

SAP BusinessObjects 4.3 SP03 New Features: Part One – Web Intelligence and Universe Features

One of the key areas that SAP have focused on with SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.3 SP03 is adding new Web Intelligence features to enhance the user and developer experience, this first blog focuses on key core features which we think our customers will be the most interested in.

SAP have also added some small features to the Information Design Tool.

New Features on the Web Intelligence Toolbar

There are new features in the toolbar of Web Intelligence.

The Web Intelligence toolbar features are available in all modes, Reading (view), Design, Structure and the new Data mode.

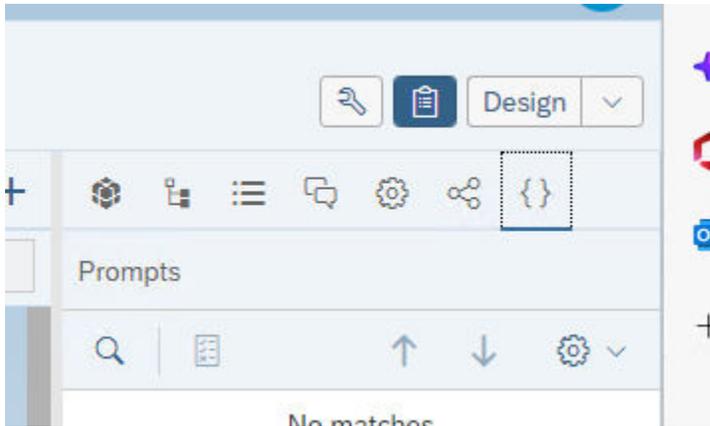


Feature	Description	Screenshot/Icon
Create new button	As the versions 4.0, 4.1 and 4.2 worked the create New button is back on the toolbar, meaning you do not need to keep going back to the home page to launch a new Web Intelligence session to create a new report	
Open a document	As the versions 4.0, 4.1 and 4.2 worked there is now an Open button back on the toolbar, meaning you do not need to keep going back to the home page to open a Web Intelligence report	
Mark or unmark favourite	Beforehand it was only possibly to mark the report as a favourite from the documents screen, it is now possible to it direct in Web Intelligence while you are designing. The report does need to be saved to do this.	

Maximize the screen	Using the Hide main toolbars button this maximizes the screen hiding the top toolbar	
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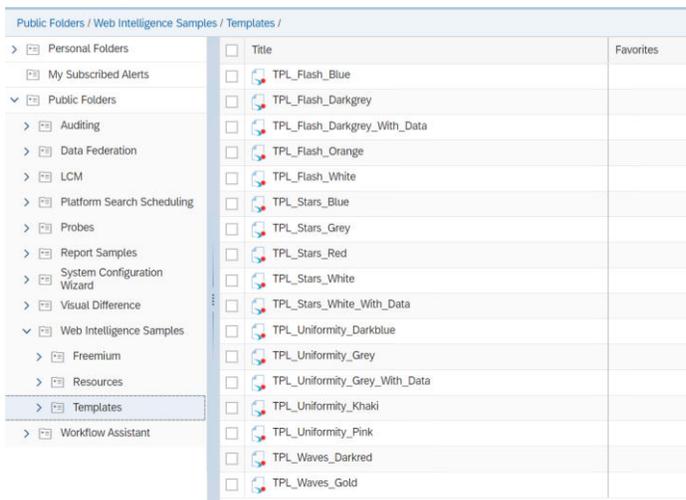
Show Prompts Toolbar

The prompts menu is back, this was previously in versions 4.0, 4.1 and 4.2 and we now have this back in 4.3 whereby you can see all your prompts in one toolbar. This can be used in Design, Reading, Structure or Data mode.

