Release 1.3

Monday, March 06, 2023 11:26 AM

Closing Engagements

In build 49, as discussed, there will now be a confirmation pop-up if the system has determined that the engagement data will be deleted upon closing. The pop-up describes the reason the engagement will be deleted (of the three), and will allow for the user to cancel the operation.

API error

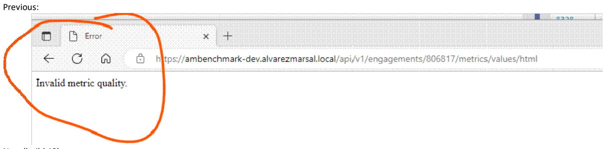
Hi Jack,

The defect we saw during the call where the API functions had not been adjusted to the recently new quality rules has been fixed. It will be in build 49. This impacted output for the .../text and the .../HTML options.

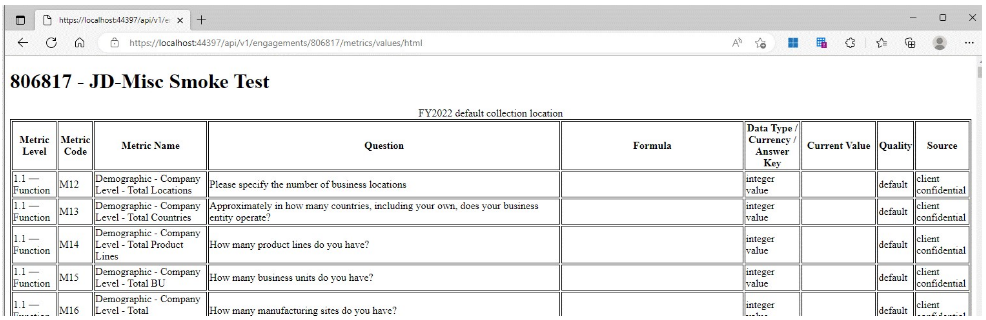
Thanks,

Chris

Previous:



Now (build 49):



806817 - JD-Misc Smoke Test

FY2022 default collection location

Metric Level	Metric Code	Metric Name	Question	Formula	Data Type / Currency / Answer Key	Current Value	Quality	Source
1.1 — Function	M12	Demographic - Company Level - Total Locations	Please specify the number of business locations		integer value		default	client confidential
1.1 — Function	M13	Demographic - Company Level - Total Countries	Approximately in how many countries, including your own, does your business entity operate?		integer value		default	client confidential
1.1 — Function	M14	Demographic - Company Level - Total Product Lines	How many product lines do you have?		integer value		default	client confidential
1.1 — Function	M15	Demographic - Company Level - Total BU	How many business units do you have?		integer value		default	client confidential
1.1 —	M16	Demographic - Company Level - Total	How many manufacturing sites do you have?		integer		default	client

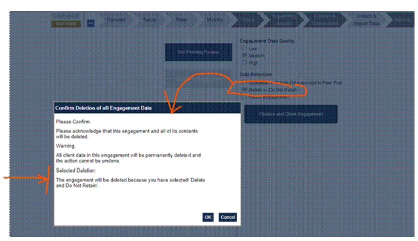
No longer implicitly (automatically) delete engagement on close

As discussed, there will no longer be an implicit engagement deletion when closing an engagement.

From build 49, any condition that will delete the data upon engagement closure will prompt the user first before proceeding. The conditions are:

1. The user chooses delete when closing
2. The client has not granted data retention consent (PRIME).
3. It was a buy due diligence, but the client did not obtain over 50% equity.

The condition will be stated at the bottom of the prompt.

