

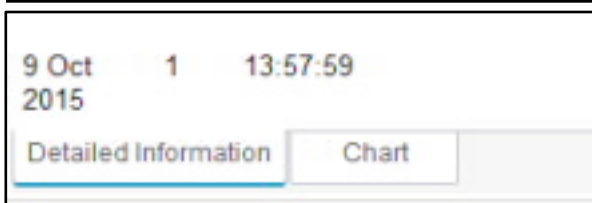
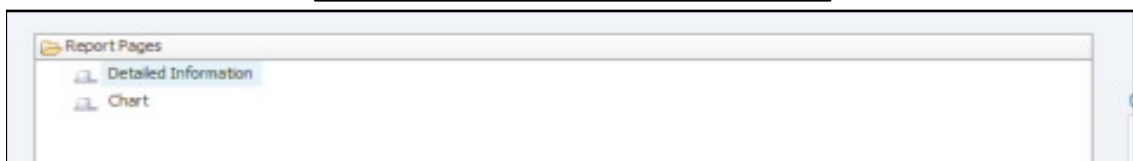
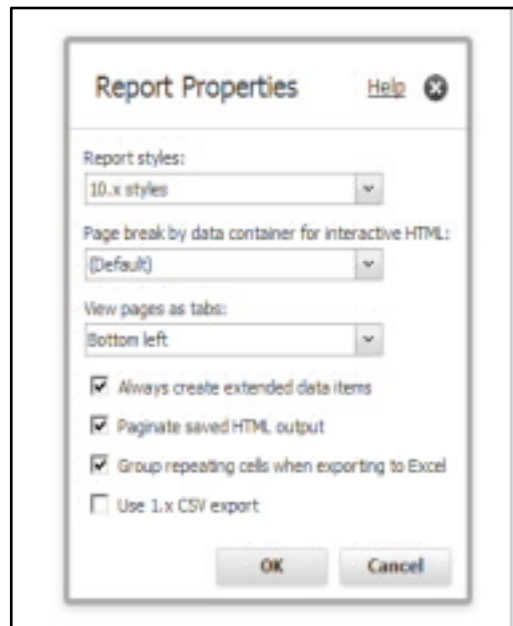
Are You Using the Cognos 10.2.2 Top Tools?

Cognos 10.2.2 has been available for just over a year now, having been launched in October 2014. Cognos 10.2.2 offers many features to improve the user experience especially around ease of use, greater efficiency, and quicker and easier deployment which enables a faster time to value for the business.

Working with Triangle customers using Cognos 10.2.2, we'd like to share with you the top 16 tools that have proven of value to our customers. Are you using them?

