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Chapter 1. New and changed features

The following includes new or changed features in Cognos® Analytics.

Version: 11.0.13 - 11.0.12 - 11.0.11 - 11.0.10 - 11.0.9 - 11.0.8 - 11.0.7 - 11.0.6 - 11.0.5 - 11.0.4 - 11.0.3 - 11.0.2

Release 11.0.13 FP2 - September 2019

The following features are new or changed in Cognos Analytics 11.0.13 Fix Pack 2.

Administration

Salesforce URL connection change

If your Cognos Analytics environment included a Salesforce data server connection, you must manually update the URL endpoint to “https://login.salesforce.com”. For more information, please refer to the following Salesforce article: Salesforce.com API Endpoint retirement

SAP BW 7.5 client is required for SAP BW data server connections

The client SAP NetWeaver RFC library 7.20 that was used with previous versions of Cognos Analytics is no longer supported. SAP NetWeaver RFC Library 7.50 is now the supported library.

Release 11.0.13 - November 2018

The following features are new or changed in Cognos Analytics 11.0.13.

General

New base samples

New samples have been added to the base samples deployment. See our blog post for instructions on importing the deployment to your Cognos Analytics environment.

• The Country comparison dashboard sample demonstrates multilingual support, which was added in v11.0.12.
• The Product line dashboard sample includes the new “Network” visualization.
• The sample data module includes a new calculated column for "Product Type Code".

Administration

Larger default precision VARCHAR in the dynamic query mode

The SQL standard defines the large character object type (CLOB) and the national character large object type (NCLOB) to hold large character values. Various database vendors support the CLOB type or their own type name that offers similar characteristics as a CLOB.

CLOB data types impose several restrictions on the SQL constructs that can be used in queries. Vendors may also impose additional rules on how CLOB columns must be handled via the client interfaces, such as JDBC. To avoid the CLOB-related restrictions, the dynamic query type-casts CLOB columns into a varying character (VARCHAR) data type. The first N characters of the CLOB type are returned as VARCHAR to the dynamic query.

Dynamic query was enhanced to use a larger default precision VARCHAR than the default precision supported by the database vendor. To use the larger value, override the default precision by specifying the ibmcognos.maxvarcharsize=N property on a data server connection.

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For more information, see the topic on Cognos-specific connection parameters in the *IBM Cognos Analytics Administration and Security Guide*.

**Delivery service advanced settings**

Two advanced settings for the delivery service have been added for Release 11.0.13:

- dls.connection.pool.force.clean
- dls.connection.pool.used

For more information, see "Delivery service advanced settings" in the *IBM Cognos Analytics Administration and Security Guide*.

**Amazon Athena JDBC driver 1.1.1001**

IBM Cognos Analytics now supports the Amazon Athena JDBC driver 1.1.1001.

For more information, see "Amazon Athena JDBC driver 1.1.1001" in the *IBM Cognos Analytics Managing User Guide*.

**Support for new versions of Microsoft Analysis Services data servers**

Cognos Analytics now supports the following versions of Microsoft Analysis Services data servers:

- Microsoft Analysis Services (HTTP XMLA)
  
  Existing connections to a Microsoft Analysis Services 2017 server still work. Reports that were created against previous versions of the data server work after they are switched to use the new server.

- Microsoft Analysis Services 2017 (ODBO)
  
  Existing connections that are moved to this server might lose signons. Reports that were created against previous versions of the data server still work after they are switched to use the new client and server. The client and server versions must match.

  Similar to other Microsoft Analysis Services MSOLAP versions, the Microsoft Analysis Services MSOLAP client must be installed to the same location as the report server. For this version of Microsoft Analysis Services, the MSOLAP version 14 client is required.

  For more information, see "Data server connections" in *Managing IBM Cognos Analytics*.

**Reporting**

When drilling through multiple times in IBM Cognos Viewer, the switcher shows every report that has been drilled through from, instead of showing only the latest report. Also, the previous report button on the menu bar has been removed. These changes were made to make IBM Cognos Viewer consistent with the interactive viewer.

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**Release 11.0.12 - June 2018**

The following features are new or changed in Cognos Analytics 11.0.12.

**Dashboards and stories**

**Multilingual dashboards**

Create dashboards or stories in different languages so that a user can experience a dashboard in their language of choice. This activity is also called localizing your dashboards. The localized content can include text widgets and titles on your visualizations. You can also localize the descriptions in image, media, and web page widgets. In a story, you can localize the scene names and other items.

For more information, see the IBM Cognos Analytics *Dashboards and Stories User Guide*.  

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**IBM Cognos Analytics Version 11.0.x: New Features Guide**
Reset dashboards

Reset your dashboard to revert to the last saved version of the dashboard.
For more information, see the IBM Cognos Analytics Dashboards and Stories User Guide.

Release 11.0.11 - May 2018

The following features are new or changed in Cognos Analytics 11.0.11.

General

Support for legacy portal pages

Cognos Business Intelligence 10.x users who migrate to Cognos Analytics 11 can continue to use portal pages that they created in Cognos BI.
For more information, see the IBM Cognos Analytics blog.

Custom polygons in reports and dashboards

IBM® Cognos Analytics supports the use of custom polygons in partnership with Mapbox. When you use a map in a dashboard, you can use custom point or region information from Mapbox in a map. You can use an extra layer on a map to display additional information. For example, a time-zone layer. Upload your geoJSON custom polygon file to Mapbox as a tileset. To use the vector maps from Mapbox as location measures in your map visualization, use a data source that contains region or point data.
For more information, see the IBM Cognos Analytics Dashboards and Stories user guide and the IBM Cognos Analytics Reporting user guide.

Improved process of handling ambiguous connections

An ambiguous connection message is displayed when the query engine attempts to establish a connection to a data source (data server) which has multiple connections that could be used. For example, the ambiguous connection message is displayed when a data source has two or more connections, and none of the connections is disabled, and the user has permissions to use all connections.

Starting with this release, the process of handling ambiguous connections was improved for IBM Cognos Analytics applications that run with both the dynamic and compatible query modes. The models that are used by the applications in both modes are expected to refer to the same data source connection names in the content store. In previous releases, when a separate JDBC connection, to use with the dynamic query mode, was added to an existing connection, the ambiguous connection message was displayed.