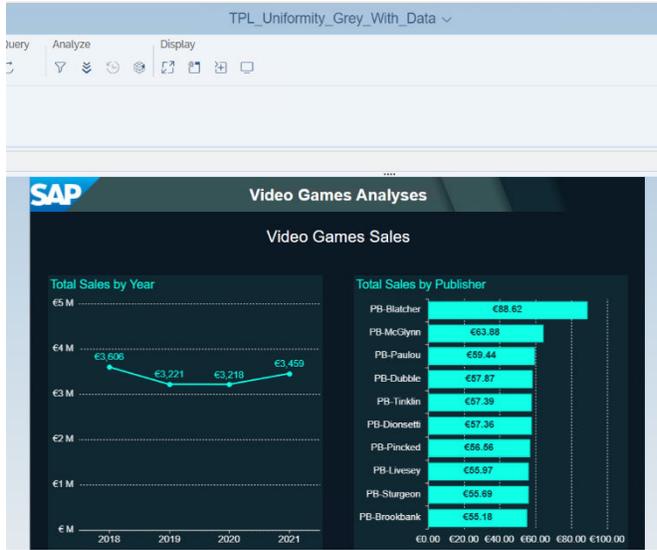


Templates

Templates for Web Intelligence have also been added as part of the samples folder that gets deployed as part of the installation. See below.



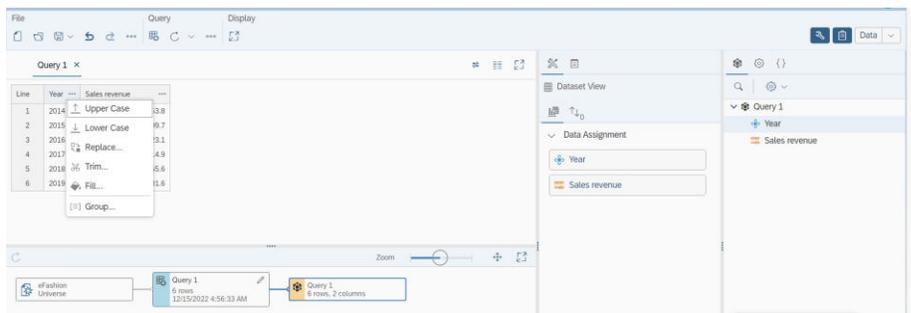
Here is an example of one that has been opened. If you like the template and styling you can take some inspiration from the in-built templates and use them with your own data.



Brand New Data Mode

An exciting new data mode is now available whereby you can now apply various transformations to your datasets before its used within the report.

Transformations can only be applied to dimension or details type objects. Measures you cannot apply any transformations.



Details of what transformations it supports and what they do can be found in more detail here:

https://help.sap.com/docs/SAP_BUSINESSOBJECTS_BUSINESS_INTELLIGENCE_PLATFORM/c95594c101a046159432081ca44d6b18/4754cc976ac040a9be4f9451323ee3e8.html?locale=en-US

New Features in Reading Mode

Sort Data

Instead of a developer sorting the data for you and providing you with report already sorted, users can now, when viewing, apply sorting on the data elements such as tables and charts themselves, by right clicking on an element, such a table or chart and applying sorts.

SKU desc	Color	Unit Price
44 Polo Collare	Clay	\$
44 Polo Collare	Black	\$
44 Polo Collare	Clay	\$

Rank Data

Instead of a developer ranking the data for you and providing you with the report already filtered with that ranking, users can now, when viewing, apply ranking on the data elements such as tables and charts themselves, by right clicking on an element, such a table or chart and applying a rank to it.

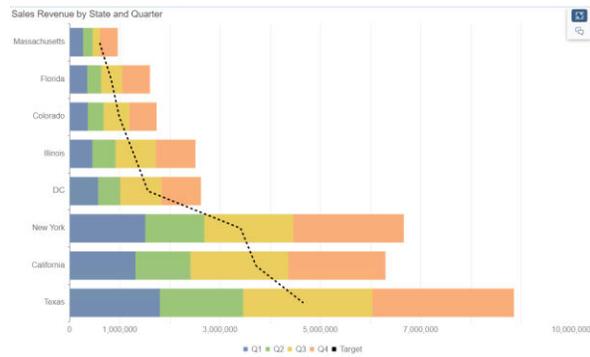
number	SKU desc	Color	Unit Price
166,544	Polo Collare	Clay	\$
166,544	Polo Collare	Black	\$
166,544	Polo Collare	Clay	\$

Maximize Charts

This feature is limited to certain chart types, but where you see this option below by right clicking on the chart while viewing it the report in Reading mode users can maximize and explore the chart in a bigger window.



