



VA-SIG – Aug 2015

Tips and Tricks

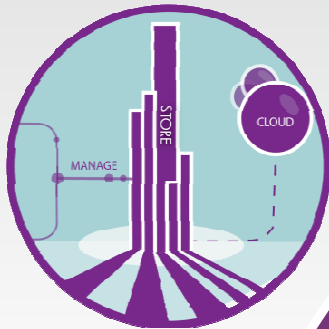
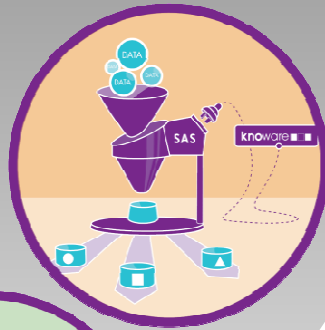
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Today



Analysts/Developers

- Custom categories

- Parameters

Admin/Data prep

- LASR server quotas

- Compression

- In-memory star schema



Custom categories

- Create own categories from current data
- Like SAS formats
- Numeric ranges
 - Age groups, salary bands
- Text groupings
 - North Island – Auckland, Wellington
 - South Island – Christchurch, Dunedin
- In VA – from left pane
 - Data > New Custom Category

Custom categories

Edit Custom Category



Name:

Based on: Catalog (MAILORDERDEMO)