With the improved process, ambiguous connections are handled in the following way:

• If a package is configured to use the dynamic query mode, any non-JDBC data source connections are ignored.
• If a package is configured to use the compatible query mode, any JDBC data source connections are ignored.
• If a data source has only one connection, this connection is used.
• If a data source has two or more available connections, the ambiguous connection message is displayed.

Dashboards and stories

Data cache property

Enable data caching to improve the performance of your dashboard or story. This is especially useful when multiple users access the same saved dashboard or story at the same time.
For more information, see the IBM Cognos Analytics *Dashboards and Stories User Guide*.

**What's new video**

Here's a short video that highlights the new features for this release: [video](https://youtu.be/fqQDfoly-a4).

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**Release 11.0.10 - March 2018**

The following features are new or changed in Cognos Analytics 11.0.10.

**General**

**Create a URL**

A URL is a standard way of identifying the location for any external file or website. Create URLs to keep the files and websites you use most frequently at your fingertips. Clicking a URL opens the file or website in the browser.

For more information, see the *IBM Cognos Analytics Getting Started Guide*.

**OpenID Connect Authentication Proxy**

IBM Cognos Analytics now provides another provider type, 'OpenID Connect Authentication Proxy' in Cognos Configuration. This menu offers the option to have Trusted Signon Provider (TSP) for OpenID connect.

For more information, see the *IBM Cognos Analytics Installation and Configuration Guide*.

**Jobs created by any user**

Previously, only administrators could create jobs by clicking **Manage > Job**. As of release 11.0.10, the **Job** button now appears under the **New** button, which is available to any user.

For more information, see the *IBM Cognos Analytics Getting Started Guide*.

**Dashboards and stories**

**Export dashboards to PDF**

You can create a PDF of your dashboard to print out or to share electronically. Printed PDFs can be conveniently read when you're away from your computer, for example, while traveling on a plane. You can also easily share PDFs via email.

**Drill through from a dashboard or story to a report**

You can drill through from a visualization on your dashboard or story to a report. This allows you to navigate from the visualization to the related report, while retaining the original context of the visualization.

For more information, see the *IBM Cognos Analytics Dashboards and Stories Guide*.

**Data modeling**

**Relinking a data module source**

You can relink a data module source to a different source. You can use this functionality when the current source in your data module is invalid, or when you want to replace a test source with a production source.

After a successful relink, global calculations and relationships in the data module remain valid, and reports and dashboards that are based on this data module can start using the new source without
any involvement from report authors. The relinked source must be of the same type as the original source.

For more information, see the IBM Cognos Analytics Data Modeling Guide.

What’s new video
Here’s a short video that highlights the new features for this release: video (https://youtu.be/tXPJdinwdN8).

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**Release 11.0.9 - December 2017**

The following features are new or changed in Cognos Analytics 11.0.9. [11.0.9](#)

**General**

**Support for Planning Analytics named sets**
You can access IBM Planning Analytics named sets in reporting, dashboards, and data modeling. View a named set, filter on a named set, and build visualizations based on a named set.

**Dashboards and stories**

**Added latitude and longitude location information in a map visualization**
When you use a map in a dashboard, you can show data for one location, either as a filled region, a point, latitude/longitude point, or a combination of these locations.

**Changing the label orientation**
You can change the orientation of the labels on the horizontal axis in some visualizations.

**Full screen mode**
On the top bar, there is a new full screen button. Use this button to see the dashboard without the top bar and side bar.

**Managing**

**PostgreSQL connections can be used with Amazon Aurora PostgreSQL**
Starting with this release, you can use the existing PostgreSQL connection editor and JDBC driver to create and maintain data server connections to Amazon Aurora PostgreSQL.

Here’s a short video that highlights some features for this release: https://youtu.be/33wMDRfDNjw

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**Release 11.0.8 - November 2017**

The following features are new or changed in Cognos Analytics 11.0.8. [11.0.8](#)

**General**

**Support for new data sources**
Starting with this release, the following data sources are supported:

**MongoDB Connector for BI 2.2.1**
Cognos Analytics supports MongoDB Connector for Business Intelligence (BI) 2.2.1 through the MySQL JDBC driver required by MongoDB. MongoDB BI Connector for BI version 2 no longer uses Postgres JDBC driver and server technology to access MongoDB 3.x servers.

**Tip:** MongoDB Connector for BI version 1 is no longer supported. Ensure that you update any version 1 connections to use version 2.2.1. Also, update existing Cognos models while
connected to BI Connector version 2. This will ensure that the model metadata reflects differences in data types and scale that were introduced in MongoDB Connector for BI version 2.

**Spark SQL 2.1 thrift server**
Cognos Analytics supports the Spark SQL 2.1 thrift server that is accessed via the SIMBA (Magnitude) JDBC driver for Spark SQL.

**Azure SQL Data Warehouse**
Cognos Analytics supports Azure SQL Data Warehouse. Connections are maintained using the SQL Server connection editor.

**Amazon Redshift**
By default, Cognos Analytics requires that Amazon Redshift users copy a version of the RedshiftJDBC41*.jar file to the cognos_analytics_location drivers directory. While there is no requirement to use a 4.0 or 4.2 driver, you can now edit the default driver class name to correspond to the driver class names that are supported by Amazon. Amazon JDBC drivers starting with version 1.2.1 support a generic name `com.amazon.redshift.jdbc.Driver` that can be used instead of the previous driver class names.

**Amazon Athena**
Cognos Analytics supports Amazon Athena via the Amazon Athena JDBC driver. A connection must specify a valid Amazon S3 location by using the Amazon Athena s3_staging_dir connection property from which the driver retrieves query results.

For more information about software environments that are supported by this product, you can run a report from the IBM Software Product Compatibility Reports (SPCR) tool.

**Creating a data set in either page design mode or page preview mode**
When creating a data set, you can now stay in the Page design view. This way, you can avoid delays in data retrieval if the data set is very large. As before, you can switch to the Page preview view when you want to see the refreshed data.

**Managing scheduled activities**
General users and administrators can now manage scheduled activities in the same way. Users can use the new option My schedules and subscriptions to view and edit their scheduled activities and subscriptions. Administrators can use a similar interface to manage the scheduled activities of all users.

**Dashboards and stories**

**Added options to increase the visibility of labels**
Some visualizations allow you to add shadows to the labels and increase the contrast of the labels.