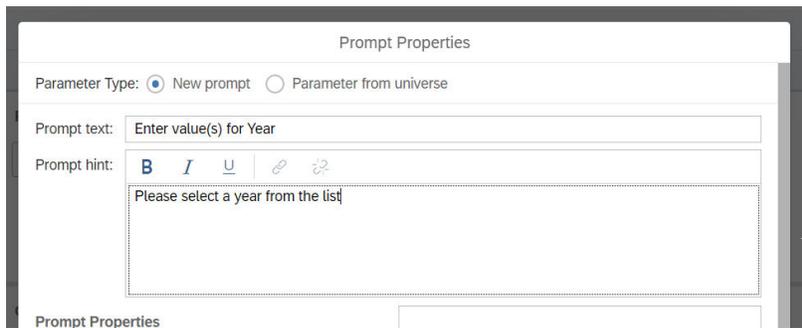
An example below of the chart maximized



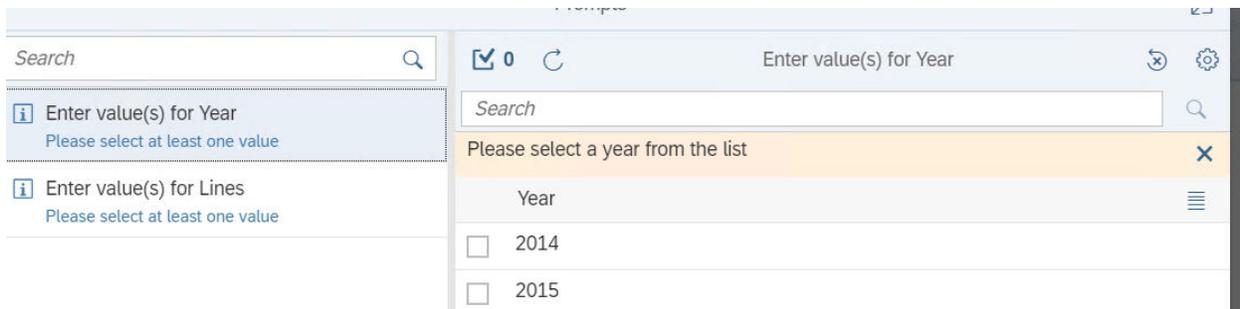
New features in Design Mode

Prompt Hints/Description

When in the query panel designing your query, if you add an object to the filters area and turn this into a prompt and go into the prompt properties you can now add a description/hint for the user, so when they are prompted, they know what they need to do.

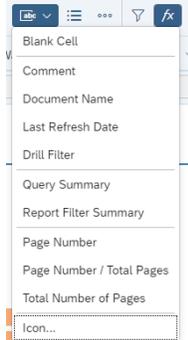


When you run the query this description/hint will appear at the top of the selection/enter area

