QUICK START: Decision Support Overview

Introduction

The premise behind Decision Support is to provide information from data. It is meant to give a platform that is fast, flexible, and provides a means of getting answers to often asked business questions. In this quick start lab, we explore two components of Decision Support: Dashboards and Business Analytics.

Dashboard

Building off of the Data Mart included in Decision Support, the Dashboard allows for a highly configurable web application to monitor performance across all areas of the Logos application. The Dashboard is meant to be easy to use and configure with base functionality being self-explanatory.

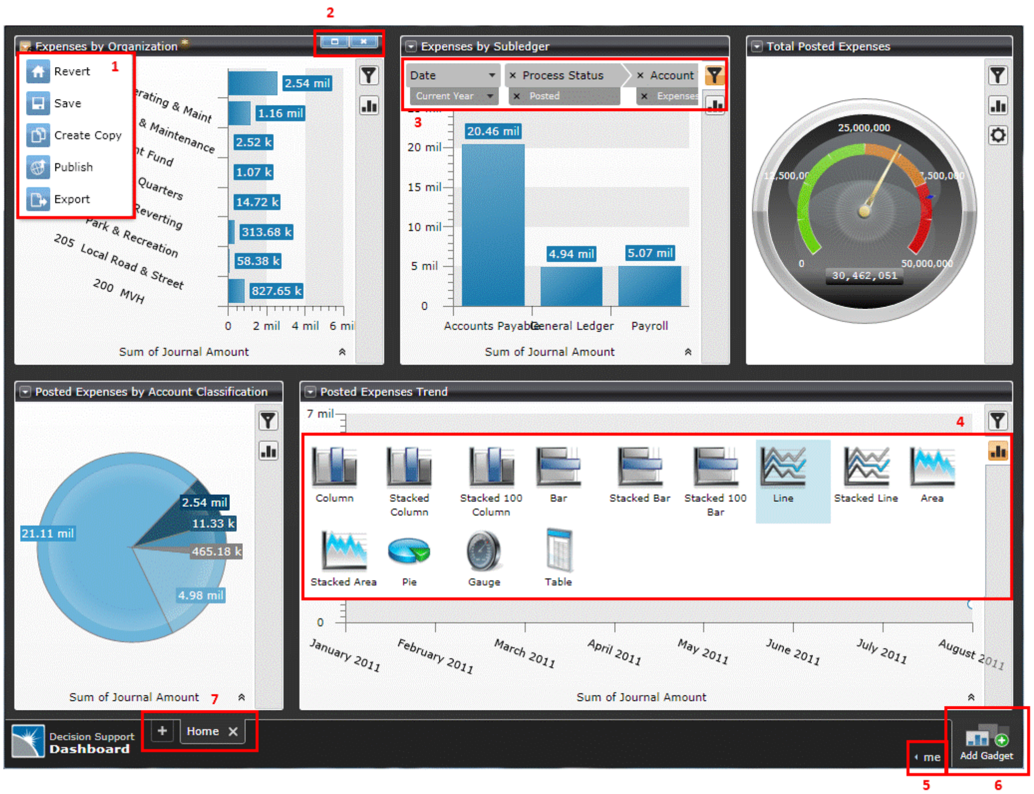


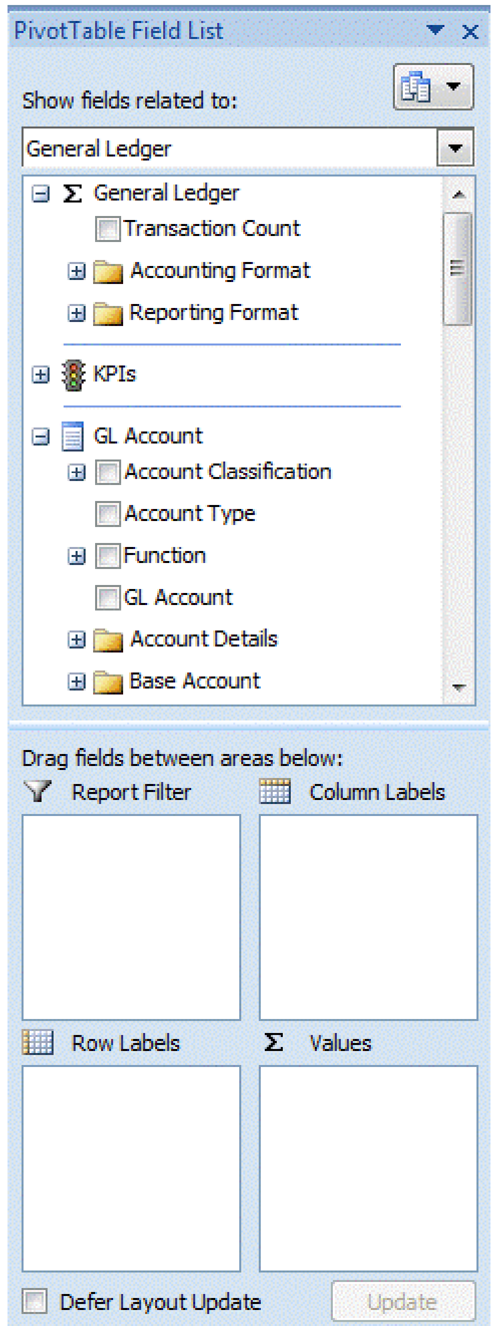
Image Key:
1. Save/Publish Gadget **2.** Maximize/Close Gadget **3.** Data Filter **4.** Data Visualization
5. Identity/Sign Out **6.** Add Additional Gadgets **7.** Multiple Tabs

Business Analytics

Basic Layout

Once connected to a cube, on the right-hand side of the Excel window the pivot table field is created. If available, select a measure group from the drop-down list to show related fields. To place fields in the pivot table, simply click the check boxes on the fields you want.

