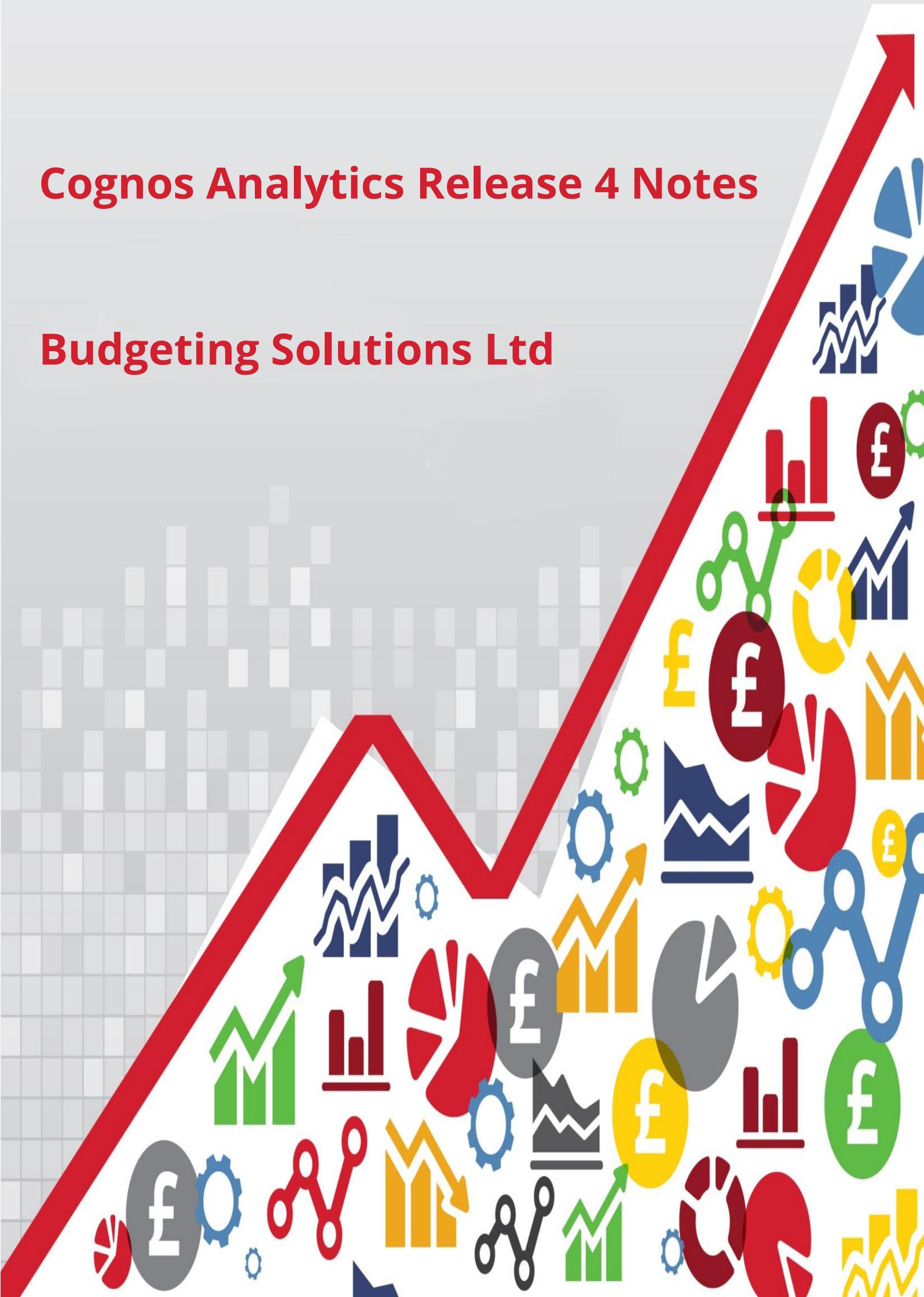


Cognos Analytics Release 4 Notes

Budgeting Solutions Ltd



With the three previous releases of Cognos Analytics containing mainly bug fixes and small enhancements, release 4 (R4) made some big changes that should prove to be universally popular.