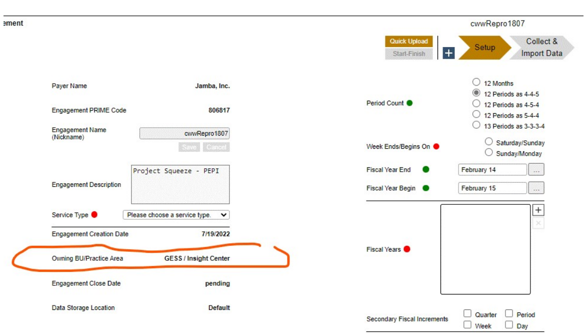


Owning BU/Practice Area

As discussed, the "Setup" chevron in the engagement editor will now show the owning BU/PA starting in build 49.

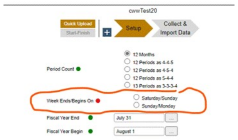
Thanks,

Chris



Setup - Saturday/Sunday, Sunday/Monday

As you know, we've added the additional field to the engagement object that defines how the client's week starts.



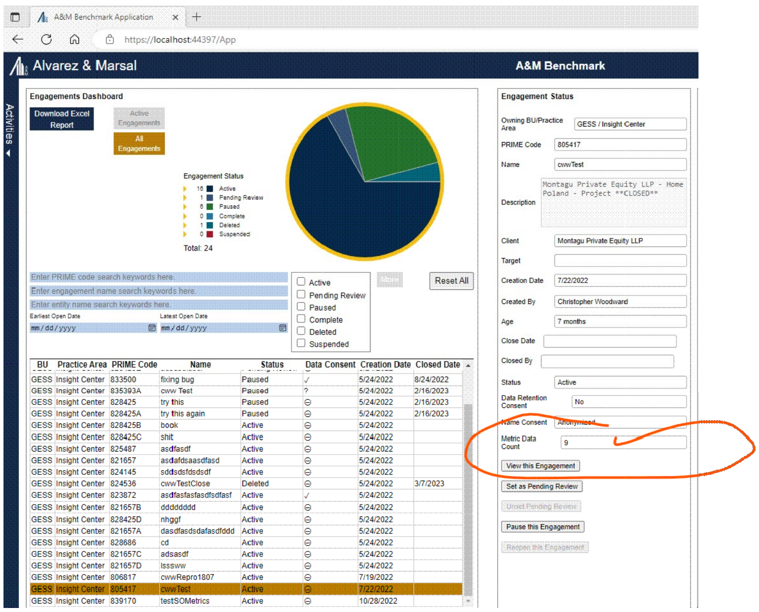
As with other "Setup" chevron parameters, if the value has not been set, the traffic light will remain red. For new engagements from build 49, this will be just another parameter to set. For existing engagements, we didn't ask the folks what this is. We should not have a red light for engagements that have already been loaded. Hence the question: Should we set all existing engagements to the week starting on Sunday? Or, do we want to go back and ask them. If the existing engagements are "12 Months", this setting doesn't really matter at this time.

Dashboard: Metric Data Count

As discussed, the dashboard will now have the overall metric data count in the detail pane.

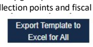
Thanks,

Chris



Layout changes of Data Collection Template

I finally got OpenXML to create the template correctly. Please find a sample attached. This is for all collection points and fiscal periods.



"Financials" tab contains: annual, quarterly, monthly/periodically, if applicable.
"Weekly" tab contains the 52 weeks, if applicable.
"Daily" tab contains 365/366 days, if applicable.

Next tasks:

1. Change code to import the new format.
2. Finish custom dialog to choose fiscal periods of choice.
3. Generate custom template. This won't take nearly as long now that I have the structures correct for the "all-in" case.
4. Adapt the 3x API functions to use the same format (much easier than OpenXML).

Security changes - Open engagement

In build 49, the following verbally discussed changes have been made per the updated security access matrix.

1. Any user in a practice area is now able to create an engagement for that practice area.
2. The user who is creating the engagement is automatically added the engagement's team member list if they're not already there from the PRIME list.