There are two types of information in the pivot table. Groups that are labeled with a sigma Σ icon designate things that are measured, like counts, sums, averages, etc. All pivot tables must include at least one measure. Groups that are labeled with a table icon are things that describe the measures.



Columns and Rows

To control what fields are found in columns are what fields are found in rows, drag fields from the pivot table list to one of the boxes in the lower right hand side of the window. Fields can be interchanged and placed where you wish.

Pivoting

To pivot on fields (in other words, interchange the order of fields to change perspectives), drag one field in front of another.

Filtering

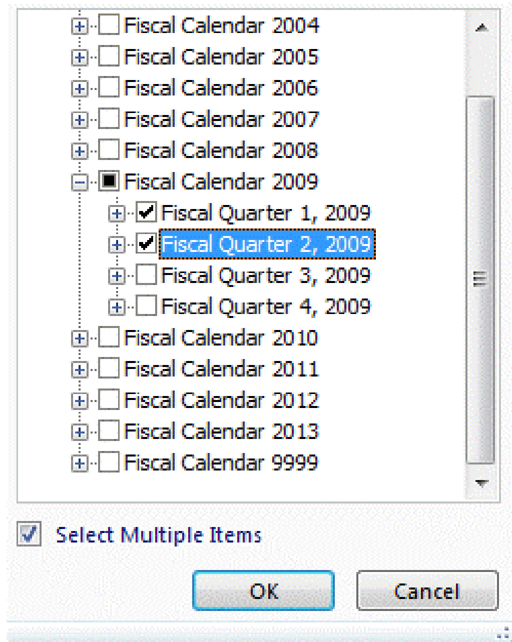
Filtering can be accomplished by dragging a field to the Report Filter area of the pivot table control area on the lower right. Above the pivot table, a filter is created that will allow you to modify the results of the pivot table.

Expand/Collapse

Anywhere on the pivot table where you see a plus indicator you can click on the plus to reveal additional levels of detail. Analytics includes attributes where additional hierarchies are available.