**Resolve ambiguous data source connections and signons**
When you’re building a dashboard or story and there are multiple data source connections and data source signons, you will receive a prompt asking you to resolve the ambiguous connections.

**Highlight data in a story**
You can highlight specific data in your story while still showing the context of where that data appears. For example, you might want to highlight a specific year and dim all the other years.

On the timeline in a scene, control which data is highlighted and when the highlighting appears in your story. To get started, tap the timeline slider for the visualization you want to highlight data on and tap the Add highlight button.

For more information, see the Dashboards and Stories User Guide.
Play all scenes and/or continuously loop

In a story, you can play all the scenes from the beginning and stop at the end or have the story continuously loop without the need for a presenter to click through each scene manually.

Here's a short video that highlights updates in stories: https://youtu.be/L3pm3FcD98g

Reporting

Added latitude and longitude location information in a map visualization

When you use a map in a report, you can show data for one location, either as a filled region, a point, latitude/longitude point, or a combination of these locations.

For more information, see the IBM Cognos Analytics Reporting Guide.

Added options to increase the visibility of labels

Some visualizations allow you to add shadows to labels and increase the contrast of the labels.

Saving reports as XML

Report consumers can now save reports in XML format.

Adding images from the image gallery to a report

Report authors can now add images from the image gallery to a report. Dashboard authors have a similar ability to add images from the image gallery to a dashboard, which existed in previous versions of the product.

Here's a short video that highlights updates in reporting: https://youtu.be/ebfTqRC7aJE

Data modeling

Data module diagram improvements

The data module diagram was redesigned. The improvements include changes to the cardinality settings.

Here's a short video that highlights updates in modeling: https://youtu.be/w83Fb57znNA

Managing Cognos Analytics

Extensions can be uploaded by portal administrators

Portal administrators can now upload extensions that allow users, for example, to add images or shapes to reports or dashboards. Previously, only System Administrators could upload extensions.

Installation and configuration

Supported OpenID Connect providers now include SiteMinder

The list of supported OpenID Connect providers now includes SiteMinder.

Support for Subject Alternative Name

The Cognos Analytics default cryptographic provider now supports the Subject Alternative Name property that is used to validate the origin of an SSL certificate.

Cognos for Microsoft Office

Cognos for Microsoft Office integration

With the Cognos for Microsoft Office v11.0 release, you can use the plug-in to bring in Cognos Analytics assets into Microsoft Office products.
The Cognos for Microsoft Office Installation Guide and User Guide were added under the **BI Components** section of the Cognos Analytics 11.0.x Knowledge Center.

**Release 11.0.7 - August 2017**

The following features are new or changed in Cognos Analytics 11.0.7. [11.0.7]

**General**

**Reorganized home page**

We've updated the look and feel to unify the user experience with IBM Watson Analytics. For example, the **Home** button appears in the top-left corner of the interface. The tiles in the middle of the page now represent your most recently modified data assets. The Switcher menu in the center of the app bar lets you navigate between open assets.

**Data upload and asset creation**

To upload data or create a new asset, tap **+ New** in the bottom left corner. Then continue to your data upload or asset creation option.

**Support for MemSQL and Presto**

As of release 11.0.7, Cognos Analytics supports the following:

- MemSQL, starting with version 5.5
  - MemSQL using the MySQL Connector/J JDBC driver is supported.
  - Connections are maintained using the MySQL connection editor.
- Presto, starting with version 0.167
  - Both the Presto and Teradata Presto JDBC drivers are supported.
  - Connections are maintained using the Presto or Teradata Presto connection editor, depending on which JDBC driver is used.

  **Note:** Current releases of Presto have limited support for fixed length character types (CHAR), which can result in incorrect results. To avoid this limitation, generate expressions that use a varying length character type.

For more information about software environments that are supported by this product, you can run a report from the IBM Software Product Compatibility Reports (SPCR) tool.

**Dashboards and stories**

**Add customized images to the Widgets panel**

You can now host an image library of customized images in the Widgets panel in dashboards and stories. Your administrator can upload the images using a new extension. For more information, see *Adding dashboard images* in the **IBM Cognos Analytics Managing User Guide**.

Here’s a short video that highlights interface enhancements and visualization improvements: [https://youtu.be/uByuhAfQ1pg](https://youtu.be/uByuhAfQ1pg)

**Animated transitions in slide show stories**

In slide show stories, **Animated path** transitions allow you to create the effect of objects moving from a position on one scene to a new position on the next scene when you play your story.

To get started using **Animated path** transitions, add an object to a slide show scene, duplicate the scene, then move or resize the object on the duplicated scene. Play your story to test your transitions.

Here’s a short video that highlights features in stories: [https://youtu.be/nhuttCxH5cw](https://youtu.be/nhuttCxH5cw)
Open data tray icon

The **Open data tray** icon is now available only in Edit or Preview mode.

If you don’t see the **Open data tray** icon, tap the **Edit or preview** icon.

Filtering

Filtering enhancements include the following:

- Filter areas can be re-sized
- Filter info below the title
- Top-bottom count %
- Filter based on conditions
- Hide the filter area to gain more screen real-estate
- Clear filters from the tooltips
- Can no longer add a page filter in consumption mode
- Can no longer add a global filter in consumption mode

Default sort order

The default sort order value for alphabetical data is now **Sort ascending**. This may affect the appearance of existing visualizations where a sort order was not explicitly set.

Widgets

Auto-refresh of widgets (based on a timer). You can also disconnect widgets using filter groups.

Enhancements to maps in dashboards

You can add multiple location categories to a map to reduce or eliminate ambiguous location names.

For more information about maps in dashboards, see *Dashboard and Stories*.

Navigation paths from data modules

You can now view navigation paths on the **Data items** tab of a data module. This option allows you to navigate to any levels that are defined in the data module.

For more information about navigation paths, see *Dashboard and Stories*.

Here’s a short video that highlights features in dashboards: https://youtu.be/60KyLAvqQOA

Reporting

Enhancements to maps in reports

You can add multiple location categories to a map to reduce or eliminate ambiguous location names. We’ve also added a point location slot so that you can show data for two location measures, one filled by regions and one by points.

For more information about maps in reports, see *Reporting*.