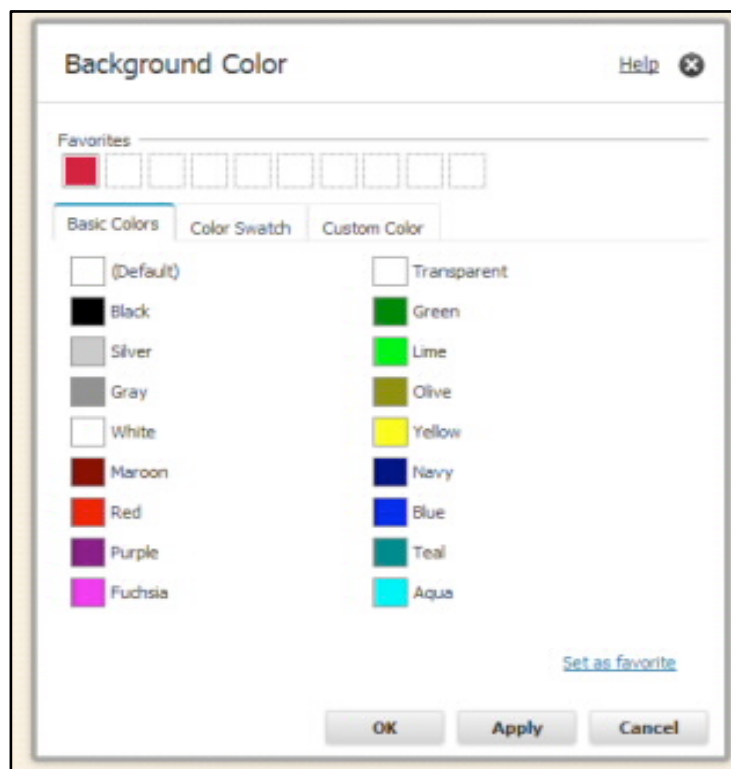
1. Multi Tabbed Reports

Multi tabbed reports are now available in Cognos Report Studio. This is particularly useful when creating multi paged reports. This is not turned on by default and needs to be turned on using the report properties. This is a vast improvement than the current method of using 'page down'. The one limitation is that the tabs can only be shown in the bottom left or top left.



2. Colour Favourites

Cognos Report Studio allows users to set custom colours as favourites. This will save developers from having to learn and enter commonly used colours. Cognos has been severely lacking this functionality and in a world of corporate colour schemes, colour favourites will be a minor but extremely useful addition.



3. Excel 2007 Dynamic Tabbed Output

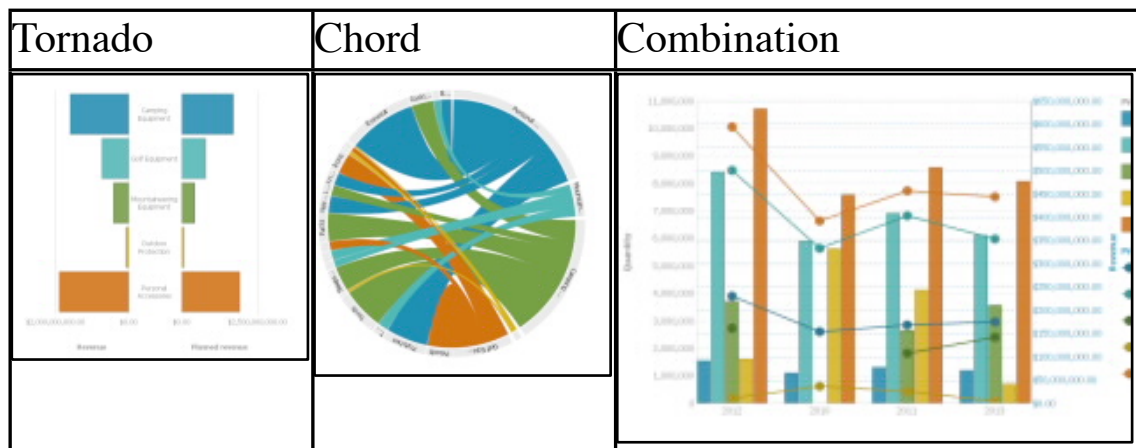
Cognos 10.2.2 allows dynamic tabbed output to Excel 2007 only. Previously Cognos would have taken the report page name and incremented a number at the end. Cognos 10.2.2 now allows dynamic tabbed output which will be extremely useful when using page sets. The frustration with this new functionality is that it is not enabled by default and needs to be turned on via an advanced system property.



