ask the EXPERT

Live Q&A. New topics each week.

Session Recap

Session Topic: SAS® Visual Analytics Viewer
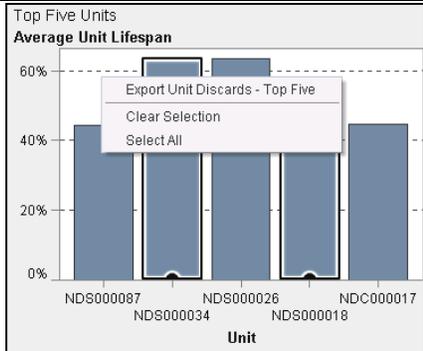**Session Date:** 10NOV2014
Recording: http://support.sas.com/training/us/lw/lwrecord.hsql?date=10Nov14&ccode=19884

This session recap includes the Q&A from the session. Additional information and links to more detailed content are included.

Don't forget to register for additional Ask the Expert: SAS Visual Analytics sessions.
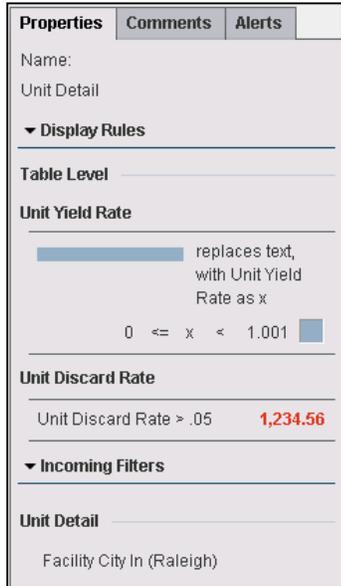

SAS Visual Analytics Toolkit

- Product Overview
- Getting Started Resources
- Try the Software Yourself
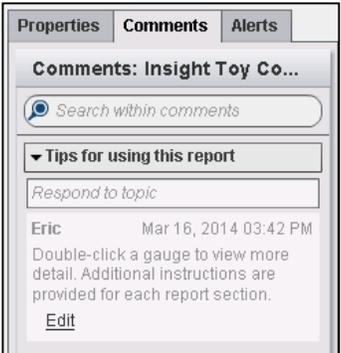- Community

- Free Video Tutorials
- Documentation
- Training

Question:	*When I click an item in a report such as a bar or a row in a table, it becomes selected. How do I deselect it?*

Answer:		You can clear all selections by right-clicking and selecting **Clear Selection**. If you hold down the Ctrl key, the item that you click will become selected or deselected. You can use this method to select several items at the same time.
Additional Information:	When no items are selected, the pop-up menu includes an option to select all. You can click and drag your mouse pointer over several items to quickly select a group of values.	

Online Documentation	Videos	Technical Papers
• User's Guide: Interacting with Reports in the Viewer	• Get Started with SAS Visual Analytics Viewer	

Question:	*Can you explain why I would want to use the tabs that can be displayed at the right side of the report?*
Answer:	Clicking the arrow on the right side of the report enables you to expand the Right pane. The Right pane includes the Properties, Comments, and Alerts tabs. You can click and drag the handle to set the size of the Right pane. Clicking the arrow expands and collapses the Right pane.

The Properties tab displays information about the selected report object or the report if no object is selected. Display rules and filter information are also displayed.

Depending on role-based capabilities, you can view, edit, and reply to comments using the Comments tab.

If an alert has been defined for the selected report object, you can use the Alerts tab to manage your subscription to the alert.

Additional Information:	

Online Documentation

- User's Guide: Add Comments to a Report in the Viewer
- User's Guide: Subscribe and Unsubscribe to Alerts