**Note:** The documentation that describes the legacy Map Manager map functionality in reports has been moved to an appendix in *Reporting*. Any other documentation related to maps describes how maps currently work in the product.

Interactive filtering

Users can create and manage interactive filters in HTML reports.
This feature helps the users to better understand the report context and modify the views accordingly without relying on report authors. The report consumers are given more power and flexibility to accomplish simple, but important tasks. For example, they can create filters directly on the report output, create simple calculations, sort items, and much more, using the on-demand toolbar.

In the application toolbar in the interactive viewer, a filter icon is available that opens the filter panel. The panel shows all filters that are created by the report consumer on the report output. When users click a filter in this panel, all data containers that use the selected filter are automatically highlighted in the report. When a data container is selected, the filter panel is updated instantly to display only filters that are applied to the selected data container. Users can edit or delete the filter directly in the panel.

Users can resize the filter panel, and pin or unpin the panel depending on the screen resolution. Report authors also have the option to make an authored filter visible to report consumers so that they can interact with it in this panel.

The panel cannot be used to create or view low-level filter expressions that are manually created in the expression editor. All filters that were created in earlier versions of Cognos Analytics have interactive filtering disabled by default.

This feature is not available for active reports.

Setting your own parameters in the My parameters panel
You can set parameter and prompt values for reports so that when the report runs, it uses your personalized values by default. Your administrator configures parameter names and their default values to appear in your My parameters panel. However, you can change the default values if you wish.

For more information, see the IBM Cognos Analytics Reporting Guide.

Interactive performance assistant
The Include performance details option allows authors to interactively view the performance of their reports. You can use Include performance details while you are designing your page by running as HTML or by using the preview mode within the authoring mode.

Package based drill-through
Cognos Analytics now supports package based drill-through in the interactive viewer. To access drill-through links, select a data item and use the explorer button to access Related links. The drill-through links are listed in the Related links menu.


Data modeling
Support for Kerberos authentication and connection command blocks when loading metadata
The Load metadata feature in data modeling now supports Kerberos authentication and connection command blocks.

This means that you can now use data server connections that include these features as sources for data modules. In previous releases of Cognos Analytics, you could only use connections that didn't include these features as data module sources. For information about creating data server connections, see Managing IBM Cognos Analytics User Guide.

Revamped user experience in the modeling user interface
The user experience of creating data modules has been revamped. All aspects of preparing data have improved, including snappier response times with every interaction.
The layout of the user interface has been streamlined with tabs at the top to toggle between the data grid, diagram, and validation views. Now you can sort the columns in the data grid to better enable the exploration of data while you are shaping it.

**Enhancements in the Create calculation dialog box**

Invoking the Create calculation action on a numeric column presents a simple interface for common arithmetic operations, just like in prior versions. However, now there is also a link to progress to the calculation editor if more advanced functions are needed.

**More filter conditions**

When applying a filter on a text column, you can now specify conditions like “starts with”, “contains”, or “does not end with”. These filter conditions make it easier to reduce your data to only what you need.

**Enhancements in the Create data group dialog box**

If you define a data group on a numeric column, by default, ranges of the groups have equal distribution, just like in previous versions. However, should the minimum or maximum values in your data change, the groups will now adjust dynamically. The ranges of the groups will not change dynamically if you explicitly set the ranges.

**User experience improvements for defining relationships (joins) between tables**

When browsing potential columns to match as keys for the relationship, you are presented with data from selected columns, separate from the table data view area. This makes it easier to confirm whether there are matching values between the selected columns from each table. This also makes it easier to see whether either column has duplicate values, which can help you set the cardinality accordingly. Simpler terms are used for the labels of settings, such as the cardinality options. You can also see more information about the options by hovering over the associated info icon.

Here's a short video that highlights some features for this release: [https://youtu.be/6NH_OxavAsY](https://youtu.be/6NH_OxavAsY)

**Managing Cognos Analytics**

**OpenID Connect configuration**

The list of supported OpenID Connect providers now includes IBMid, Okta, Google, ADFS, Azure AD, SalesForce, and Ping.

You can delete groups, roles, and folders from OpenID Connect configurations.

**Support for Planning Analytics data sources**

Cognos Analytics supports IBM Planning Analytics version 2.0 data sources in dynamic query mode. For more information, see *Creating a data server connection* in the *IBM Cognos Analytics Managing User Guide*.

**New sample extension for adding customized images to the Widgets panel**

The administrator can use the new extension SampleExtensionCustomMedia.zip to add images to the Widgets panel in dashboards. For more information, see *Adding dashboard images* in the *IBM Cognos Analytics Managing User Guide*.

**Customizing parameters**

As administrator, you can create standardized parameter names that can be used across different reports. You can also set different parameters for different users, depending on their role. These customized parameters appear in the user’s My parameters panel. For more information, see *Setting parameters that can be used across reports* and *Setting default parameters for roles* in the *IBM Cognos Analytics Managing User Guide*.

**New types of logging**

Cognos Analytics now supports diagnostic logging and user session logging.
Diagnostic logging replaces the JAVA ipfclientconfig.xml logging from previous releases of the product, and allows to configure detailed logging for specific product components and functions. The logs are saved in the cognosserver.log and dataset-service.log files in the ca_installation/logs directory.

Session logging can be enabled by individual users for their Cognos Analytics session. This logging can last for one hour maximum, and can be stopped by the user at any time. A unique identifier is generated for the session. Only information about the user session is collected and saved in a log file that includes the unique session identifier in its name. The user or an administrator can analyze the log file to troubleshoot the user's issue.

Installation and configuration

Simplified roles and capabilities in Cognos namespace

The following roles and capabilities were removed from the predefined Cognos namespace: Metrics Administrator, Metrics Authors, Metrics Users, Planning Administrators, Planning Users-Controller Administrators, Controller Users, Data Manager Authors, Express Authors, Adaptive Analytics Administrators, and Adaptive Analytics Users.

Administration and security

Dynamic connection parameters in JDBC connections

You can specify session variables in JDBC connections for drivers that support dynamic connection parameters. For more information, see Dynamic connection parameters in JDBC connections in the IBM Cognos Analytics Administration and Security Guide.

Release 11.0.6 - March 2017

The following features are new or changed in Cognos Analytics 11.0.6.  