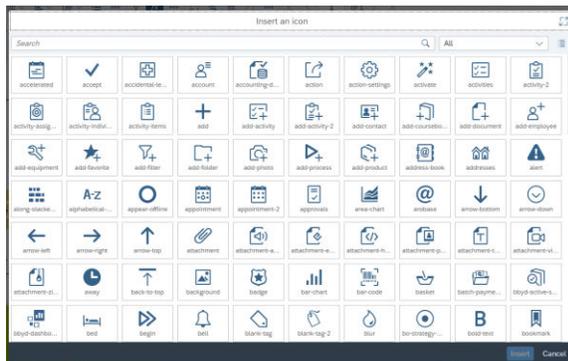


New Icon Library

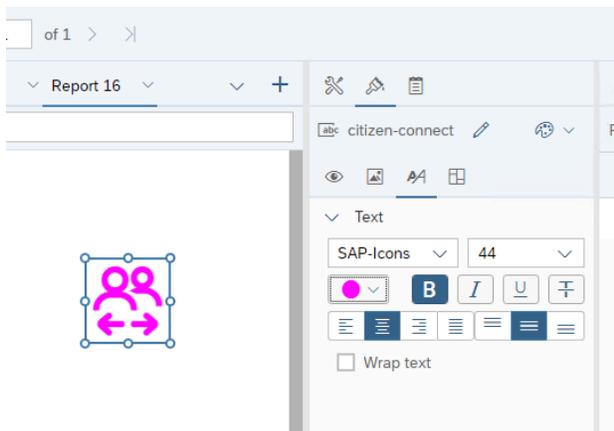
It is now possible to insert icons from a new icon library into your report tabs, you can do this from the insert menu in design mode.



There is an extensive list of icons to choose from



If you insert an icon, you can format the colour, size etc using the formatting menu on the right as you would any other element you insert



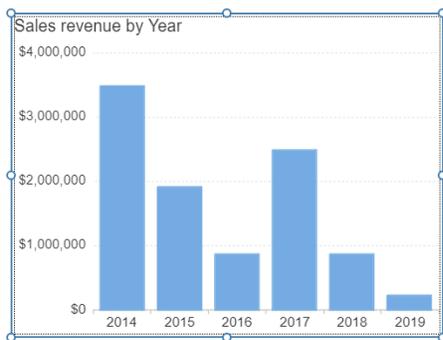
Resizing Elements - Tables, Charts

There is now a re-size option with various elements you insert onto the report canvas, such as tables, charts, cells etc ...

You will see 2 small dots either side to expand the table for example

Year	Sales revenue
2014	\$4,411,654
2015	\$8,170,210
2016	\$5,870,423
2017	\$6,829,115
2018	\$5,283,666
2019	\$568,202

On the chart you now get the small dots to know where to re-size things

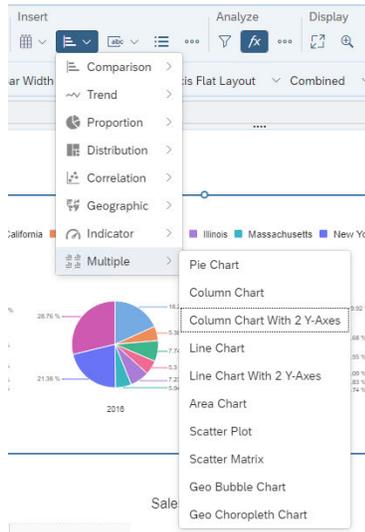


On cells you get this to



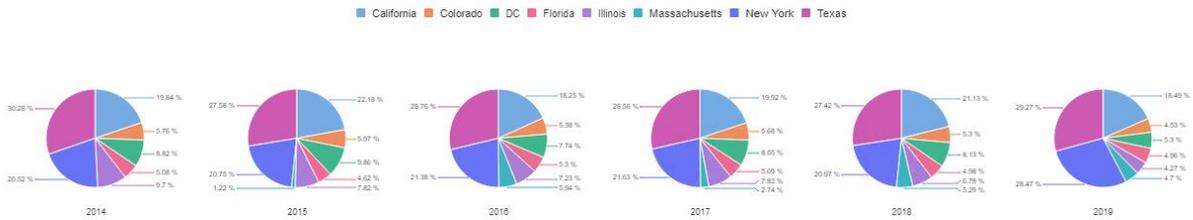
Trellis Charts

There is a new trellis chart feature for various chart types you can now add to your reports when designing.

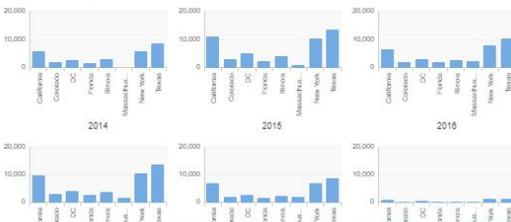


Example of output of what a trellis chart would look like.