Videos

- Get Started with SAS Visual Analytics Viewer

Technical Papers

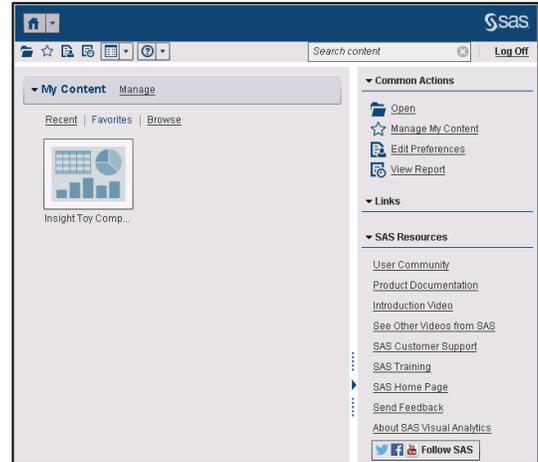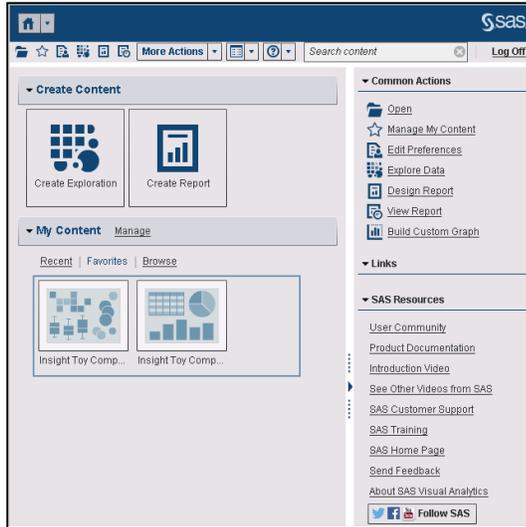| Question:	*I have to expand the Right pane every time I view my report. How can I have this pane displayed when the report opens?*
Answer:	The status of the Right pane is not saved with the report. Each time the report opens, the Right pane will be collapsed.
Additional Information:	

Online Documentation   Videos   Technical Papers

Question:	When I log on to Visual Analytics, I see only the My Content section and my reports. A coworker of mine has the ability to create new content. Why do we see different things?
Answer:	The ability to view and interact with the different parts of Visual Analytics is controlled by role-based security. Your administrator has the ability to control who has access to the various features and functionality.

This user, an analyst, belongs to the Analysis role. This role provides the capability to create data explorations and build reports. They can also build custom graph objects.

This user, an information consumer, belongs to the Report Viewing role. This role provides the capability to view existing reports.

Additional Information:	Role-based security is controlled by the administrator. The example above references default settings.

Online Documentation

- User's Guide: About the Availability of Menus and Menu Selections in SAS Visual Analytics
- User's Guide: Overview of SAS Visual Analytics Capabilities

Videos

- Get Started with the SAS Visual Analytics Home Page

Technical Papers

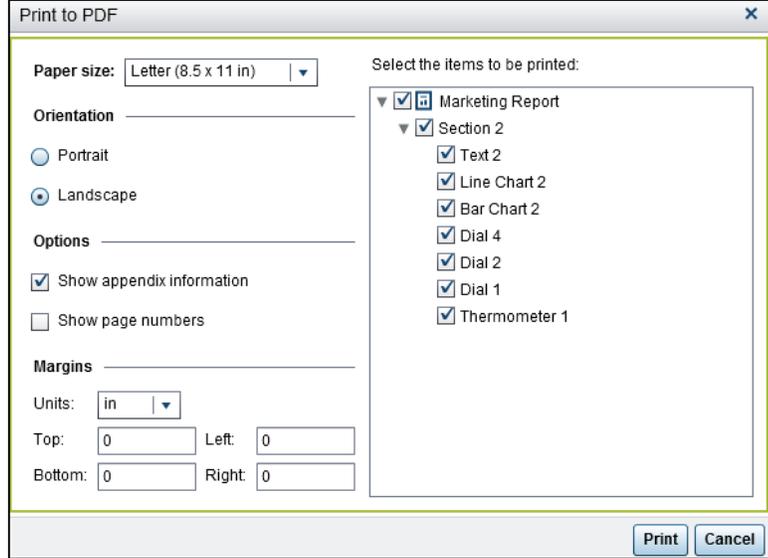| Question:	*I noticed a little square icon in the upper right corner when viewing reports. What is this for?*
Answer:	The square icon is used to hide and unhide the banner. Hiding the banner provides more space for report objects to be displayed.
Additional Information:	

Question:	*Printing is listed as "pre-production". What does that mean?*
Answer:	Printing in the Designer has not been fully implemented in the 6.4 release. Pre-production features provide limited functionality that might change in a future release.
Additional Information:	The 7.1 release provides the ability to be printed to a PDF and provides settings to control what is printed and how it is displayed.