General

Support for IBMid

IBMid is the IBM Identity Service, a cloud-based identity management solution. Customers can use IBMid to federate Cognos Analytics with many of their other applications that are federated using most SAML 2.0 identity providers.

The OpenID Connect namespace type is used to connect to IBMid.

Shortcuts

You can create shortcuts to content objects, such as packages, folders, reports, dashboards, data sets, and so on, in My Content or Team Content.

Report versions

You can save a report version for a report in My Content or Team Content, without having to open the report in Reporting.

Dashboards and stories

Support for OLAP packages

You can access dimensional data sources in dashboards. The supported OLAP packages can be based on PowerCubes, dynamic cubes, TM1 data sources, dimensionally-modeled relational (DMR) data sources, and other data sources.

Here's a short video that highlights OLAP support and other dashboard features: https://youtu.be/Bm55Y_qYZzM
Changing a template
You can change the template while you’re assembling a tabbed dashboard or a scene in a story. After you change the layout, move the objects around to fit.
For more information on templates, see the IBM Cognos Analytics Dashboards and Stories User Guide.

Widget connections
You can see how widgets on your canvas are connected, create new connections, disable connections, and create new groups of connections.
For more information on connecting widgets, see the IBM Cognos Analytics Dashboards and Stories User Guide.

New animation effects
In a story, use the new animation options to add more action as objects enter and leave a scene. The new animations include scale in and scale out, shrink in and expand out, and pivot in and pivot out.
The new effects are available from the Animation tab in the properties for an object.
Here's a short video that highlights features in stories: https://youtu.be/PbB-z5YO-q0

Reordering timelines
You can tap and drag a timeline in a story to change the order that objects appear in your scene.

Updated pins search
A more robust search in the My pins panel allows much more control over search results for pinned objects. Use the filter icon in the search field to narrow your search based on when you pinned the object you're searching for. For example, you can narrow your search results to pins that you added in the past week.

Mapping enhancements
You can now visualize more regions on the map. For example, you can visualize counties, cities, postal codes, and so on. For ambiguous names, you can specify a refinement region to help the system determine which region to draw on the map.

Navigation paths in the Selected sources panel
You can now view navigation paths in the Selected sources panel. Expand a navigation path and drag columns onto the canvas.

Grid visualization enhancements
Grid visualizations include summaries, auto-sizing, and more interactivity. You can hide and show summaries, as well as drill up and down.

New auto-size text type
The font size is automatically adjusted when you resize the new auto-size text type. You can set a fixed font size in the properties.

Managing Cognos Analytics

Custom folders for roles
You can create custom content folders for roles. The custom folder appears on the navigation bar below Team content.
**Changed data server connection editor**

The user interface for creating and editing data server connections was changed significantly. The new interface includes hints and examples of JDBC URLs making it easier to define JDBC connections.

**Support for new data sources**

The following data sources are now supported in the dynamic query mode:

- **Google BigQuery**
  Cognos Analytics supports Google BigQuery via the Google BigQuery JDBC driver. The default driver setting of standard SQL should not be changed to legacy SQL. The default timeout setting of the driver might need to be increased. The connections should use the Google service account to authenticate.

- **Google Cloud SQL**
  Cognos Analytics supports Google Cloud SQL generation 2 databases that are configured as MySQL 5.6 or 5.7.
  To define a data server connection to a Cloud SQL instance, use the MySQL connection editor and the MySQL JDBC driver.

- **Microsoft SQL database on Azure**
  To define a data server connection to an SQL database on Azure, use the Microsoft SQL Server connection editor and the Microsoft SQL Server JDBC driver. The connection details are visible in the portal pages of the user managing the databases on Azure. Once connected, the product name that is returned via JDBC is Microsoft SQL Server and the version number is 12.00.xx.

- **IBM Planning Analytics**
  Cognos Analytics supports the IBM Planning Analytics version 2.0 data sources.
  To create a connection to this data source, use the IBM Planning Analytics connection editor in IBM Cognos Administration. In this release, you cannot create connections to this data source from Manage > Data server connections.

**Changes to advanced routing terminology**

Routing sets are renamed to Routing tags in the product user interface and in the documentation.

**Reporting**

**Improved query support for data modules**

When you are using a data module as the data source, you can do the following:

- Add query calculations.
- View and edit queries.
- Edit filters.
- Create and modify data items with the Expression Editor.
- Add conditional styles.

**Freeze list column headings in the Cognos Analytics interactive viewer**

The property Scrollable area height is now available for list objects. You use this property to create scrollable lists. In the interactive viewer, list column headings remain visible as you scroll down the list data.

**Improved Cognos Analytics interactive viewer**

The interactive viewer supports the following features:

- Create, edit, or remove filters.
• Access glossary and lineage information for a data item.
• Share or embed report output, preserving the context of the current view of the report, such as prompt values.
• Run reports as the report owner or with owner capabilities.

Here's a short video that highlights features in reporting: https://youtu.be/pmJz7O8SIYE

Installation and configuration

OpenID Connect namespace

Use an OpenID Connect namespace type to implement IBMid authentication for IBM Cognos Analytics. IBMid is the IBM Identity Service, a cloud-based identity access and management solution that provides identity and single sign-on services for IBM applications.

Constrained delegation

Support for constrained delegation (a Microsoft extension to Kerberos), allows a service to obtain a ticket for another service on behalf of the user by presenting the user's service ticket to itself.

Kerberos and single sign-on

There are changes to the procedure for configuring the Kerberos login module.

Preserving files during an upgrade

Files to be preserved during an upgrade are listed in install_location/configuration/preserve\ca_base.preserve.txt. Do not edit this file. Edit install_location/configuration/preserve\preserve.txt to remove or preserve files or directories when upgrading. Instructions for using preserve.txt are included in the file itself.

Release 11.0.5 - November 2016

The following features are new or changed in Cognos Analytics 11.0.5.

Sharing and embedding content

Share and Embed buttons are available for content items such as reports, data modules, dashboards, and stories. These buttons create URLs that allow you to open content items directly in a web browser or to embed the content items in a custom web page.

Creating custom URLs

You can create custom URLs that open or run IBM Cognos Analytics content. This feature extends the sharing and embedding feature by giving you more control over how the content objects are opened or run.

Dashboards and stories

Navigation paths

After a modeler creates a navigation path, you can drill down and go back on an attribute in your dashboard or story. You can also navigate to any level in the path, passing your current context to that level.

