SAP BusinessObjects Dashboard Builder Content Linking

Applies to:

SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise XI 3.1, SAP BusinessObjects Edge BI 3.1, and Crystal Reports Server 2008 v1

Summary

This paper contains two quick tutorials how to link between two Dashboard Design analytics, and how to link between Dashboard Design analytics and Web Intelligence/Crystal Reports, using the Dashboard Builder content linking feature.

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Introduction

In SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise XI 3.1, SAP BusinessObjects Edge BI 3.1 and SAP Crystal Reports Server 2008 v1, the new Interportlet Communication (IPC) feature in Dashboard Builder allows the transfer of information between distinct analytics. Now you can pass parameters from a Dashboard Design (previously known as *Xcelsius*) analytic to Crystal Reports and Web Intelligence, and also between two or more Dashboard Design analytics.

Using the Dashboard Builder framework, this paper contains two simple tutorials how to link between:

- Two Dashboard Design analytics
- Dashboard Design and Web Intelligence/Crystal Reports

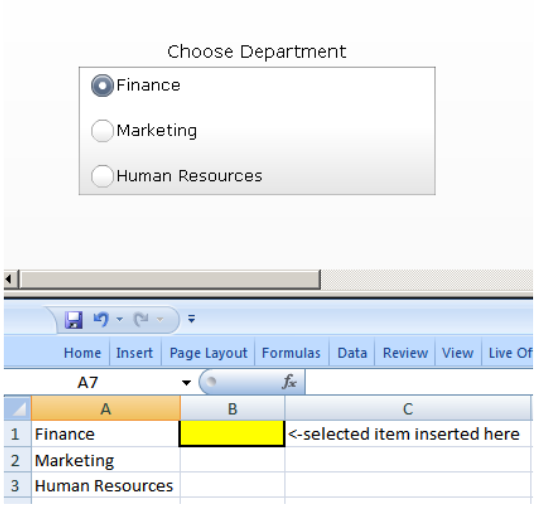
SWF to SWF (Content Linking between two or more Dashboard Design analytics)

A Dashboard Design analytic when used as a source document has to be configured with a Portal Provider Connection. The target analytic has to be configured with the Portal Consumer Connection.

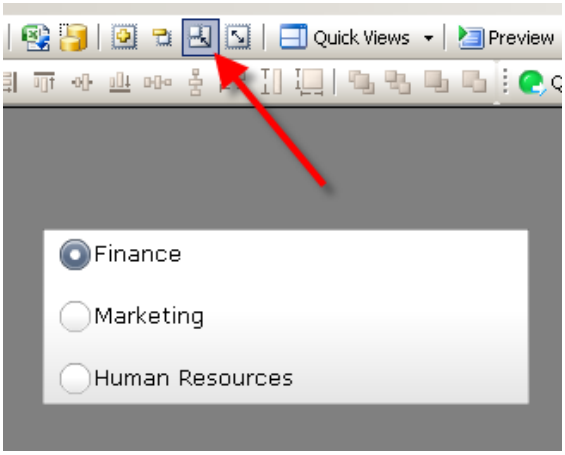
We will send parameter data between two analytics with the use of a simple example: sending information from a radio button selector in one analytic to populate a label component in another.

Create the Provider Analytic

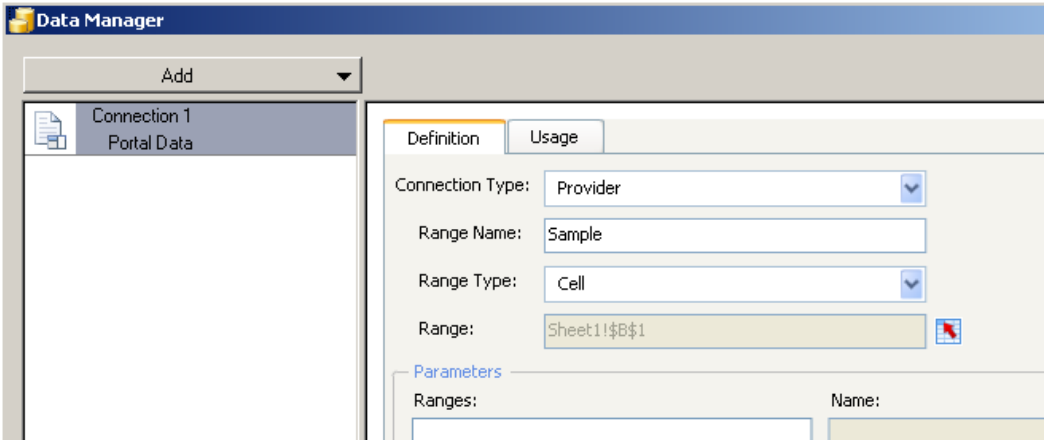
1. Create a radio button component in Dashboard Design. Enter some sample data in rows A1-A3 as below. Designate the location for the selected item (the B1 cell in the example).