Quantity sold by Year



Quantity sold by Year

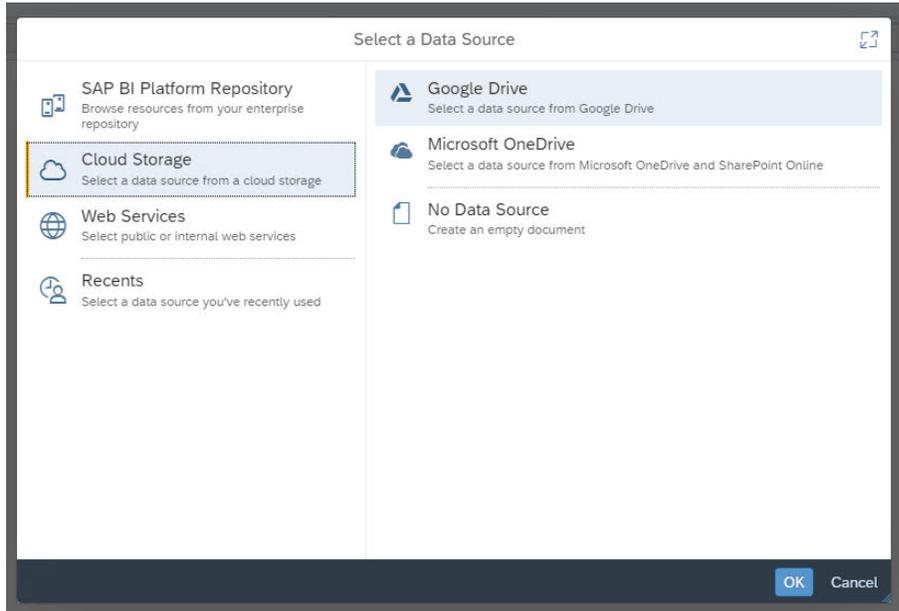


Sales revenue by Year



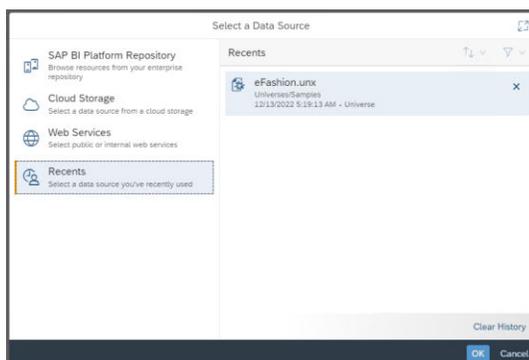
Choose a data source File Such as Excel, or Text from Google Drive, Microsoft One Drive and SharePoint

If you store Excel or Text files in Microsoft One Driver or Google drive you can connect to these files and use them as data sources within a web intelligence data provider.



Recent Data Sources

If you have recently created a Web Intelligence report, the next time you create a new document you can use a recent data source under the 'recents' option, making it faster and simpler to connect to those data sources used frequently.