Here's a short video that highlights features in dashboards: https://youtu.be/zYKDnj5A_y8

New visualization engine

New and innovative visualizations are included for dashboards and stories in this release. Your existing dashboards and stories will automatically upgrade to use the new visualizations, except for tree maps and maps. The new visualizations make use of the next generation of Rapidly Adaptive Visualization Engine (RAVE). Also, you can now zoom and pan on any charts.
New map visualization

Create compelling maps to visualize data with a new map visualization. The legacy map visualization is still available for you to use on your dashboard or story. Also, when you open an existing dashboard or story that contains a legacy map, the legacy map will persist.

Icon array visualization for infographics

Create an icon array that repeats a shape to represent a total value. To do so, drag a shape onto an item with a single value. Each shape represents a number. For example, if you drag a dollar sign shape onto an item with a value of 150, you will get 15 dollar sign shapes in your visualization. In this case, each shape represents a value of 10.

New story type, Guided journey

Guided journey is a new story type that guides an audience visually through a story. The journey starts out as the full picture of the story and then pans and zooms into the details across the canvas.

Here’s a short video that highlights features in stories: https://youtu.be/V7xv3Knhq-4

Support for dynamic query mode Framework Manager packages

You can now access relational, dynamic query mode Framework Manager packages in dashboards and stories. This includes support for prompts, stand-alone calculations, and stand-alone filters.

The data tray and global filters are unavailable for Framework Manager packages.

Reporting

Dimensional lists

In the Cognos Analytics interactive viewer, you can perform dimensional operations on lists that contain data from a dimensional data source. For example, you can

• Drill up, drill down, and perform other types of exploration such as top/down filtering
• Add calculated members

New visualizations

New visualizations are available in the Visualization gallery. Drag the Visualization tool to a report, click the Filter icon, and select New visualizations to see the complete list.

In addition to the new visualizations, the Visualization gallery now contains all legacy charts and legacy visualizations. The Chart tool is deprecated.

Selection of chart elements in the Cognos Analytics interactive viewer

In reports that are run in the Cognos Analytics interactive viewer, you can now select elements in a chart and perform various operations, such as drill up or down.

Improved page and query navigation

The page explorer and query explorer are now directly available in the Cognos Analytics - Reporting side menu bar.

Excel and CSV output options in the Cognos Analytics interactive viewer

When you run a report in the Cognos Analytics interactive viewer, you can now choose to produce Excel or CSV output after you perform an operation (such as filtering the report) in the viewer.

New user interface for prompt controls

A new interface is available for prompt controls that are added to a report. To specify the new interface, open the Properties pane at the report level, click the Report styles property, and select 11.4.
Redesigned Filter window

A redesigned Filter window appears when you create a custom filter.

Here's a short video that highlights features in reporting: https://youtu.be/o25JR8EVpNI

Data modeling

Packages as sources for data modules

You can use IBM Cognos Framework Manager packages as sources for data modules. Only relational, dynamic query mode packages are supported.

Linking data modules

You can create links in data modules to existing data modules.

Navigation paths

Navigation paths can be created to provide enhanced drill-down and back options in dashboards and stories.

In previous releases of IBM Cognos Analytics, any drill-down action required hierarchical data. For example, you could drill from Country to City, but not from Year to City. Navigation paths are much more flexible and can accommodate drilling down from Year to City if that's how you want to analyze your business.

For more information, see the IBM Cognos Analytics Data Modeling Guide.

Support for SAP HANA input parameters in Framework Manager models

IBM Cognos Framework Manager modelers can now create data source query subjects that understand the SAP HANA input parameters in analytic and calculation views. The input parameters are used to pass values that can be used in filters and calculated fields. These values must be passed in an SQL statement by using the SAP proprietary PLACEHOLDER construct.

When importing metadata from SAP HANA, the modeler can select an analytic or calculated view from the SAP HANA _SYS_BIC schema. As the views are imported, the SAP HANA _SYS_BI.BIMC_VARIABLE_VIEW is queried to obtain information about the input parameters. In Framework Manager, the data source query subjects that are created from the selected objects include a new tab. This tab displays a set of parameters that, at run time, are used to accept values that are passed in SQL statements to SAP HANA by using the PLACEHOLDER syntax.

In Framework Manager, you can define detail filters that are passed to SAP HANA as predicates in the SQL statements. For more information, see the topic about mapping SAP HANA input parameters to data source query subject parameters in the IBM Cognos Framework Manager User Guide.

Here's a short video that highlights features in data modeling: https://youtu.be/9Nfqx-qw5po

Managing Cognos Analytics

License management

The Cognos Analytics Manage tool now includes the Licenses tab. System administrators use this tab to manage product licenses in the production and non-production environments.

The administrators can enter and save the total number of licenses that an organization owns, and view the number of currently used licenses. A report can be generated that shows the details about license usage by user.

Role-based user interface customization

You can specify default themes, customized home views, and feature selections by role.
Customized dashboard shapes and widgets
You can create custom shapes and widgets for use in dashboards.

Preloading metadata from data servers
You can preload metadata from data servers. This feature saves time when creating data modules from data servers.

Support for new data sources
The following data sources are now supported in the dynamic query mode:

- Amazon Aurora
  Amazon Aurora is a MySQL-compatible relational database. Connections to Amazon Aurora can be defined by using the MySQL connection editor and MySQL JDBC driver.
- Snowflake
  The minimum supported version of the Snowflake JDBC driver is 2.8.1
- Pivotal HDB
  Connections to Pivotal HDB must use newer versions of the Pivotal JDBC driver, such as 5.1.1.000069 (F000111.U000048) or higher, to ensure that the correct server name and version are detected. Testing a connection in the administration user interface returns status information. If the product name is Greenplum and not HAWQ, the driver is old and should be updated. For more information, see Stalled queries in the Pivotal HDB engine (http://www.ibm.com/support/docview.wss?uid=swg21994557).

Installation and configuration

Microsoft SQL Server JDBC driver
The JSQL driver for Microsoft SQL Server has been replaced with the Microsoft JDBC driver. You must download and place the JAR file in the drivers folder. See Set up for a Microsoft SQL Server content store for more details.

Apache 2.4 web server support
For details on configuring for Apache 2.4, see Configuring Cognos Analytics with Apache or IBM HTTP Server.