Values

New label

▼ Expenses (\$)	
Gardening	
Collectibles	
▼ Profit (\$)	
Pets	
Software	
▼ Revenue (\$)	
Sports	
Toys	

Options for remaining values

- Group remaining values as
- Show as missing
- Show as is

OK

Cancel



Parameters

- 7.1
- Designers can create objects flexibly
 - Use whatever data items
 - End users view with fixed data items
- Parameters allow users more flexibility
 - e.g. to choose which data items on objects
- Like SAS macro variables

Parameters

- Can be used for
 - Expressions
 - Calculated items
 - Custom categories
 - Prompt controls
 - Control ranks and display rules

Parameters

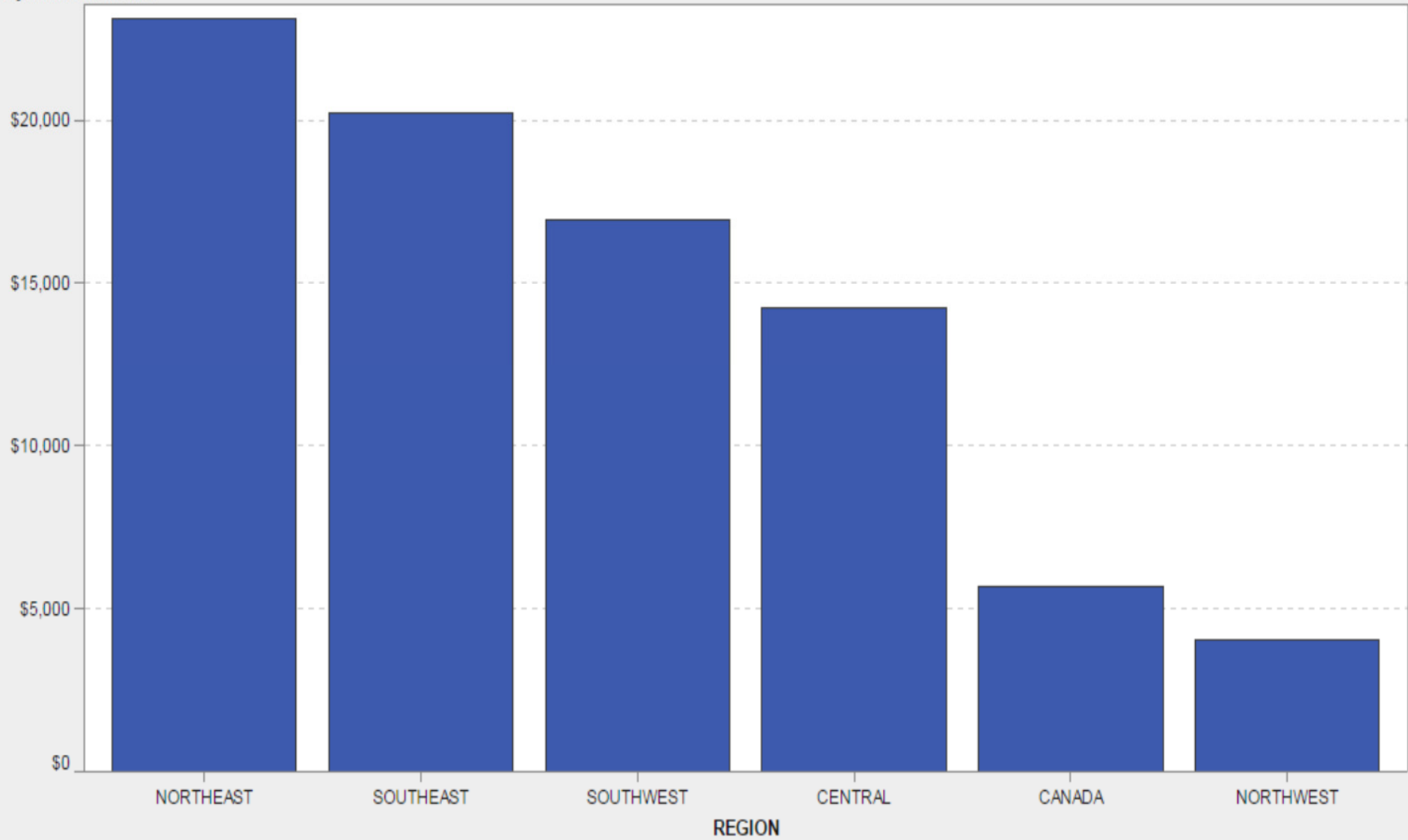
Expenses (\$)