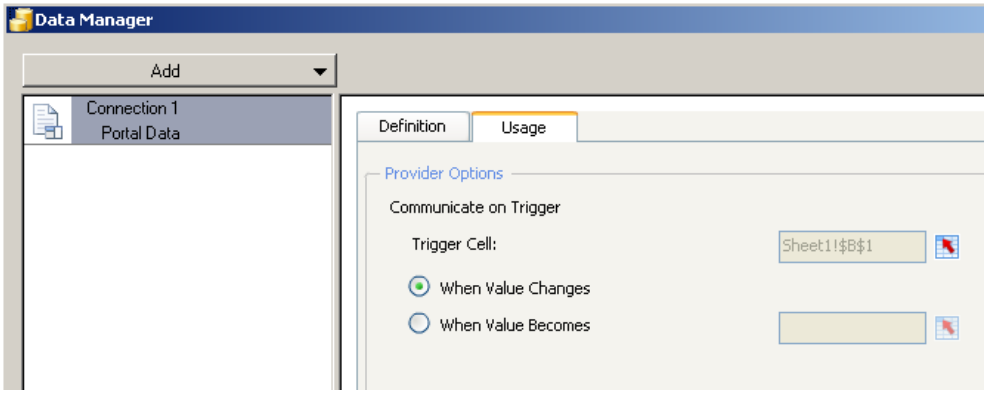
2. Click the **Fit canvas to components** icon in the toolbar.



3. Create a new Portal Data connection in the Data Manager. Choose **Provider** as connection type. Enter a name (e.g. “Sample”) for Range Name. Choose **Cell** for Range Type. Choose **B1** as the range.



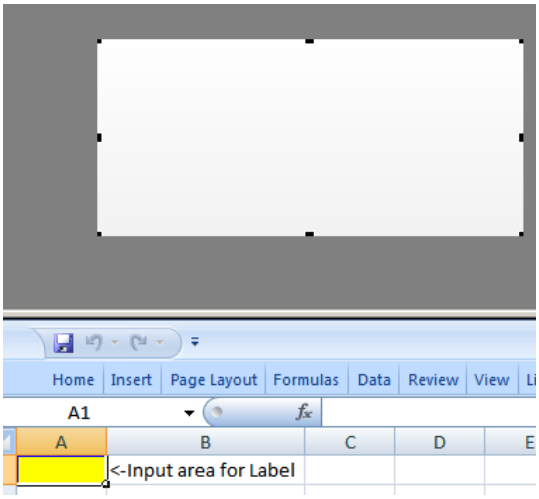
4. In the Usage tab for the Provider Connection, choose the **B1** cell for the Trigger Cell option. Select the **When Value Changes** option as well.



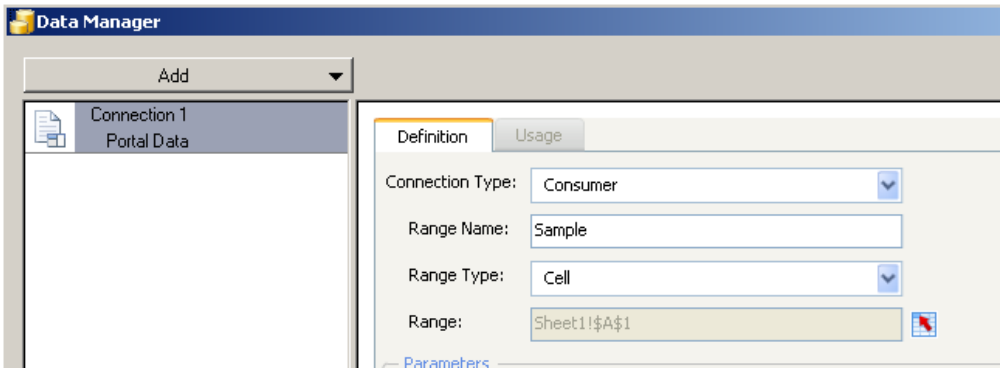
5. Save the XLF file and export the SWF file as “Provider” to a folder on your BusinessObjects platform.