Release 11.0.4 - September 2016
The following features are new or changed in Cognos Analytics 11.0.4.

Installation and Configuration
Installation and Configuration changes have been made to help you get started and continue using Cognos Analytics to its full potential. These include new samples, the addition of LifeCycle Manager, Oracle PDB support, and changes to gateway support.

Samples
A set of samples have been added that use spreadsheets as data sources. These samples are installed by default in an Easy installation, and are an option in a Custom installation. The deployment archives for these samples are copied into the install_location/deployment folder during installation, but still need to be imported.

1. Open the Manage > Administration console from the portal.
2. Select the Configuration tab and click Content Administration.
3. Click New Import tool. The deployment archive for these samples is called Samples_for_Install.
The samples are deployed to the Team content/Get started folder in the portal. They include reports, dashboards, active reports, and data. In install_location/samples/extensions you will find more sample archives you can deploy.

**LifeCycle Manager**

The installation wizard now provides an option to install IBM Cognos LifeCycle Manager. LCM is a tool that validates differences in Cognos generated output (data and rendered view) that is run through the Cognos application.

**Oracle PDB supported as a content store database**

A content store can now use an Oracle Pluggable Database (PDB). Use Oracle Database (Advanced) as the content store type. In the Database specifier field, enter //<server>/<servicename>

**Cognos Analytics Gateway Configuration**

Some changes and improvements have been made to the process of configuring a gateway with IIS. See the following topics.

- Configuring Cognos Analytics with Apache or IBM HTTP Server
- Configuring IIS with Cognos Analytics
- Setting up IIS and Cognos Analytics when upgrading from 11.0.3 to 11.0.4

**Data sets**

You can now create data sets from packages and data modules by choosing which columns and rows to extract from the package or data module. The extracted data can be stored in a detailed or aggregated form. Data sets are stored in columnar form, and data set refreshes can be scheduled.

**Data modeling**

The following features have been added to data modeling.

- Existing data modules can be used as sources to create new data modules.
- Data sets can be used as sources to create data modules.
- Snapshots are no longer available. They are replaced by data sets.
- Undo and redo actions are now available in the user interface.
- You can hide tables and columns in the user interface to provide an uncluttered view of metadata for the report and dashboard users.
- You can specify NULL-handling options for your data.
- You can validate a data module to identify invalid references in calculations, filters, or joins.

**Customizing the Cognos Analytics user interface**

You can customize the IBM Cognos Analytics user interface by adding and removing user interface elements, such as buttons and menus. You can also replace the default sign-in and home views.

**Adding JavaScript to reports**

You can add JavaScript to reports that will execute when the reports are run in interactive mode (the report property Run with full interactivity is set to Yes).

A new object in the Reporting toolbox, the custom control, is used to add your own user interfaces to a report. You can also add JavaScript that applies to a report page or prompt page by using the Module path property for the page.

**Support for client workstation logging**

In addition to the logging capabilities that exist on the IBM Cognos server, you can produce logs and error reports for your own workstation. This type of client-side logging is important for troubleshooting and can cover JavaScript anomalies that are not detectable from the server environment.
Support for drill-through and prompt APIs in Reporting

Drill-through definitions that are authored in reports and prompt APIs are supported for reports that are run in interactive mode (the report property Run with full interactivity is set to Yes).

Visual storytelling

Tell stories visually with your data. A story is a type of view that contains a set of scenes that are displayed in sequence over time. Stories are similar to dashboards in that they use visualizations to share insights. Stories differ from dashboards in that they provide a narrative over time and are useful for conveying a conclusion or recommendation.

Another way that stories differ from dashboards is that you can create the effect of animation by having visualizations and other objects appear and disappear during a scene.

You can reuse visualizations that you’ve pinned from other stories or dashboards. Or, you can create visualizations from scratch.

Pinning in dashboards and stories

As you work with your data in Cognos Analytics, use pinning to set aside insights from dashboards and stories. You can also set aside other items, such as images. You can quickly add these visualizations and other items to dashboards and stories that you create to share your findings with others.

You can select multiple items in a view, and then add each item to your collection of pins at the same time. You can also group items in a view, and then add the group of items as one pin to your collection of pins.

Crosstab visualizations in dashboards and stories

You can now add a crosstab visualization to your dashboard or story. A crosstab provides a different view of data by showing values at the intersection points of rows and columns.

Crosstabs in dashboards and stories can have two levels of nesting and n number of measures on the columns. In a crosstab, you can swap columns and rows, show and hide summaries, and apply conditional formatting to the values.

Conditional formatting in dashboards and stories

You can now define conditional formatting in grid and crosstab visualizations by dragging a measure to the new Color by column. Conditional formatting allows you to see the distribution of your data and highlight exceptional data points by using color. For example, you might want to highlight low sales numbers in red, or use green to highlight sales numbers over a certain threshold.

Refresh timer on visualizations

In dashboards and stories, you can now set a timer to seconds, minutes, or hours in individual visualization properties to indicate how often you want the item to automatically refresh.

Order columns by rank in dashboards and stories

On any chart, you can now filter on a measure to see the top five, top 10, bottom five, or bottom 10.

Edit and refresh data sets within a dashboard or story

You can edit and refresh a data set that is based on a package or a data module, without leaving the dashboard or story.

Release 11.0.3 - July 2016

The following features are new or changed in Cognos Analytics 11.0.3. [11.0.3]

Getting started tutorials and samples

There are new tutorials with samples (including data), videos, and written procedures to guide beginners through creating their first reports, active reports, and dashboards.

For more information, see Get started video tutorials and samples.
Data sets from uploaded files and data modules in snapshot mode are now stored in Content Store

In previous versions of Cognos Analytics, data sets from uploaded files and data modules in snapshot mode were stored in the file system. They are now stored in content store by default.

Link to new user community and help

For links to videos, getting started resources, expert blogs, events, and more, you can now tap the help icon in the application bar and visit the IBM Cognos Analytics Community (www.ibm.com/communities/analytics/cognos-analytics/). You can also link to help documentation from the help icon.