4. RAVE

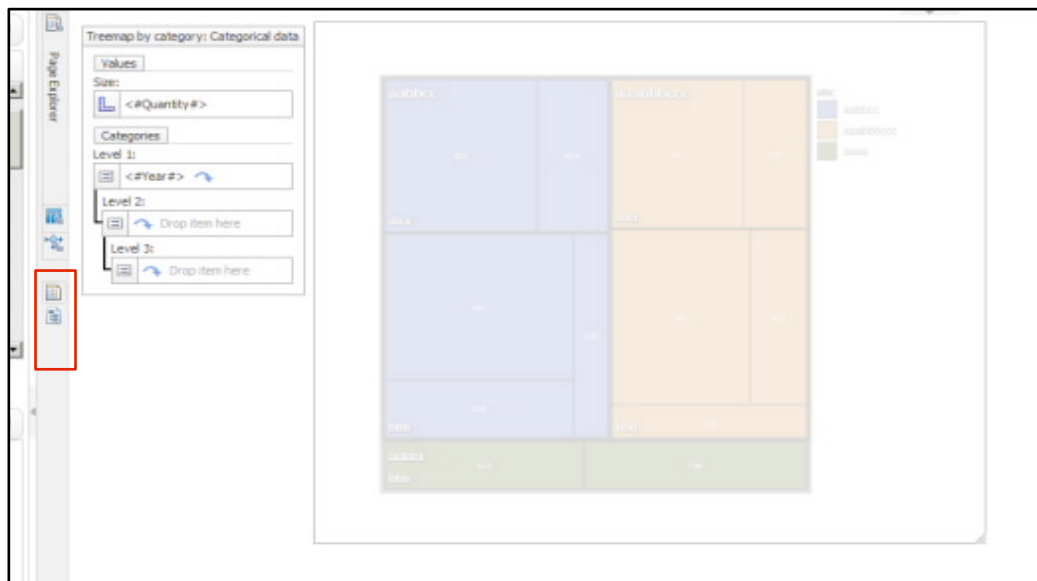
Cognos 10.2.2 has 3 new RAVE (visualization) chart types available. In addition to the 3 new chart types Cognos 10.2.2 allows optional category selections for the RAVE charts. Prior to Cognos 10.2.2 RAVE charts required all categories to be filled in, otherwise the chart would not run. Cognos 10.2.2 now allows optional categories.

A tree Map is a great example of where you may only want once category but in Cognos 10.2.1 the developer was required to use all three. Cognos 10.2.2 allows users to convert between different chart types as you can with the standard chart engine. This functionality has been tried on several occasions with varying degrees of success.



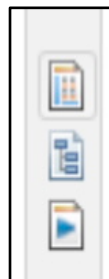
5. Report Studio Page Structure / Design Toggle

A toggle has been added into Report Studio allowing users to toggle between the Page Structure and Page design. This could previously be done from the View menu however there is now an icon easily accessible in the report Studio designer window. This is a very minor change but one that will aid developers.



6. Active Reports Preview

Cognos 10.2.2 allows you to preview active reports without having to run them. An active preview button has been added next to the Page Structure / Design toggles. This again is another change which will aid developers when developing active reports.



7. Active Reports HTML

Active reports in Cognos 10.2.2 can now be run in HTML format. This means users can view active reports in browsers that do not have MIME HTML (MHT) capabilities.

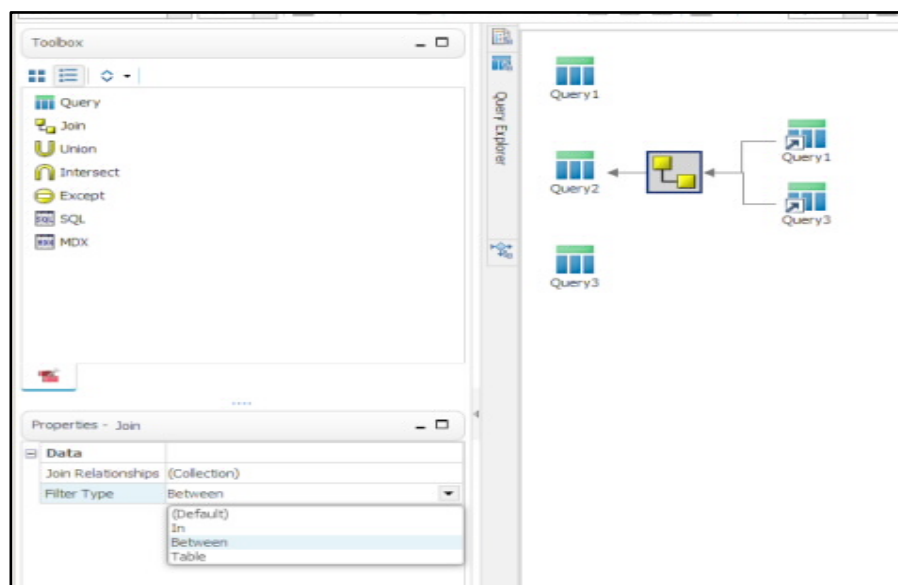
8. Framework Manager Bridge Query Subjects

Bridge query subjects are now available in Cognos 10.2.2. Previous versions of Cognos have struggled with Bridge joins as Cognos treats a many relationship as a fact. As a result a user would get unexpected results unless multiple joins were created in several layers.

