Making a Worksheet “Very Hidden”

You probably already know how to hide a worksheet: Just right-click the sheet tab and choose Hide Sheet from the shortcut menu. And, of course, it’s just as easy to unhide a sheet: Right-click any sheet tab and choose Unhide from the shortcut menu. (You see a list of all hidden sheets.)

To make it more difficult for the casual user to unhide a hidden sheet, make the worksheet “very hidden.” Here’s how to do it:

1. Make sure that the Developer tab of the Ribbon is displayed.
   By default, this tab is not displayed. To turn on the Developer tab, access the Excel Options dialog box (choose File ➜ Options), click the Customize Ribbon tab, and place a checkmark next to Developer, in the listbox on the right.

2. Activate the sheet you want to hide.

3. Click Developer ➜ Controls ➜ Properties to display the Properties window (see Figure 1).

4. In the Properties window, click the Visible property to display a down-arrow button; click the button to display a drop-down list and select 2 -xlSheetVeryHidden.

After performing these steps, you find that you cannot unhide the sheet by using any Excel command. In fact, you cannot even unhide the sheet by using the Properties window. The Properties window shows the properties of the active sheet. When a sheet is hidden, it’s never the active sheet.

Is the sheet hidden forever? Nope. To make the very hidden sheet visible again, you use a simple VBA macro. The macro listed here unhides Sheet2 of the active workbook (change the sheet name as appropriate):

```vba
Sub UnhideSheet()
    Worksheets("Sheet2").Visible = True
End Sub
```

Caution  Making a worksheet very hidden is not a security feature. Anyone who really wants to know what resides on a very hidden sheet can easily find out by using a macro such as the one listed here.