Question:	When I select Refresh Report from the File menu, the report is redisplayed but the data values are unchanged. What's going on?
Answer:	When you open a report, the report objects are created immediately from the data stored in the LASR memory. Selecting **Refresh Report** also re-creates the report objects from the data in the server. The only time you will see changes in the data values is when there are changes to the data in the server. Many organizations update data on a daily, weekly, or monthly schedule and not throughout the work day.
Additional Information:	

Online Documentation	Videos	Technical Papers
• User's Guide: Working with Data Sources in a Report		

Question:	How can I edit or delete a comment that I've already posted?
Answer:	The actions that you can perform with comments are controlled by role-based security. Most users can view and reply to comments as well as edit their own comments and replies. In most organizations, only a limited number of users can delete comments. That action is usually reserved for an administrator.
Additional Information:	

Online Documentation	Videos	Technical Papers
• User's Guide: Add Comments to a Report in the Viewer	• Export the Data Used in Report Objects and Collaborate Using Comments	• Discussion: SAS Visual Analytics and comments limitations

Question:	In some reports I can double-click a report object and another report is displayed. How can I tell that this behavior is available?
Answer:	Other than trying to double-click and seeing what happens, there is no obvious way to know that the report object is linked to something else. Report designers can use text objects to display instructions on how to use the report. Comments are another method to provide instructions on how to use the report. **INSTRUCTIONS:** Select a continent button above to display gauges for each region. Optionally, use the check boxes below to filter which regions are displayed. The frequency percent is displayed for each value. Double-click a gauge to view the unit metrics report for that region. Properties | **Comments** | Alerts Comments: Insight Toy Company R... Search within comments ▼ Tips for using this report Respond to topic Eric Mar 16, 2014 03:42 PM Double-click a gauge to view more detail. Additional instructions are provided for each report section.
Additional Information:	

Online Documentation	Videos	Technical Papers
• User's Guide: Interacting with Reports in the Viewer • User's Guide: Creating an Interaction	• Add Text and Images • User Interactions and links in a report	

Question:	*I'm a report designer and on some of my reports, people complain that it takes too long for the report to show. How can I improve the process? For example, one of my reports has 10 tabs, and I use links in some of the objects to navigate to other sections of the report.*
Answer:	There can be a number of factors that affect the speed in which your reports become available. Here are a few reasons that have been found by others: • Using many calculated time-based measures • Using a check box control to filter and most of the items are checked • Using range sliders • List tables with very many rows • Too many tabs with too many objects on each screen Some of the above have been fixed and can be resolved by installing the latest Visual Analytics and/or SAS Hotfixes. Some ideas that might help are to design your reports with less. Make your reports with fewer tabs. Build multiple reports, and link between the reports.
Additional Information:	

Online Documentation	Videos	Technical Papers

Question:	*My reports are going to be seen by people using the SAS Mobile BI app. Do you have any recommendations on how to make my reports look good on an iPad or Android tablet?*
Answer:	In this year's SAS Global Forum, Peter Ina and Khaliah H. Cothran of SAS Institute presented a paper on this topic titled "Designing for the Mobile Workforce." This paper gives some ideas for the Visual Analytics Report Designer on best practices and tips on how to optimize reports for mobile users. Here's the web page that has that paper: http://support.sas.com/resources/papers/proceedings14/SAS143-2014.pdf Here are a couple of ideas that are identified in this report: "Keep a limited palette of colors when designing a report. The use of color can be a great way to highlight and drive home brand identity as well as a report's key message." "Leverage font weight and size to help organize the information for users. More important items should be more visible than second- or third-tier items. This will help ensure that reports are easy to understand.
Additional Information:	

Online Documentation	Videos	Technical Papers
SAS Mobile BI		Designing for the Mobile Workforce

Question:	*One report that I use has something called a treemap. What is it and how can I interpret it?*
Answer:	A treemap (also referred to as a tile chart) works a bit like a pie chart but can display more information. It can display a hierarchy or a category data item as a set of rectangular tiles much like the slices of a pie chart do. Each tile represents a category value or a hierarchy node. The size of each tile represents either the frequency count or the value of a measure. In addition to the size, you assign a measure to the Color role, and then the color of each tile represents the value of that new measure.
Additional Information:	

Online Documentation

- User's Guide: Working with Treemaps
- User's Guide: Treemaps

Videos

Create a Treemap

Technical Papers

Question:	*What are some of the new features in Visual Analytics 7.1 for the Viewer?*
Answer:	New and enhanced features in SAS Visual Analytics Viewer include: • You can print to PDF. • You can specify a preference for receiving alert notifications via e-mail or text message. In addition, the Report Designer has many new features that can be used in the Viewer. For example, there is a new Word Cloud report object. .
Additional Information:	

Online Documentation	Videos	Technical Papers
• What's New in SAS Visual Analytics 7.1 • Subscribing and Unsubscribing to Alerts		

If you have any questions, please contact:

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