Create the Consumer Analytic

1. Drag a Label component on to the blank canvas and designate the **A1** cell as the input area for the component (**Link to cell**). Then **fit canvas to components**.



2. In Data Manager, create a consumer “Portal Data” connection. Enter the same name as before for Range Name (e.g. “Sample”), Range Type “Cell”, and choose “A1” as range.

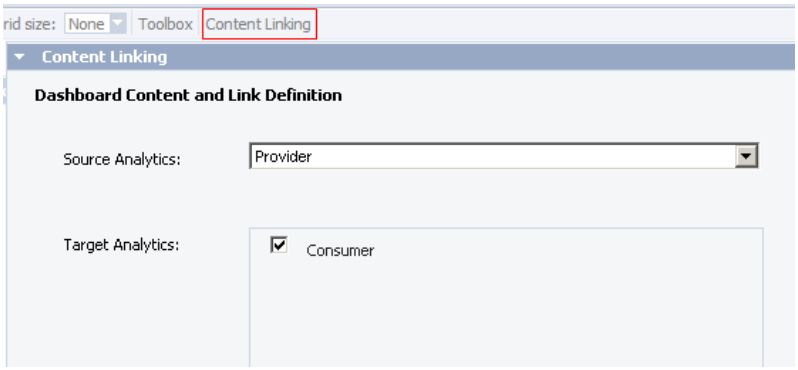


3. Save the file. Export the SWF as **Consumer** to your BusinessObjects platform.

Create dashboard with Content Linking

1. Log on to InfoView. Create a new Corporate Dashboard. Drag the Provider and Consumer analytics onto the dashboard.

2. Activate **Content Linking**. Choose the Provider analytic as the Source Analytics. Choose Consumer as the Target Analytics.



3. Save the dashboard. Test the content linking by choosing values in the radio buttons. The chosen department is displayed in the Consumer analytic.

SWF (Dashboard Design) to Crystal Reports and Web Intelligence

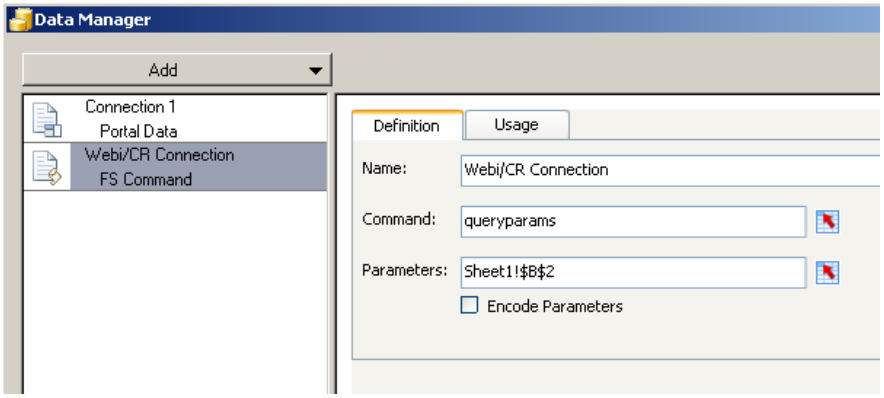
A Dashboard Design analytic used as a source document for Crystal Reports and Web Intelligence has to be configured with the FS Command connectivity. The parameters are then assembled in an **OpenDocument URL** by the Dashboard Builder framework. For more information about the OpenDocument syntax, please refer to Viewing Reports and Documents using URLs.

The connectivity between Dashboard Design and Crystal Reports and Web Intelligence is particularly interesting when summary data is displayed in the dashboard analytic, and a facility is provided for analyzing related details in a separate report.

