How to Use Cell Definition to Calculate Incentive of Salesmen

Applies to:
SAP BW 3.5 & BI 7.0. For more information, visit the Business Intelligence homepage.

Summary
In this Article we will try to understand the function “Define Cells” in BEx Query designer and use it for calculating the incentive of salesmen depending on sales. This can be done in many other ways, but here we will calculate this by using the function “Define Cells”. By this we can understand the use of “Cell Definition”.

The article assumes prior knowledge on structures in reports and provides an exhaustive solution replete with screenshots for clear understanding.

Author: Aravind Gunta
Company: Mahindra Satyam Computer Services Ltd.
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Author Bio
Working as a BI consultant with MahindraSatyam Computer Services Ltd. Skill set includes SAP Business Intelligence.
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Introduction

In this Article we will discuss on how to calculate the incentive of salesmen using the function “Define Cells” in BEx Query Designer. This can be done in many other ways, but here we will calculate this by using the function “Define Cells”. By this we can understand the use of “Cell Definition”.

Here we will discuss this using a simple scenario.

Business Scenario

Let’s take the scenario of sales report, in this sales report we want to show the incentive earned by a salesman. Whenever a salesman sells any product he will get some incentive, the incentive will depend on the product sold by him and the incentive will change for each product sold by the salesman.

Let’s take some products Product A and Product B. When the salesman sells Product A, he should get an incentive of 4% on the sale of that product and when he sells Product B then the salesman should get an incentive of 8% on the sale of that product. That means depending on the Products sold by the salesman the % of the incentive is going to change.

Let’s consider that the salesman sells Product A which is of cost 100 INR, then the incentive for the salesman is 4% i.e. he should get 4 INR as incentive. If the salesman sells Product B which is of cost 100 INR, then the incentive for the salesman is 8% i.e. he should get 8 INR as incentive.

The Result

When the Incentive Report is executed, the Incentive report will also contain the column “salesman incentive” showing the incentive earned by the salesman based on the products sold by him. The incentive of the salesman will change based on the products sold by him.

Solution

Use the function “Define Cells” in the BEx Query Designer.

To achieve the above required result, we are going to use the function “Define Cells” in the BEx Query Designer. By using the function “Define Cells” in BEx Query Designer we will calculate the incentive earned by a salesman. Here we will calculate the incentive earned by the salesman depending on the cost of the Product and the % of incentive on that Product.
Step By Step Procedure

1. Create a Sales Data Target

Create a data target with Product ID, Salesman ID and Calendar Day as key fields and Product Cost, Quantity Sold, Incentive Percentage and Calendar Year/Month in the data fields.

We have taken Calendar Year/Month to get the monthly salesman incentive details. Below is the screen shot of the data target.

Load data into the sales data target, this data can be viewed in the active data table of the DSO. Here we can see that the Incentive Percentage changes for each Product. Now based on this data we need to calculate the Incentive earned by the salesman.
2. Create a Query based on the sales data target

Go to the Query designer and create a Query based on the DSO created. Based on our scenario let’s take the Salesman ID, Product ID and the Incentive Percentage in the Rows and Product Cost and Quantity sold in the Columns as below.

3. Go with the Function “Define Cells”

Based on our Scenario, we will now go with the function “Define Cells” and calculate the Incentive earned by a salesman.

Before going with “Define Cells”, we need to take care of some prerequisites:

Prerequisites

The query contains two structures. You can define exception cells only for queries which have two structures. You can use one structure for characteristic values and key figures for the other. You can then define cells if these prerequisites have been met.

Information

A cell is the intersection between two structural components. The term Cell for the function Defining Exception Cells should not be confused with the term Cell in MS Excel. The formulas or selection
conditions that you define for a cell always take effect at the intersection between two structural components. If a drilldown characteristic has two different characteristic values, the cell definition always takes effect at the intersection between the characteristic value and the key figure.

Now we need to maintain a structure in the Rows as shown below. Once the structure is maintained in both Rows and Columns we get the option “Define Cells” enabled.

Below we can see the initial screen of the function “Define Cells”.
To calculate the incentive earned by the salesman we are going to use the formula:

\[ \text{Incentive} = \frac{(\text{Product Cost} \times \text{Quantity Sold}) \times (\text{Incentive Percentage} / 100)}{100} \]

If we directly try to create a formula in the cell definition then we will not be able to use all the required fields for the calculation. So here we will go with the option “Help Cells”
Help Cells

Choose **Help Cells**, if you require additional cells for help selections or help formulas. You can use the functions **New Selection** and **New Formula** in the context menu to define help cells that are not displayed in the query to serve only as objects for help selections and help formulas.

Here we will use both New Selection and New Formula in our case. This can be seen in the below screen shot.

First we will use the option New Selection in the Help Cells. Here we will select the Product Cost and the Quantity Sold, as these are required for further calculations.

Drag and Drop Product Cost and maintain description.
Drag and Drop Quantity Sold and maintain description.

Now we will use the option New Formula in the Help Cells. Here we will calculate the “Total sale”.

Formula: **Total Sale = (Product Cost * Quantity Sold)**
Use ‘NODIM Function’

While using “Product Cost” and “Quantity Sold” in formula we are going to use the Data Function ‘NODIM’, as the units of “Product Cost” and “Quantity Sold” are different we will not be able to use them in a formula without this function.

Now we got the “Total Sale”. We need to calculate the Incentive Percentage now. As Incentive Percentage is maintained as Characteristic we will not be able to use this in the formula.
How to use characteristic in the Formula.

To use the characteristic in the formula create Variable based on that characteristic.

**Type of Variable:**  Formula.

**Processing Type:**  Replacement Path.

As shown in the below screen shot.
Create a formula for Incentive Percentage.

**Formula:** Incentive Percentage = (Incentive Percentage / 100)

Here we are going to use the Variable created on the Characteristic in the formula to get the Incentive Percentage.

The Cell definition window will look as below after the Help Cells are defined.
The cell definition always takes effect at the intersection between the characteristic value and the key figure.

We need to take a new selection for the Key Figure, this will act as the column to display the Salesman Incentive.

The query will be as below.
Now goto the function “Define Cells”, here we will create a formula to calculate the Salesman Incentive. Right click on the new column and select “New Formula”.

Formula to calculate Salesman Incentive:

**Formula: Salesman Incentive = (Total Sales * Incentive Percentage)**

This formula will work at the intersection of the character and the keyFigure.
The final Cell Definition is shown in the below screen shot.

Go to the query and execute.
In this way we can use the function “Define Cells” depending on our requirement.
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