r:id="rId1"/><sheet name="Sheet3" sheetId="3" r:id="rId2"/><sheet name="Sheet4" sheetId="4" r:id="rId3"/></sheets><ca.
calcId="191029"/><extLst><ext uri="{140A7094-0E35-4892-8432-C4D2E57EDEB5}" xmlns:x15="http://schemas.microsoft.com/office/spreadsheetml/2010/11/main"><x15:workbookPr
chartTrackingRefBase="1"/></ext><ext uri="{B58B0392-4F1F-4190-BB64-5DF3571DCE5F}"
```

Step- 6

- ❖ Save the file separately with the same name and then drag it to the actual archive and replace the original file



Step- 7

- ❖ Change Back the File Extension to xlsx and your sheet protection will be removed

test1.xlsx



DEMO



THANKS