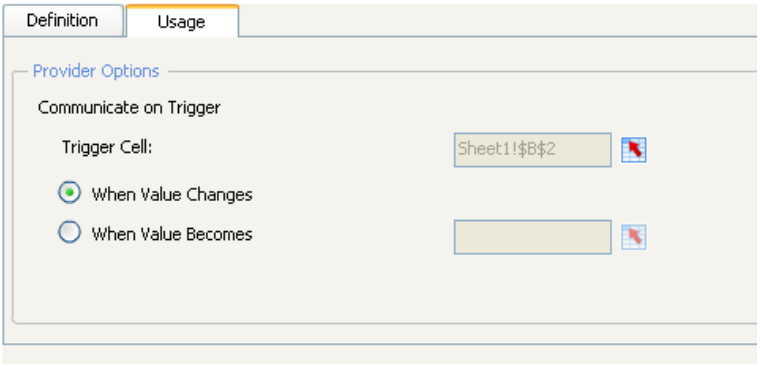
Create the Provider Analytic

1. Open the provider analytic created in the SWF to SWF tutorial above.

2. Add a new FS Command connection using the Data Manager. Enter a name for the connection, “queryparams”, for Command (required). Choose cell B2 for the parameter input.

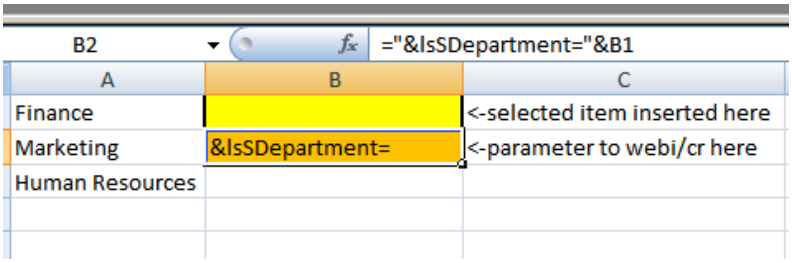


3. In the FS Command Usage tab, choose cell B2 as the trigger cell, “When Value Changes”.



4. A single parameter is sent to a target Webi or Crystal report. The parameter name will be “Department”. Adhering to the OpenDocument syntax (as mentioned in the introduction), the parameter name will be **lsSDepartment**.

   Create a formula in cell B2 which concatenates the value from B1 with “&lsSDepartment=” as follows: ="&lsSDepartment="&B1



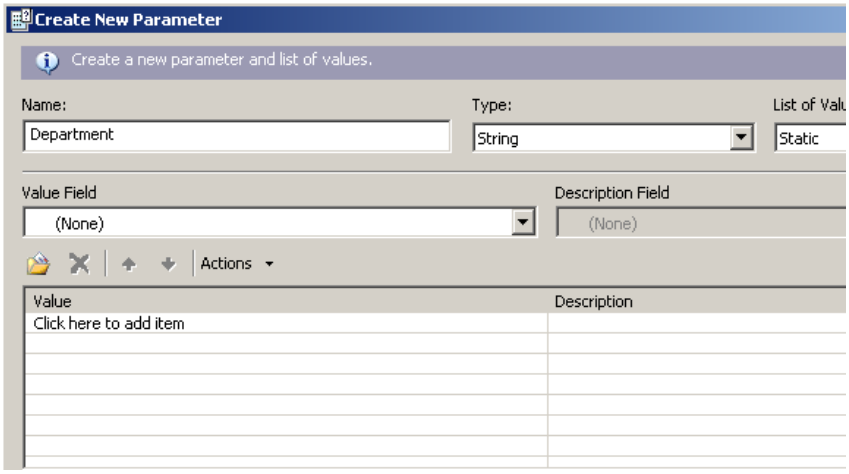
5. Save the analytic back to the BusinessObjects platform.

Create the Target Report

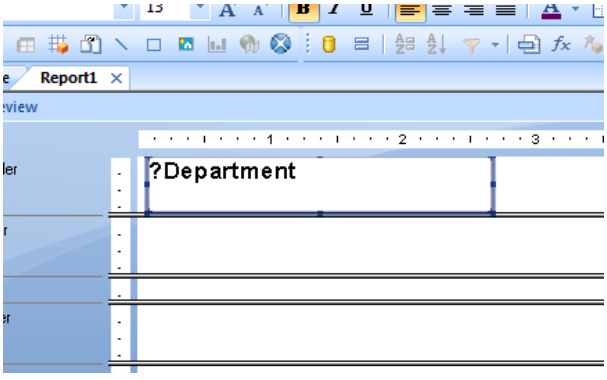
Using either Web Intelligence or Crystal Reports, create a report which receives a parameter called Department and displays the input back to the user.

