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# Assistant

**When in assistant, I type in, 'show monthly sales by company for the last year,' it returns "Sorry, can't find any related columns." Q: How does the AI understand and interrupt what I am looking for? I am basing this on a DQM modelled sales data.**

The short answer is, Cognos has a built-in ontology that allows the AI to interpret questions like this. The reason you're getting this particular error is probably related to 'for the last year'. Currently, Cognos cannot understand categorical questions like 'last year'. However that is on the near-term horizon.

# Axis

**Can we edit axis titles without changing the field name?**

Yes, axis titles can be edited via an individual visualization's properties.

**Will it wrap in axis titles?**

No, axis titles do not wrap.

# Best Practices

**When do I create my dashboard ( lower-case 'd' ) with Dashboard ( upper ) v. Report Studio / Report Authoring?**

***(What \*can't\* I do in Dashboard that I can in the studio?)***

I tried to cover this a bit in the intro to the webinar, but my general guideline is to use Dashboards when you want to turn something around quickly, when you have users who aren't extremely picky, and for POCs. If I know I'm building something highly visual I will always start in Dashboards and only go to Reporting when my users force my hand with requirements that can't be satisfied in Dashboards.

Best Practices continued:

That said, the list of things you can do in Reporting but not in Dashboards is significant, so I wouldn't expect to be able to ditch Reporting just yet.

### **When start building a dashboard, do we start from a model, or existing report?**

Dashboards work on top of models the same way reports do, so you'd start a new dashboard from one of the following:

- Framework Manager package
- Data Module
- Transformer Cube
- Excel file
- Data set

### **What about public deployment, is Dashboarding ready for that? I'm asking mainly from a user interface perspective. For instance, is there a way to hide the filtering bar at the top and replace them with widgets within the dashboard instead?**

*(By public usage, I mean embedding into a web page used by the general public)*

Not precisely. In this specific case, your best option is just to ensure there is nothing in the filter bar for users to interact with. I did some digging though and I can't find an option to remove that entirely. This is a good request for an enhancement though.

### **What are common ways dashboards are consumed/accessed by end users?**

The most common consumption pattern is for users to log into the Cognos portal and view them there. We also have a number of customers who embed Dashboards in other portals - SharePoint, for example - or set them to refresh periodically and display them on screens in operations, manufacturing and call center facilities.

Best Practices continued:

### **Is Dashboarding like Tableau, PowerBI, etc.?**

Yes, basically.

## Charting

### **Is Gantt charting an option and does it have multiple features?**

There is no Gantt visualization at this time. There is a waterfall viz, which is similar but not precisely what you're asking for.

## Connecting Tabs

### **Can separate tabs on the Dashboard be both connected to each other and disconnected depending on the need?**

Separate tabs on a dashboard are by default independent of one another. If you want filtering functionality to carry across tabs, you can create a multi-tab filter at the top of the dashboard authoring screen. This was shown on the demo.

## Customization

### **Why can't I change the Font/Color/etc.? What are recent improvements to look and feel?**

In 11.1.x you have the ability to change fonts, colors, etc., which was not available in 11.0.x.

### **Custom sort and custom group in the Dashboard is great - is it reusable/exportable for other users to utilize when they author?**

Customization continued:

The custom grouping and sorting options showcased on the webinar are visualization specific, so they are not shared across dashboards or reports. You can do essentially the same thing in data modules however, which would then be available to all authors and users.

### **Can we wrap text?**

Title text and text objects will wrap. Axis titles will not.

## **Data Sources**

### **Can Cubes be used as a Data Source? With drill up and downs?**

Yes, cubes will drill up and down nicely in Dashboards.

### **If it was decided not to install sample data for Cognos where you work, is there somewhere you can go to get it to install in your MyFolder?**

The sample calendars are only available as part of the samples that come with Cognos. It would be easy enough to only import the calendar items, then move them to your Myfolders. If you don't have the ability to request that from your Cognos team let us know, maybe we can make something work for you.

### **What are some resources you would recommend for instruction on loading data from a database or other source other than an Excel or .csv file?**

There are a number of ways to go about this. Reach out to us at [contact@pmsquare.com](mailto:contact@pmsquare.com) and we can review options.

### **Our organization uses data packages. Do you need to build your data sets / excel spreadsheet from the data package?**

Data Sources continued:

You do not need to build data sets or excel files to use as sources for your dashboard - you can utilize the package directly. However if you want to simplify presentation or improve performance, building a data set on a package is an excellent option. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xeSwHa8vRJ4> for a deeper dive.

### **Is there a data definition type tool that would show the source of a data element through the framework?**

The only way to accomplish this right now is to add comments/tooltips that specify the source if you want to include more information than what is shown by default, which is the table, field and schema. All of this is accessible via the data element properties.

### **Can you build from multiple reports?**

Not currently, though this is a good idea.

### **Can we use a report as a source for a dashboard?**

Not currently, though this is a good idea that I've raised with IBM before.

## **Drill-Through**

### **Is it possible to drill from a Dashboard into a Report Studio Style report w/ passed parameters (to get more granular level data, for example)?**

Yes, you can drill through from a Dashboard to a report.