Properties Language	
Security Filters	<Click to edit.>
Externalize Method	Default
Externalize Auto Summary	False
(DQM) Use In Join Path	False
(DQM) Order Of Magnitude	0
(DQM) Usage	Default
(DQM) Use Local Cache	Default
Status	Bridge
	Summary Query

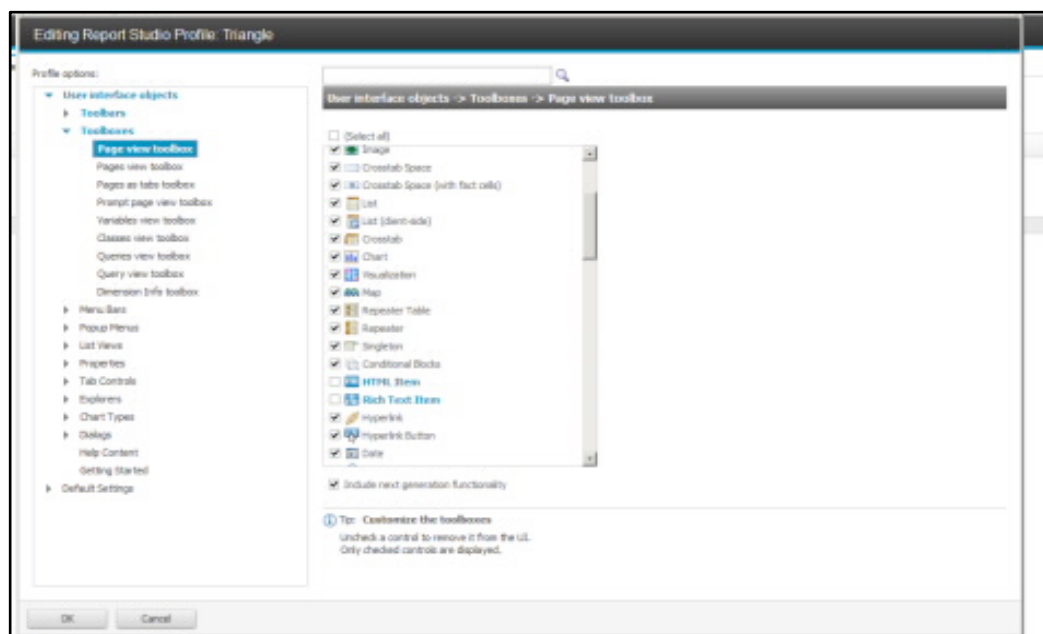
9. Report Studio Filter Join Optimization

Filter join optimization allows faster reporting by allowing data to be filtered in one query by the data retrieved in the other. This reduces the amount of data retrieved therefore increasing query performance. In fact, it has shown increases in performance up to 100 times in IBM Lab testing. This functionality is available in both Report Studio and Framework Manager.



10. UI Profiles

UI Profiles is one of the best new features available in Cognos 10.2.2. This tool allows users to customise both the Report Studio and Business Insight Advanced Studio interfaces to fit the user's needs and ability. It will also allow businesses to impose strategy by removing graphs or functions which they don't want developers to use. For example, you could remove certain chart types that don't clearly convey information or remove html items from the toolbox to prevent java script being used.

