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Techniques for Dynamic SSRS Reports

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BID-303

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Please silence cell phones

(Or I get to talk to the person on the phone)

Your Background

Beginner

Fairly New Report Writer

Comfortable

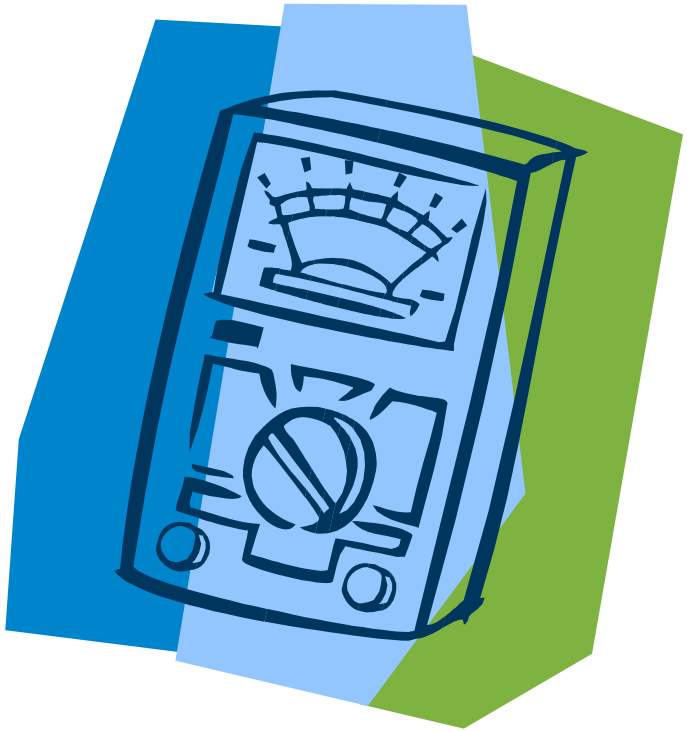
Written Many Reports

Advanced

Lost Track Of Report Count

Just Checking Options

Managers, QA, Working With Other Tools



Agenda

- Common problems in large report catalogs
- Solutions to minimize and streamline your report catalog
- Demos
  - Reducing data by user
  - Providing navigation within a report through bookmarks and document maps
  - Changing layouts within a single report to satisfy multiple users
  - Dynamic coloring of reports

Common Problems In Large Report Catalogs

- Different departments have slightly different layouts for the same data as other departments
- Multiple reports that differ only on the amount of data that users need
  - Manager needs all data summarized
  - Everyone else needs the details of their data
- Long reports that are cumbersome to move around
- One off reports

Solutions to minimize and streamline the report catalog

- Create a Report Catalog Summary report
  - Provides metrics on use AND lack of use of reports
  - Provides metrics on HOW reports are used
  - Provides metrics on WHO is using reports
- Leverage windows authentication to reduce data
- Group similar reports into a single report that has a dynamic layout based on user
- Provide various forms of navigation to move around giant reports.

Report Catalog Summary

Demo

Demo Take Away

- Create metrics to find out your most heavily used reports
- Create metrics to find out your least used reports
  - These reports may be candidates for decommissioning
  - Make sure these are not sparsely used reports
- Create metrics for most resource intensive reports
  - Intensive for retrieving data
  - Intensive for rendering

Demo Take Away

- When severely reducing or upgrading your report catalog, make sure to keep track of reports that are decommissioned
  - Sometimes they need to be re-commissioned
  - You can report to your manager on your progress

Reduce Data By User

Demo

Demo Take Away

- Filter data based on user login by leveraging the User!UserID property.
- The user login can be used to filter other parameters too
  - Warning: Filtering parameters with other parameters can slow the report down
- Change layout by determining information about the user by leveraging their login

Bookmarks

Demo

Demo Take Away

- Bookmarks can provide a short “table of contents” at the beginning or ending of a report
- Can allow users to move around lengthy reports quickly and efficiently

Document Maps

Demo

Demo Take Away

- Document maps can provide a table of contents outside of the report
- Can provide simple metrics for report
- Can provide a simple summary of the report

Multiple Layouts

Demo

Demo Take Away

- Providing multiple layouts to a single report
  - Allows users to use the data in an efficient way based on their needs
  - Cuts down on the number of reports you have to manage

Dynamic Coloring

Demo

Demo Take Away

- Dynamic coloring provides
  - Visual cues to important parts of a report
  - A way of customizing the layout of a report
- Dynamic coloring can be controlled through the database

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Questions

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