### **Are drill-throughs available in Dashboards?**

Yes, you can drill through from a Dashboard to a report.

Drill-Through continued:

**Sorry if this was already covered, I joined the call late. Was there any functionality changed with the dashboard drill-throughs? I have seen an issue where the drill-through button/icon does not always appear and was wondering if that has been improved.**

I wasn't aware of this issue - do you know if there is a defect logged with IBM? If so I can chase it down and see what the status is.

**Can we drill through to another dashboard?**

Currently drill through only functions when going from a Dashboard to a report.

## Mobile

**How is the mobile dashboard experience via the Cognos app?**

I would not rely on the Cognos app if you aren't using it today. There is a new app in development. In the meantime, Dashboards work out-of-the-box when accessed via a mobile browser.

## PowerPlay

**If I want a PowerPlay-esque experience, is Dashboards the right tool? Can it quickly slice/dice dimensional sources?**

There isn't really an option in Cognos today that replicates all of Power Play's strengths. For visual slice-and-dice I would use Dashboards. If you want to work within pivot tables/crosstabs I would use report authoring instead. IBM is investing development in this area and I expect to see significant enhancements in the future.

# Predictive

## **What does it mean by predictive strength of 12%? Does that mean that is about how accurate it is?**

It means that the value of field X appears to drive the variance in the value of field Y at a 12% confidence level. You can learn a lot more here:

[https://www.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/en/SSEP7J\\_11.1.0/com.ibm.swg.ba.cognos.ug\\_ca\\_dshb.doc/c\\_ca\\_advanced\\_dataanalytics.html](https://www.ibm.com/support/knowledgecenter/en/SSEP7J_11.1.0/com.ibm.swg.ba.cognos.ug_ca_dshb.doc/c_ca_advanced_dataanalytics.html)

# Prompts

## **I'd like to see how prompts work in this version, hopefully your demo has some?**

There are really two ways to do 'prompts,' neither of which are prompts in the classic Report Studio sense. The first is via the filters available at the top of the screen. Adding a data item to this section will create a search/drop down filter. The second is to add a data item to the dashboard directly, which functions in the same manner as a slicer in Excel/Power BI.

# Reporting

## **Can you open a Dashboard in Report Authoring?**

You cannot open it in report authoring, but you can copy visualizations from a Dashboard to Report Authoring.

# Scheduling

## **Can dashboards be scheduled / delivered like a report?**

No, they cannot be scheduled or delivered like reports.

## **Is there a way to schedule automatic refreshes of dashboards?**

Not precisely. Dashboards fetch the latest data at runtime. If you want to mimic the scheduling capabilities of Reports, I would build a Dashboard on a Data Set and schedule the data set to refresh. That way any time the Dashboard is viewed, it will pull from the same scheduled data.

# Security

**We have a problem with dashboards and security. We have enabled the create dashboard ability for our business super users, however that means if we as IT create a dashboard, and it contains summarizations of sensitive data that we don't have security to see the details of, if they can see the dashboard, because they have dashboard editing ability, they can see the details that feed the dashboard. The only way around it we can see is to create a summarized dataset that we use for those dashboards, with data that they do have security for.**

I think the best way around this would be to build a data module that uses the data module security and 'hide from users' functionality to embed the sensitive logic in hidden data items. These hidden data items can be utilized in dashboards but will not be visible to end users.

# Sharing

## **Any new sharing or embedding features for dashboards?**

In the 11.1 release, you have the ability to share directly to Slack.

# Sorting

## **In a dashboard, can I sort from an item that's not in the dashboard?**

*(Months are Alpha Numeric in Dashboard but sort by Month Key.)*

Yes, all items in dashboards have a 'sort options' feature that can be reached via the data item properties.

# SQL

## **Can I get to the SQL in Dashboards as I can in RS?**

No.

# Values

## **Is it possible to see the values as percentages?**

Yes, you can choose to show values as percentages.

# Version

## **Are you using version 11.1.2?**

Yes, the demo was on 11.1.2.

# Visualizations

## **Can one dashboard include visualization created from different model?**

Yes, a single dashboard can contain visualizations from multiple models.

## **Can we use visualizations created in Jupyter Notebook?**

Yes, there is a new 'advanced' widget type that will allow you to insert text, tables or visualizations from Jupyter in a Dashboard.

# Workspace

## **Does dashboards are replacing workspace reporting?**

Basically, yes. Dashboards don't function in exactly the same manner as Workspace but they fill the same niche in the Cognos ecosystem while being much easier to use and maintain.

# Thrive

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## Feature Overview

- Metrics View Dashboard
- Utilization Leaderboard
- Analytics Feature Utilization
- Environment Monitoring
- Reporting
- Adoption
- Data Sources
- Licensing Utility
- Issue Tracker Utility

## About Thrive

Thrive is an IBM certified solution that transforms audit data into measurable, meaningful, and actionable insights about your Cognos environment. [Learn More](#)

## About the Trial

Start your free trial and get unlimited access for 30 days. After the trial ends, you still get access to many of the features for free.