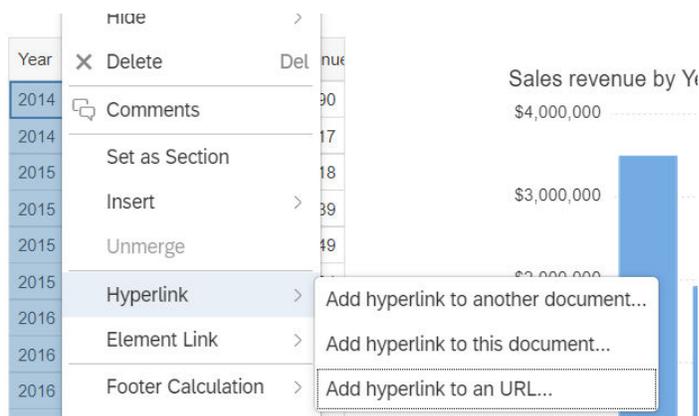


Improved Intra Document Link

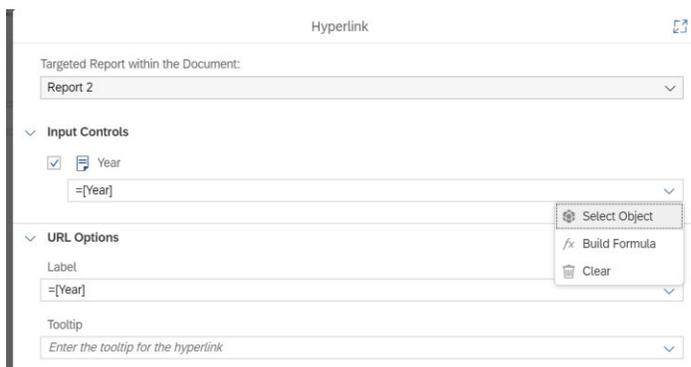
Intra document linking has been about in 4.2 and 4.3 whereby you can setup links between report tabs in the same document.

They have added further improvements to this feature, by introducing input controls to pass filters between document tabs.

You would select a column or element to link from, and right click and select Hyperlink -> Add hyperlink to this document ... like below.



If I have added an input control to any other report tabs in the document I want to link from, this option will be available to pass this as a filter to the target report tab.



I will then see a hyperlink on the year, and select a year



Report 1

Year	Quarter	Sales revenue
2014	3	\$1,614,790
2014	4	\$1,864,517
2015	1	\$1,302,318
2015	2	\$417,739

This will then pass this filter to the input control on any other report tabs and filter the report based on this



Year	Sales revenue
2015	\$1,926,600

This feature is a great way to provide a main report tab that links and filters other report tabs when clicked on.

New formula functions

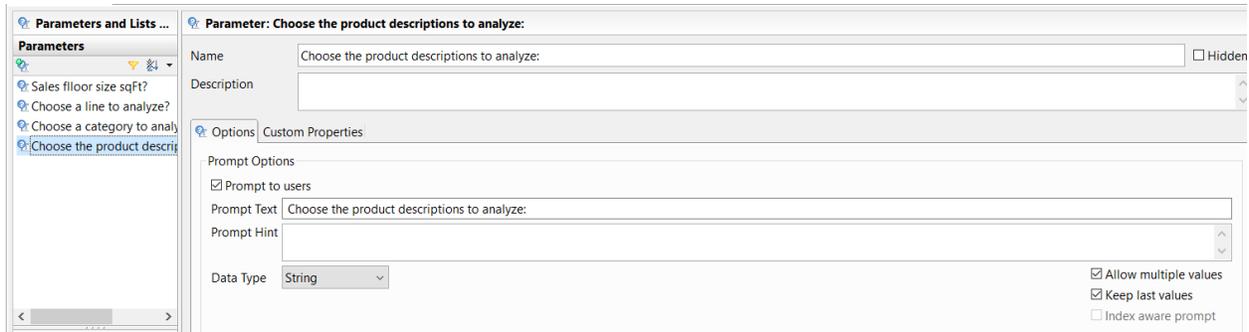
In web intelligence you can build formulas in cells or create new variables, below are a new list of functions that have been added to the library to allow you to create formulas with the below:

- [Reverse](#)
- [ElementLinkingFilters](#)
- [InputControlFilter](#)
- [DescriptionOf](#)
- [FormulaOf](#)
- [Next](#)

Designing Universes

The following new features are available in the 4.3 SP3 release of the Information Design Tool:

- Oracle public synonyms are available in Information Design Tool for Oracle Client connections.
- Prompt hints/description can be defined in the Query Panel and @Prompt function.
 - Similar to how adding description/hints in a prompt in web intelligence you can also do this when creating parameters in the universe itself to use



Data source support

Below is a list of new data sources that are now supported with universes via the Information Design Tool or connections.

- Amazon RDS for MariaDB, MySQL, Oracle, PostgreSQL and SQL Server
- Google BigQuery via JDBC and ODBC connectivity
- MariaDB
- Oracle Cloud
- SQLite
- Trino DB

Below is a list of newer versions of supported databases that are now supported with universes via the Information Design Tool, or connections.

- HP Vertica 11
- MongoDB 5
- Oracle Database 21c
- PostgreSQL 14

Rebecca Morris
Senior Business Intelligence Consultant
DSCallards (A Codestone Company)