Crystal Reports

1. In Crystal Reports, create a blank report and create a static parameter called Department.



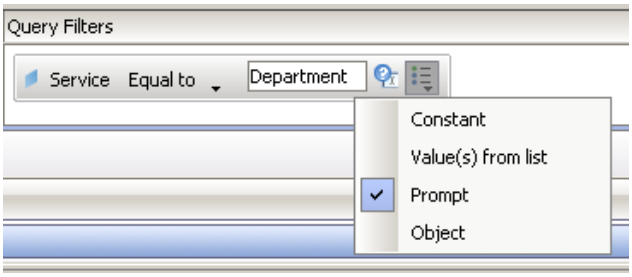
2. Drag the parameter onto the report to display the user input.



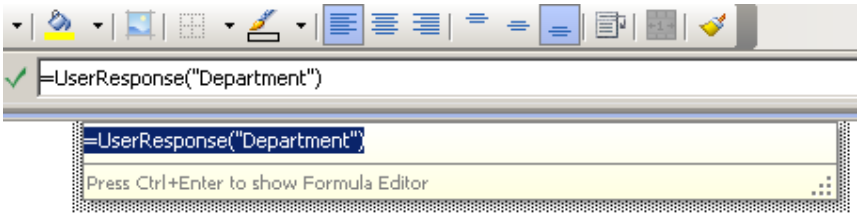
3. Save the Crystal Report to the BusinessObjects platform.

Web Intelligence

1. In Web Intelligence, create a new document with a prompt called “Department”.



2. Display the prompt on the report in a blank cell using the **UserResponse()** function.



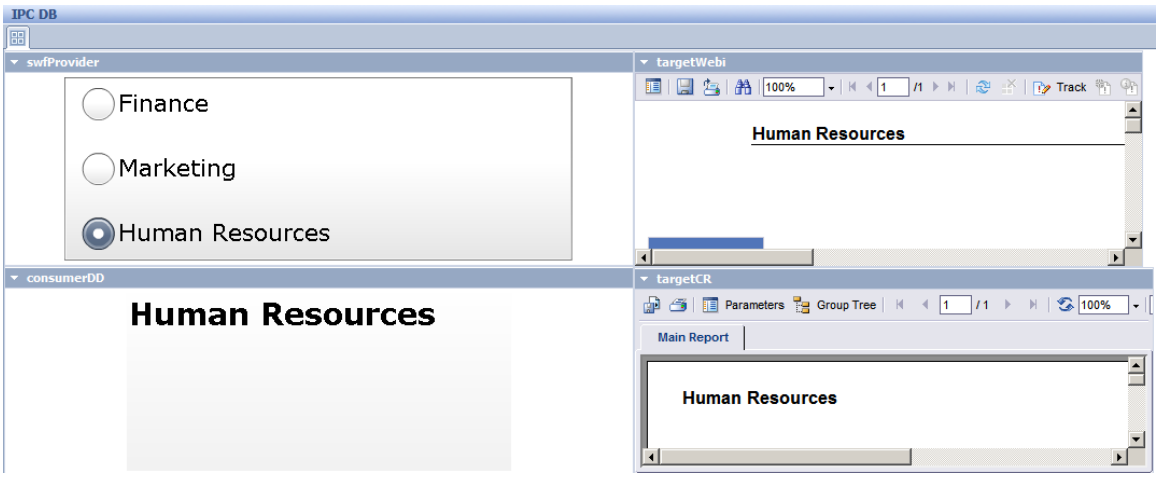
3. Save the Webi report to the BusinessObjects platform.

Create Dashboard with Content Linking

1. Log on to InfoView. Create a new Corporate Dashboard. Drag your **Provider** and **Consumer** analytics onto the dashboard.

2. Activate **Content Linking**. Choose the Provider analytic as the Source Analytics, and Consumer Webi, Crystal and DD analytics as the Target Analytics.

3. Save the dashboard. Exit edit mode. Test the content linking by choosing values in the radio buttons. The chosen department is displayed in the Consumer analytic.



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