Dashboard

11.0.4 (R4) highlights - Dashboarding

Top/Bottom

Conditional Formatting

Revenue	2010	2011	2012	2013	Summary
Camping Equipment	332,985,706.06	402,757,273.07	509,380,452.83	352,391,026.87	1,698,030,664.83
Golf Equipment	153,835,893.89	168,086,427.07	238,762,275.28	176,760,816.25	737,445,382.59
Maintenancing Equipment (no retail)	37,086,038.94	63,038,853.26	51,630,449.7	408,881,132.9	1,000,656,484.80
Outdoor Protection	36,163,217.07	35,643,719.28	75,348,775.54	5,071,082.26	174,230,804.15
Personal Accessories	367,847,283.87	498,325,325.8	784,296,884.42	443,893,448.81	2,094,363,942.90
Summary	841,302,812.72	1,168,165,584.46	1,480,891,102.9	1,113,536,274.67	4,604,775,768.55

Crosstab

Revenue		2010	2011	2012	2013	Summary
		Q3 2010	Q4 2010	Q2 2010	Q1 2010	
Camping Equipment	Lanterns	7,429,523	7,032,893.36	7,196,095.53	7,043,392.5	28,602,904.19
	Sleeping Bags	15,186,089.68	15,937,738.05	15,343,855.88	15,774,778.34	60,239,482.96
	Flasks	16,196,405.66	12,376,008.87	10,096,007.39	17,434,848.35	70,294,289.17
	Cooking Gear	15,038,292.63	14,881,808.94	14,792,317.4	15,273,396.53	58,781,536.5
	Tents	28,351,223.12	27,816,510.81	26,862,568.81	26,401,846.5	109,026,149.24
	Summary	88,183,333.99	82,816,763.03	81,048,841.92	81,939,179.22	332,888,338.06

Refresh Timer

Data asset properties

General style Visualization details

Color palettes

Bar color

Hide axis title labels

Maintain axis scale

Hide empty

Refresh automatically

5 Seconds

Minimum 5 seconds

Additional functionality in the Dashboard allows for conditional formatting, crosstabs and now refresh timer for automatic updates.

Product type	Revenue
Binoculars	31,303,208.42
Climbing Accessories	29,483,205.87
Cooking Gear	58,313,800.35
Eyewear	221,939,948.93
First Aid	846,984.93
Golf Accessories	11,422,333.75
Insect Repellents	2,062,062.11
Irons	63,606,666.75

Distribution of Revenue values

Count

846,984 45,065,577 89,284,170 133,502,763 177,721,356 221,939,949

Data asset properties

General style Visualization details

Refresh automatically

5 Seconds

Minimum 5 Seconds

Color palettes

Color Order

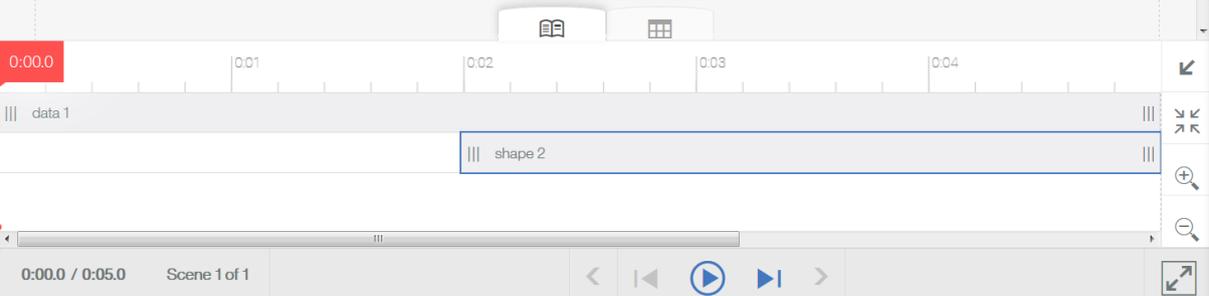
The new 'Story Telling' feature allows selected screen to be made into a slide show

IBM Analytics

11.0.4 (R4) Highlights - Storytelling



The screenshot displays the IBM Analytics interface. On the left, a horizontal bar chart shows various categories with their corresponding values. A red arrow points to a specific bar. Below the chart, a 'Story' timeline is visible, with a red box labeled 'Slide 1' indicating the current slide. On the right, a mobile dashboard preview is shown, featuring a search bar and several data cards, including 'Movie Results' and 'Sales Analysis'. The number '9' is in the bottom left corner, and the copyright notice '© 2016 IBM Corporation' is in the bottom right corner.



This screenshot shows a presentation navigation and timeline interface. At the top, there are icons for a book and a grid. Below, a timeline is displayed with markers at 0:00.0, 0:01, 0:02, 0:03, and 0:04. A red box highlights the 0:00.0 mark. Below the timeline, there are two data series: 'data 1' and 'shape 2'. The 'shape 2' series is highlighted with a blue border. At the bottom, there is a playback control bar showing '0:00.0 / 0:05.0' and 'Scene 1 of 1', along with navigation buttons for back, play, and forward.

Customisation

The CA environment can now be customised, from the initial Welcome Page through to adding or removing buttons and menus.