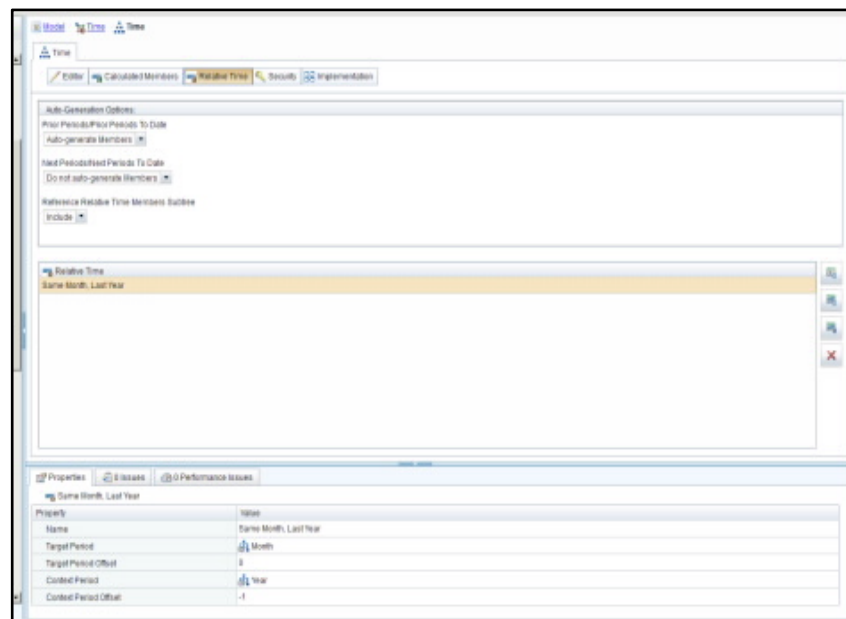


11. Dynamic Cubes Designer Enhancements – Relative Time

Since IBM released Dynamic Cubes Designer every release has seen some enhancements to the functionality, whether it be faster performance or being able to add filter your tables. This release is no different. Dynamic Cubes now allows relative time calculations similar to that of Transformer and PowerPlay. This functionality will be well received and is much needed for Dynamic cubes.

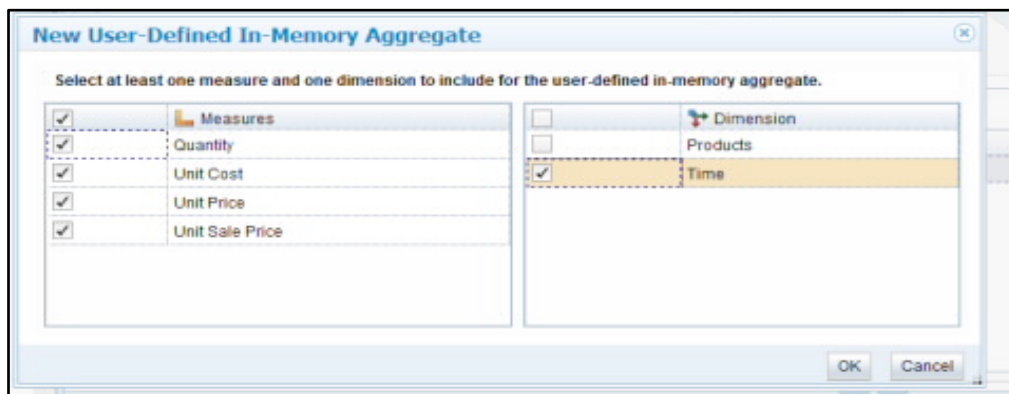
There are 3 new relative time options:

- New Custom Single Period Definition
- New Custom Period to Date definition
- New Custom N-Period Running Total Definition



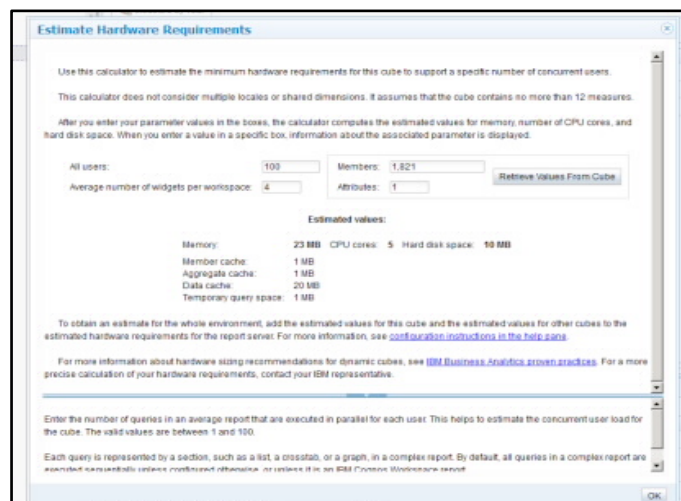
12. Dynamic Cubes Designer Enhancements – User defined in memory aggregates

Dynamic Cubes Designer now allows users to define in memory aggregates – another fantastic addition. A personal frustration in Cognos 10.2.1 was when a particular aggregation was not found when evaluating workload information. This will resolve this issue as it will allow users to define the aggregations themselves. One minor frustration with this new functionality is that the aggregate advisor still needs to be run, and only then, can the user defined in memory aggregates can be applied and saved into the content store.