Legacy components work with IE browser settings for Cognos Analytics

When Cognos Analytics 11.0.0 moved from quirks to standards mode HTML, if you upgraded from Cognos 10.2.2 and used the Microsoft Internet Explorer web browser, you had to change the browser settings that enabled compatibility mode. However, legacy components such as IBM Cognos Query Studio and IBM Cognos Analysis Studio still required the compatibility mode settings. In the current release, these legacy components now use meta tags to automatically switch into compatibility mode.

For more information, see Cognos Analytics conversion to Standards Mode (www.ibm.com/support/docview.wss?uid=swg21982010).

Support for new data sources

The following data sources are now supported for the dynamic query mode:

- Denodo
  
  For information about supported versions of Denodo, see this article (http://www.ibm.com/support/docview.wss?uid=swg21984378).

- MongoDB Connector for Business Intelligence (BI)
  
  The minimum supported version of MongoDB Connector for BI is 1.1.3.

- SAP Sybase Adaptive Server Enterprise (ASE)
  
  When adding this data source from the Data servers page in Cognos Analytics, choose the type SAP Sybase IQ and ASE. In Cognos Administration, choose the type JDBC, and then select SAP Sybase IQ and ASE.

Higher limit for the query service JVM heap size

The limit is increased from 1024 to 8192 MB. You can modify the JVM heap size limit in IBM Cognos Administration, by changing the JVM heap size limit for the query service property. For more information, see Memory Guidelines for Dynamic Query Mode (http://www.ibm.com/support/docview.wss?uid=swg21587457).

Reports support multiple packages

When you are authoring a report, you can add data items from multiple packages that use the dynamic query mode, or from a single package that uses the compatible query mode.

New list container available in IBM Cognos Active Report

When you are authoring an active report, a new list container, called a data list, is available. Data lists offer better performance than regular lists because they are run on the client computer or device instead of on the Cognos server.

Data lists have pinned headers and are scrollable. Other features include applying a sequence of colors to the rows, and the ability to replace the values of a column with a microchart.

Filter text in report output

When you are authoring a report, you can add text that shows the filters that are applied when the report is run.
More interactivity in the modeling user interface

You can edit a data module from within the diagram by using the following functionality:

• Drag and drop source tables into the diagram.
• Edit tables and joins from the diagram.
• Delete joins from the diagram.

You can also drag and drop columns into the expression editor.

Simple calculations in dashboards

Perform simple calculations on two measures in a grid or from the data panel on the left. A new column with the result and title of the calculation appears in the grid. The calculation also appears at the bottom of the list in the data panel as a new data item and can be reused in your dashboard. You can easily edit and rename your calculation. The new calculations include addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, percentage, and percentage change. For more information, see the IBM Cognos Analytics Dashboards and Stories User Guide.

Improved control of numeric data formatting in dashboards

When numeric data is displayed, the number formatting specified by the modeler is honored and you can control how that data is formatted in the dashboard. For example, in the model, if numeric data has a date format applied, you can format that data with a short, medium, or a long date in a dashboard. For more information, see the IBM Cognos Analytics Dashboards and Stories User Guide.

Relink a dashboard to a different source

You can relink a dashboard to the same source or to a different source directly from the dashboard. For example, your visualizations are linked to a source called "Sales Data". You can relink your visualizations to an updated "Sales Data" source or to a different source called "Regional Sales Data". If the same column appears in both sources, the visualization is updated automatically. If the columns don't match, the visualization will indicate that a field is missing. To fix this, expand the visualization and manually update the columns. For more information, see the IBM Cognos Analytics Dashboards and Stories User Guide.

Release 11.0.2 - May 2016

The following features are new or changed in Cognos Analytics 11.0.2.

Accessibility features enabled

Cognos Analytics includes accessibility features to assist users who have a disability, such as restricted mobility or limited vision, to use the product successfully.

For more information, see the Cognos Analytics Accessibility Guide.
Chapter 2. Deprecated and removed features

The following features are deprecated or removed from Cognos Analytics.

11.0.11 - May 2018
Pivotal HDB data source is deprecated

The Pivotal HDB data source is deprecated and will be removed in a later version of Cognos Analytics.

11.0.8 - November 2017
Data sources that are no longer supported

The following data sources are no longer supported:

- Mongo Connector for BI version 1.
- Hitachi Advanced Data Binder Platform (JDBC)
- IBM Domino® (JDBC)

11.0.7 - August 2017
Data sources that are deprecated

The following data sources are deprecated and will be removed in a later version of Cognos Analytics.

- Hitachi Advanced Data Binder Platform (JDBC)
- IBM Domino (JDBC)

11.0.6 - March 2017
Data sources that are no longer supported

Starting with this release, the following data sources are not supported:

- Actian Matrix (ODBC and JDBC)
  Generic ODBC connection types can be used to refer to an ODBC DSN which uses an ODBC driver on Microsoft Windows operating systems to access an Actian Matrix server. Attempting to use an existing JDBC connection will be rejected.
- Actian Vector (ODBC)
  Generic ODBC connection types can be used to refer to an ODBC DSN which uses an ODBC driver on Microsoft Windows operating systems to access an Actian Vector server.
- IBM IMS (JDBC)

11.0.5 - November 2016
Data sources that are deprecated

The following data sources are deprecated and will be removed in a later version of Cognos Analytics.

- Actian Matrix (ODBC and JDBC)
• Actian Vector (ODBC)
• IBM IMS (JDBC)

11.0.3 - July 2016

Data sources that are no longer supported

Starting with this release, the following data sources are no longer supported:

• IBM Cognos Finance
• Microsoft Analysis Services 2005 (ODBC)
• Microsoft Analysis Services 2008 (ODBC)
• Microsoft SQL Server (SQL 2005 Native Client)
• Microsoft SQL Server (SQL 2008 Native Client)
• Microsoft SQL Server (OLE DB)
• SAP ECC

For more information, see the article Data sources that are no longer supported in Cognos Analytics.

11.0.2 - March 2016

Data sources that are no longer supported

Starting with this release, the following data sources are no longer supported:

• Composite (ODBC)
• IBM Cognos Now! - Real-time Monitoring Cube
• IBM Cognos Planning - Series 7
• IBM Cognos Virtual View Manager (ODBC)
• IBM Red Brick® (ODBC)
• Progress OpenEdge (ODBC)
• Siebel
• Sybase Adaptive Server Enterprise (CT-Lib)

For more information, see the article Data sources that are no longer supported in Cognos Analytics.