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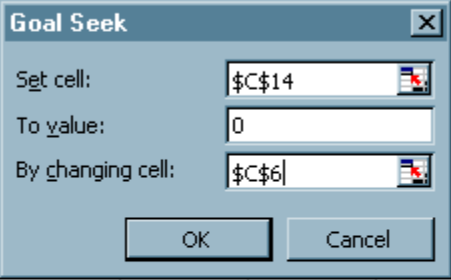
## Goal Seek

Goal seek allows the user to find a specific value for a cell included in a calculation by changing one other variable in the equation. It is a wonderful tool if you are trying to work through a what-if scenario. Something worth mentioning is that we have set up our equations so that it will work well for us because we thought out the equation ahead of time.

To use goal seek to determine breakeven based on number of units sold

1. Select the cell that you want to set for a specific value
2. Click Tools
3. Click Goal Seek
4. In the To Value: Type in the projected or target value

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1		<b>Using Goal Seek to Determine</b>					
2		<b>a Break Even Point</b>					
3		<b>CPA Calculators, Inc.</b>					
4							
5		<b>Price per Unit</b>	\$47.95				
6		<b>Units Sold</b>	75,000				
7		<b>Average Discount</b>	40%				
8		<b>Total Revenue</b>	\$2,157,750				
9							
10		<b>Costs per Unit</b>	\$12.63				
11		<b>Fixed Costs</b>	\$750,000				
12		<b>Total Costs</b>	\$1,697,250				
13							
14		<b>Profit</b>	\$460,500				
15		<b>Margin</b>	21.34%				

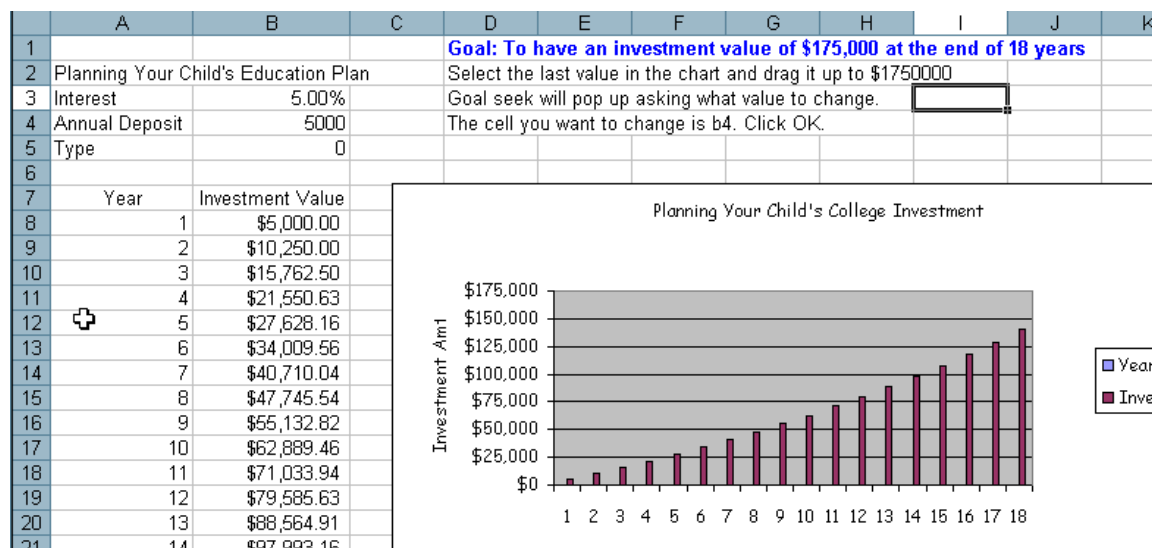
5. Select the cell that should change to attain the target value
6. Click OK
7. A dialog box appears and the number is actually changed in the spreadsheet

While Goal Seek has many uses it can be limited as the cell being changed - -in this the units sold must be a value –cannot contain a formula. Goal Seek finds a break even and we can see that the answer is actually 46,478 units.

**Tip:** You can also use Goal Seek in a chart to back into a number. We will take a look at that in a moment.

## Charting

Note: Unfortunately this does not work in Excel 2007!



If you select a data point in a chart and drag it up or down to another value, a Goal Seek dialog box will pop up and ask what cell it should change to achieve the value you have specified with the data point.