Profit (\$)

Revenue (\$)

.....

Dynamic Measure



Section 1  



Drop controls here to create a section prompt

Expenses (\$) (571)	Profit (\$) (1,143)	Revenue (\$) (812)
---------------------	---------------------	--------------------

Create parameter: Right-Mouse > Create parameter

Create Parameter

Name:

Type:  Character 

Current value:

New Calculated Item

Name:

Data Items

- 123 Expenses
- 123 INV
- 123 Month
- 123 Profit
- 123 Qtr
- 123 QTY
- 123 Revenue
- 123 Year

Operators

- ▶ Date and Time
- ▼ Text (simple)
 - ▲ Concatenate
 - Contains
 - EndsWith
 - ▲ Format
 - ▲ LowerCase
 - NotContains



Result type:

Detail mode

Visual

Text

```
IF MeasureSelection P... Contains " Expenses ($) "  
  
RETURN Expenses  
  
ELSE [ IF MeasureSelection P... Contains " Profit ($) "  
  
RETURN Profit  
ELSE Revenue ]
```

Messages

Scratch

Empty message area

Preview...

OK

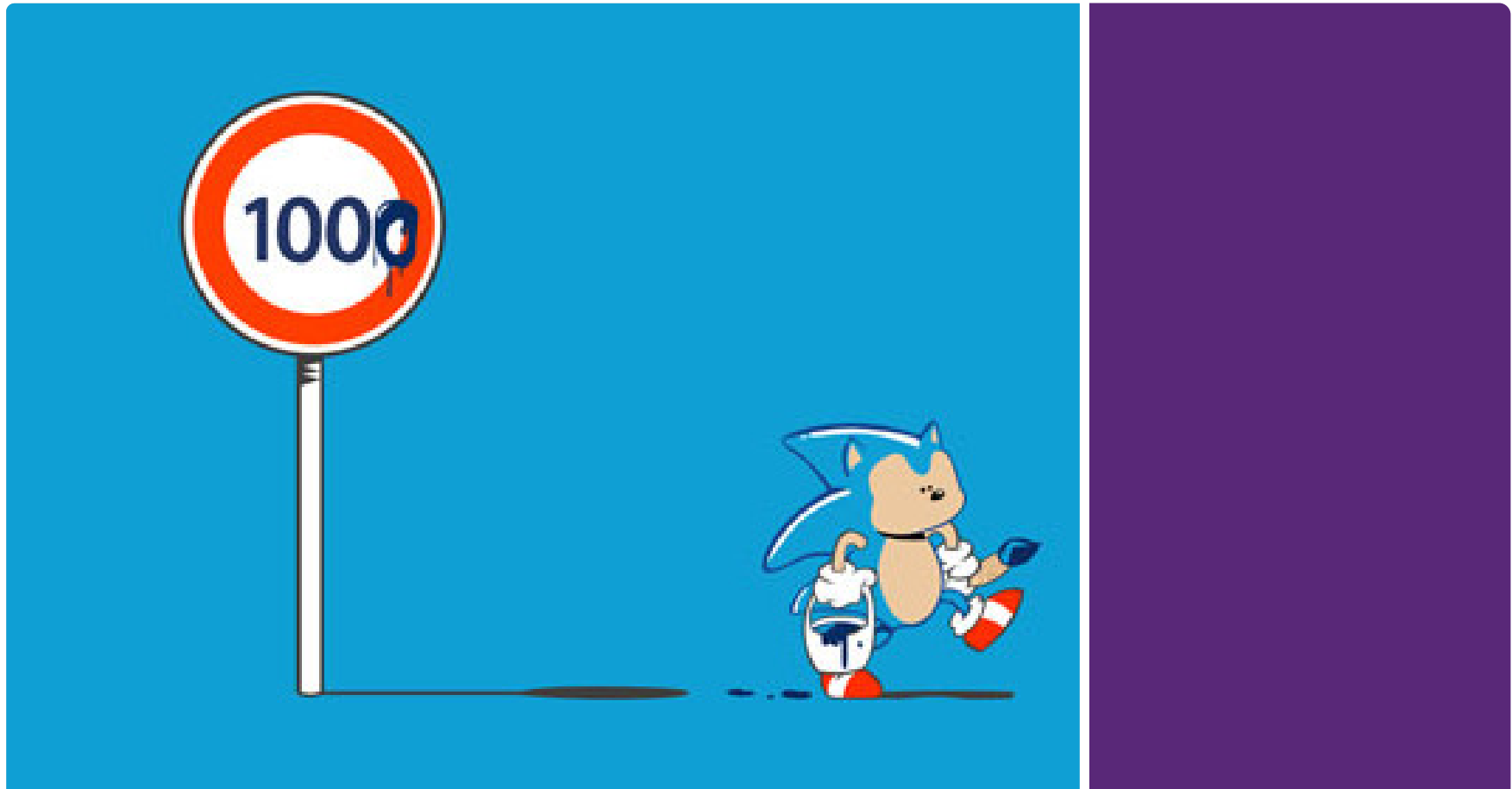
Cancel

Name: MeasureSelection Parameter
Value: Expenses (\$)
Value From: Button Bar 1
Consumers
-Bar Chart 1

