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## Tip Category: Functions

**Question:** Is there a tool that will show cells that are either dependant or preceding a particular cell, based on the formula?

**Answer:** Yes, using your Formula Auditing toolbar. This will allow you to visually see how the current cell affects others.

### Microsoft Excel 2003 process:

1. To activate the **Formula Auditing** toolbar
  - a. Select the desired cell
  - b. From the **Menu** bar, select **View, Toolbars, Formula Auditing**
2. To trace all cells **dependant**:
  - a. Select the desired **cell**
  - b. From the **Formula Auditing** toolbar, select **Trace Dependants**
3. To trace all cells that are **preceding**:
  - a. Select the desired **cell**
  - b. From the **Formula Auditing** toolbar, select **Trace Precedents**
  - c. If the **Preceding** cells are found on another worksheet, you will get a **dotted** line
  - d. **Double** click on the **dotted** line, select the **reference**, select **OK**
4. To remove all the **arrows**:
  - a. Select the desired **cell**
  - b. From the **Formula Auditing** toolbar, select **Remove All Arrows**

	A	B	C	X	Y
1	Check for Balance in Asset Note				
2	Total NBV	-4,093,677			
3	Total Impairment	95,187			
4		3,998,490			
5					
6					
7					
8					

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## Microsoft Excel 2007 process:

1. To trace all cells that are **preceding**:
  - c. Select the desired **cell**
  - d. From the **Formulas** tab, in the **Formula Auditing** group, select **Trace Precedents**
  - e. If the **Precedent** cells are found on another worksheet, you will get a **dotted** line
  - f. **Double click** on the **dotted** line, select the **reference**, select **OK**
2. To trace all cells **dependant**:
  - g. Select the desired **cell**
  - h. From the **Formulas** tab, in the **Formula Auditing** group, select **Trace Dependents**
3. To remove all the **arrows**:
  - i. Select the desired **cell**
  - j. From the **Formulas** tab, in the **Formula Auditing** group, select **Remove Arrows**

The screenshot shows the Microsoft Excel 2007 interface. The **Formulas** tab is active, and the **Formula Auditing** group is expanded. The ribbon includes buttons for **Trace Precedents**, **Show Formulas**, **Trace Dependents**, **Error Checking**, **Remove Arrows**, and **Evaluate Formula**. The worksheet below shows a formula in cell B2: `=SUM(NBV_End_Fin_Year_Before_Impairment)`. The formula bar shows the selected cell B2. The worksheet data is as follows:

	A	B	C	X	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF
1	Check for Balance in Asset Note											
2	Total NBV	-4,093,677										
3	Total Impairment	95,187										
4		3,998,490										
5												

Red arrows point from the **Trace Precedents** button to the dotted line in cell B2, and from the **Trace Dependents** button to the red arrows pointing to cells C2, C3, and C4. A red arrow also points from the **Remove Arrows** button to the red arrows pointing to cells C2, C3, and C4. A red arrow points from the **Remove all Arrows** button to the red arrows pointing to cells C2, C3, and C4. A red arrow points from the **Dotted Line Precedence** label to the dotted line in cell B2. A red arrow points from the **Dependants** label to the red arrows pointing to cells C2, C3, and C4.

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