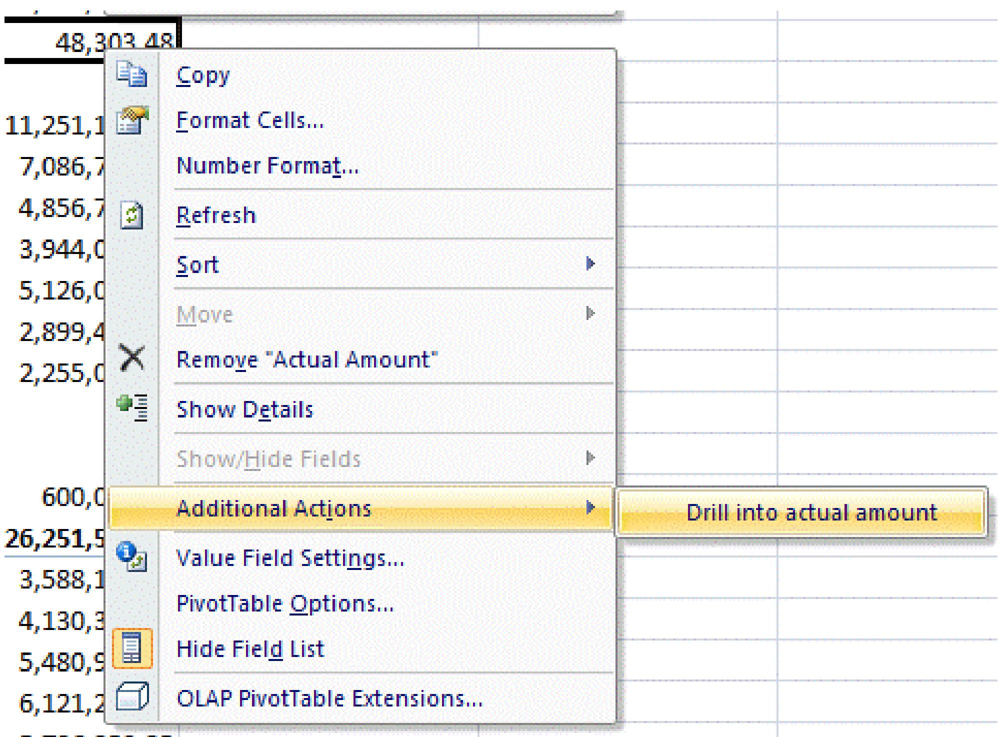
Date Hierarchy

Dates in analytics are comprised of hierarchies. When filtering on dates, clicking on the plus indicator ⊞ allows for filtering on different levels of detail as well as selecting multiple items together.



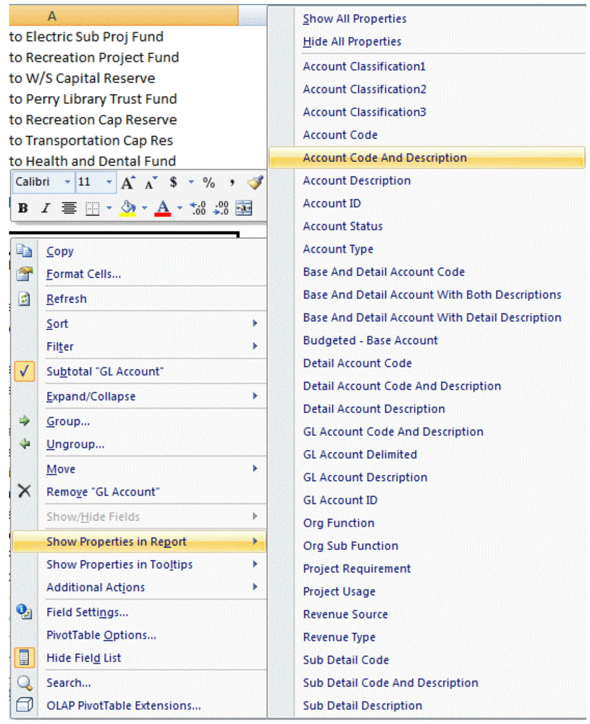
Drill-through

On certain measures, you are allowed to drill into underlying transactional detail by right-clicking on measure, selecting additional actions, and then selecting the appropriate option.



Dimension Properties

Dimension properties allow for including additional information about a particular attribute without grouping by that attribute. This means that detail can be added to the pivot table without creating multiple levels of subtotals for each detail. These attributes are located in the Properties folder in the dimension.



Graphing

To graph a pivot table, simply click the PivotChart button on the menu at the top of Excel. This will provide a menu of various types of charts that can be inserted at connected to the pivot table.