Parameter properties

- Came with VA 7.1
- Good Global Forum paper
 - SAS1854-2015

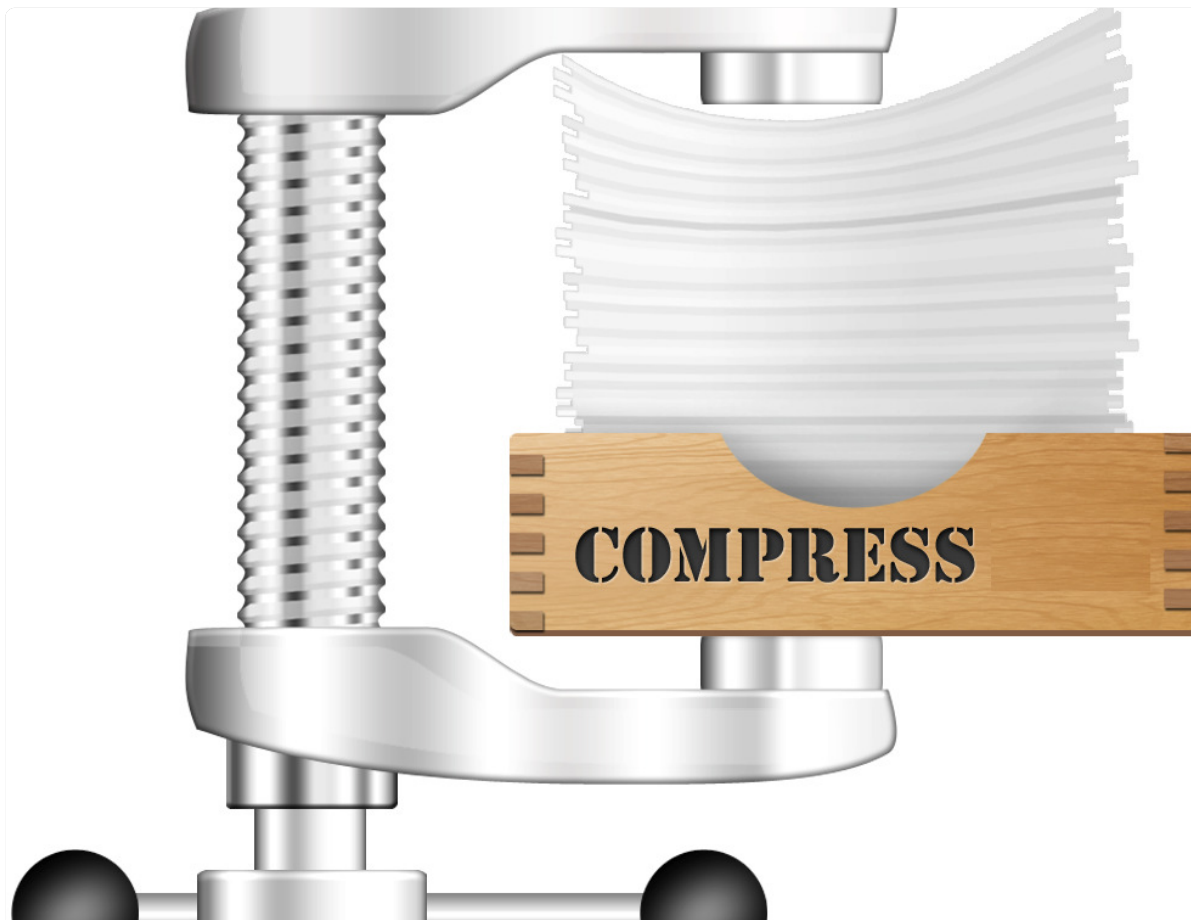
VA Parameters



LASR server space quotas

- Default is 2 LASR servers
 - Standard, used as managed LASR server
 - Public – for self-service load LASR server
- Share same memory space
- Can set memory limits
 - Especially for Public server
- Not in earlier VA releases (6.3 and less)