13. Dynamic Cubes Designer Enhancements – Hardware Sizing Wizard

The hardware sizing wizard allows users to get an estimate of the hardware required for their dynamic cube. Previously this did not exist and developers/administrators would need to go through a sizing exercise. This new feature makes it easier to work out current and future hardware requirements.



14. Templates & Report Styles

Cognos Report Studio allows users to create style templates. Templates are created and then can be used as the basis of other reports. You can also use other reports as templates. This functionality will help maintain consistent standards across reports.



15. My Data Sets

My Data sets is a new feature that allows users to import Excel and .txt files into Cognos for more robust reporting and analysis. This feature is not to be confused with Manage External Data. The main differences are that it allows a much higher volume of data and will allow .txt file imports.

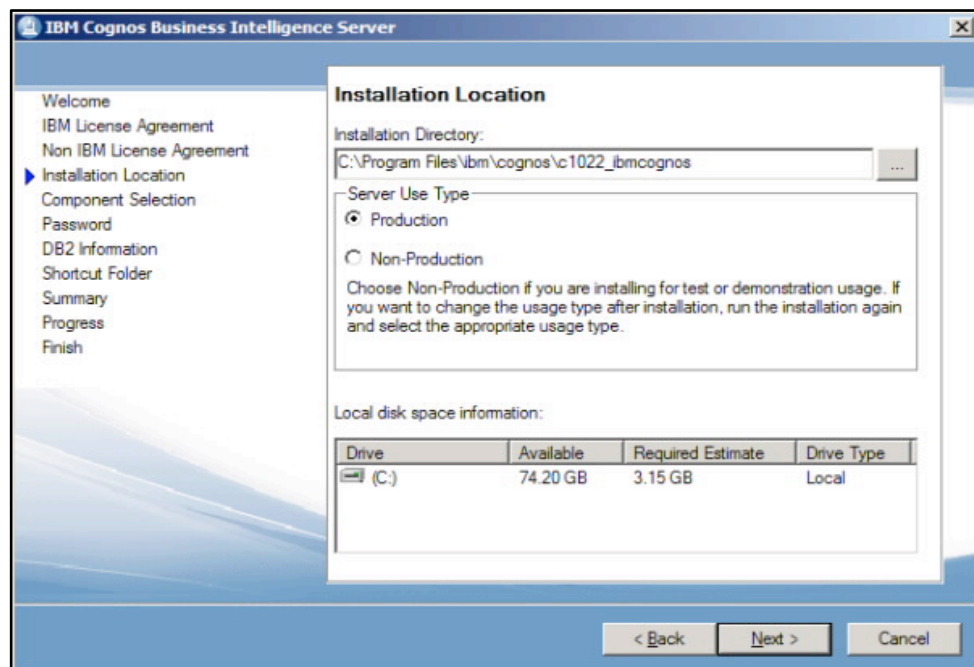
The data, once imported, resides on the Cognos server for as long as the administrator specifies and will reside in a standalone package rather than being integrated into an existing package. Once the data is imported it turns the source into a framework package making it available to the Cognos Studios for reporting.

There are two limitations to this functionality. Firstly, the purist in me finds BI tools constantly making features that allow business and users get away with poor data management. Secondly, currently this is only compatible with DB2. The data, once imported, is stored in a database which currently has to be DB2. There has also been some comments that this feature can be quite slow if you are not using DB2 BLU.

16. New Installation Option

Cognos 10.2.2 gives users two options when installing Cognos - Production and Non Production.

- Production is the standard installation we have been used to. It means the administrator/developer will need to configure the server once the software has been installed.
- Non production is quick set up/install and will auto configure Cognos.



Summary

These 16 top tools and features are not a complete list available in Cognos 10.2.2. They are the key changes along with a few useful functionalities that Triangle have found useful working with our customers.