Various samples are included that demonstrate how to modify existing themes and create your own.

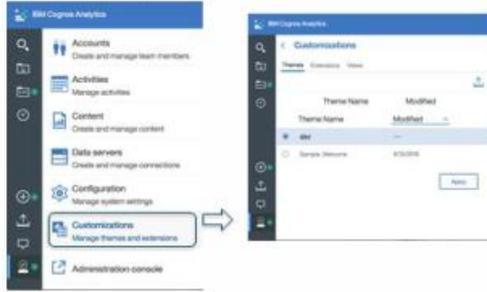
IBM Analytics

11.0.4 (R4) Highlights – Customizing IBM Cognos Analytics

Theming/Extensions



Managing Theme/extensions/views



Client-side logging and the browser console



10

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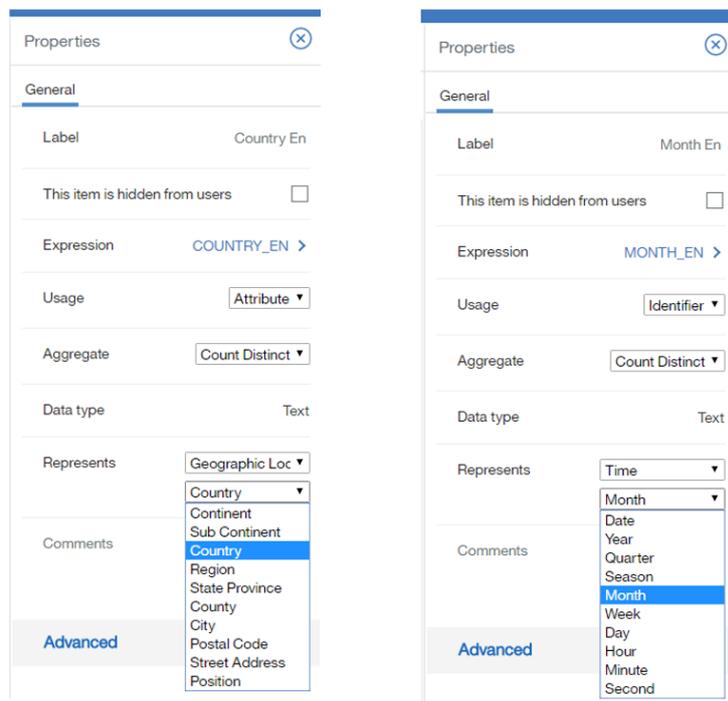
Data Sets

Until now there was no way of adding data from an OLAP data source (Transformer-built, TM1 etc) or Framework Manager package onto a dashboard, although reporting against them was not an issue. This restriction has now been removed by the addition of the new Data Sets capability (do not confuse this with the Data Set functionality in v10, which has been removed). This allows a cached version of a subset of the data to be maintained and used in the dashboard and data modules – this makes report performance quicker as it reduces the workload on the database server.

A nice feature of Data Sets is the summarize detailed values, suppress duplicates option. This functionality helps tremendously if you are pulling records from a large fact table that contains millions of transaction level details, but you only need a summarized month level, for example. The final data set output would reduce millions of rows from a fact into just a few hundred and deliver much faster reporting performance.

Data Modules

As a designer of the Data Module, you now have the capability of hiding columns from the user and also the module will now automatically look for columns of data that potentially contain geographic or time data.



With the new mapping tools being available from R5 onwards, this could have a significant impact and making map production very much easier. Using the geographic item on a dashboard will now default the visualisation to a map and date to a calendar.

The product is available at no charge for existing Cognos users with a valid maintenance agreement and for those wishing to try the new capabilities, there is a cloud based version available to try at <https://ca-trial.mybluemix.net/> by using your IBM id.

We were asked in June at a User Day whether customers should consider moving to CA – our answer at that time, which was running R2, was a definite **'no'**. With the enhancements described above in R4 and the added functionality of the new mapping technology and RAVE2 visualisations to be delivered in R5 in mid-November, the answer to that same question now is **'yes'**.

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About Budgeting Solutions

Budgeting Solutions is a leading consultancy with a proven track record of implementing powerful business intelligence and financial performance management applications that are designed to address the planning, forecasting, reporting and analysis challenges faced by organisations everywhere.

We work closely with IBM and recommend IBM Cognos performance management and analytic solutions, which we believe to be the most advanced, powerful and reliable applications available, having consistently delivered outstanding results for us, over the last ten years.

Each assignment is unique, requiring a blend of technical knowledge; management processes and accounting issues that combined deliver a solution which transforms the planning and reporting functions of an organisation.