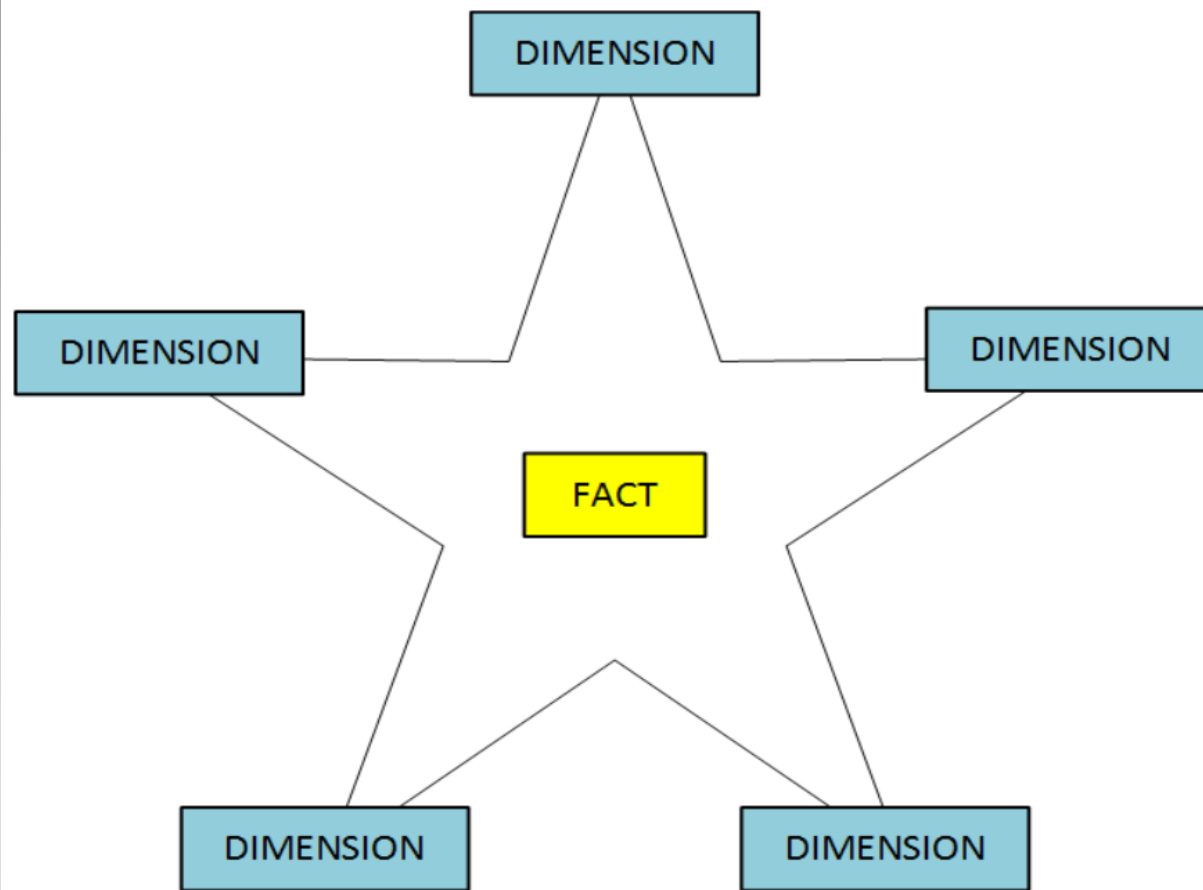
LASR server space quotas



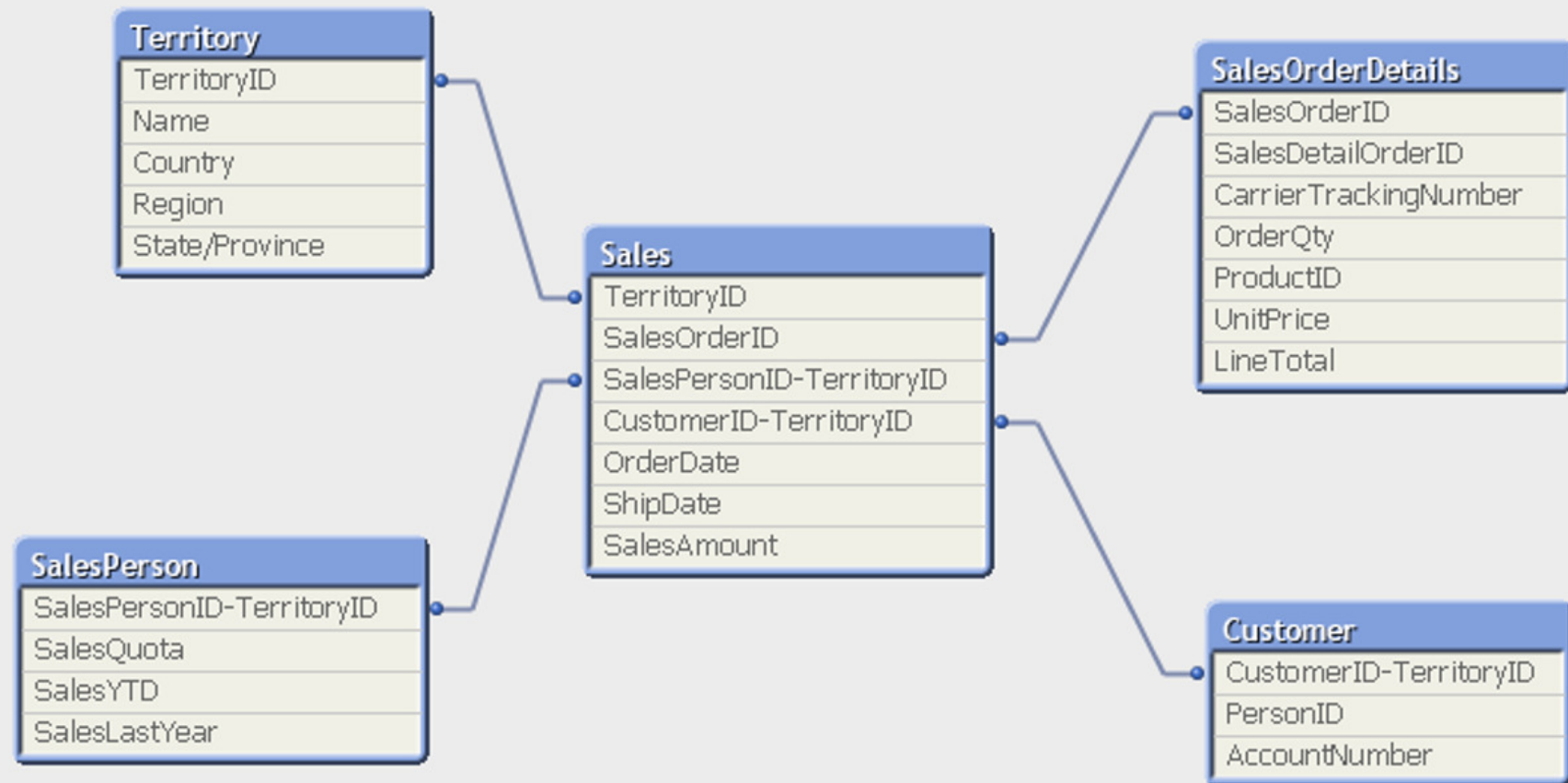
LASR table compression

- Recent enhancement
- Saves significant memory space
 - 10 to 20 times reduction
- But performance hit
 - 2, 3 or sometimes 10 times slower

LASR table compression



Star schema in memory



- New in 7.1
- LASR tables are typically flat
- Star schema
 - Reduces data redundancy
 - Dim tables reused with other data
 - Like a “view”
 - Should be fast since in memory

Star schema in memory

LASRStar Schema1

Explore Results

Design Code Results

ASSET_DIM_LASR
Column prefix: ASTDIM_
Join column: Asset_ID

- Asset_ID
- DOB_Asset
- Asset_Type
- Active_Status

PERSON_DIM_LASR
Column prefix: PERSDIM_
Join column: Repair_Person_ID

- Repair_Person_ID
- Person Full Name
- First Name
- Last Name
- Job Role
- Active Status
- Hourly Rate

LOCATION_DIM_LASR
Column prefix: LOCDIM_
Join column: Location_ID

- Location_ID
- Location_Name
- Latitude
- Longitude
- Location_Type

ASSET REPAIR_FACT_LASR

- Transaction_ID
- Asset_ID
- Location_ID
- Defect_ID
- Repair_Date
- Repair_Person_ID
- Repair_Quantity
- Material_Cost

DEFECT_DIM_LASR
Column prefix: DEFDIM_
Join column: Defect_ID



- Defect_ID
- Defect_Description
- Defect_Reason_Code
- Defect_Reason_Des...

TIME_DIM_LASR
Column prefix: TIMEDIM_
Join column: Repair_Date


- Repair_Date
- Weekday
- Calendar Year
- Calendar Month
- Calendar Week
- Calendar Day
- Financial_Year


Inputs Output Properties

Clear

Table: Orion_Star  

Compress data

Location: /User Folders/Herrmann, Grego 

Library: /Shared Data/SAS Visual Analyti 

Create output as a view

- Lots of promise
- Had some issues using
- Memory space more than expected
- Simple implementation currently
 - Join on 1 column only
 - No snowflake

Star schema – initial verdict

- Row level security
- Handling financial year
- ...

Future topics?

Thank you

Questions?



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