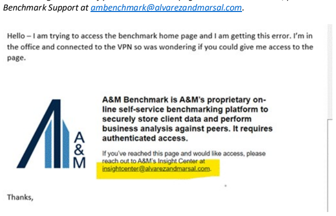
24	2	Change engagement team members	---	---	---	X	X	---	X	X	---	X	X	---	X(?)		1) Engagement team member that is a BU/PA engagement manager
25	3	Create engagement				X	X		X	X		X	X			X(?)	automatically add creator as team member (?) (compared to what's coming from PRIME)

No changes have been made as to who can close an engagement. It remains exclusive to engagement managers and above.

Email Change

Would it be possible to update the email address highlighted below to: ambenchmark@alvarezandmarsal.com instead of the Insight Center inbox? It will save a step for the IC research analyst team (now they are forwarding emails to me and then I either address it or forward it to Jack).

New verbiage could be: *If you've reached this page and would like access, please reach out to A&M Benchmark Support at ambenchmark@alvarezandmarsal.com.*


Hello – I am trying to access the benchmark home page and I am getting this error. I'm in the office and connected to the VPN so was wondering if you could give me access to the page.

A&M Benchmark is A&M's proprietary on-line self-service benchmarking platform to securely store client data and perform business analysis against peers. It requires authenticated access.

If you've reached this page and would like access, please reach out to A&M's Insight Center at insightcenter@alvarezandmarsal.com.

Thanks,

Further test Dashboard - All Engagements button only visible to BU & PA Admins

(Build 1.0.48.2)
Yeah. So ".2" or 4/4/23 patch on DEV and PROD only was a correction in the

"canAdministerEngagements" function so that only administrators (PA & BU) are approved.

This is the function used to decide if the button appears on the dashboard for "All Engagements"

Custom Interval Import/Export Template

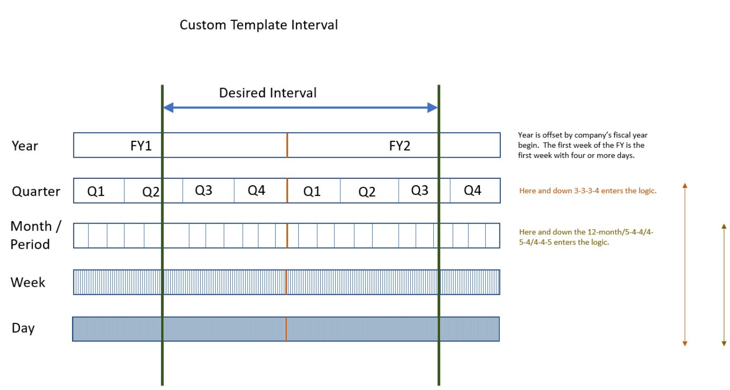
I've realized you're going to need something to orient you to the custom interval template in order to test it. I've learned a lot about the fiscal year in order to implement this. The idea is to summarize the logic for you to prevent you from having to struggle through the interdependencies of the rules as I did. I'm cc'ing Andy and Sandeip for their optional review in case they spot anything wrong.

FiscalYearIntervals

I've attached the PPT for the pic below.

The custom interval allows the user to pick an arbitrary beginning and end of the company's fiscal year to output to the template.

Year is offset by company's fiscal year begin. The first week of the FY is the first week with four or more days.

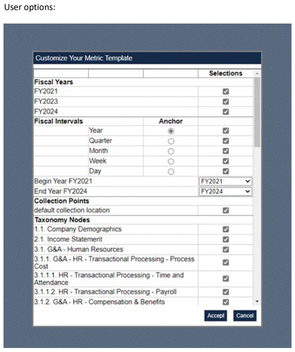


Depending on the anchor (see below), AMB will slice up and down the intervals in order to present the correct starting and ending increments for each day, week, month/period, quarter, and year.

High-level logic:

1. The fiscal year is shifted from the calendar year by the fiscal year begin day.
    a. This determines the first month of the fiscal year
    b. This determines the first week of the fiscal year. The first week is the fiscal year is the first week from the fiscal year begin that has four or more days.
    c. This determines the first day of the fiscal year. The first day is the day of the week from (b) that represents the change from previous FY to new FY. Therefore, it is not always the day specified in the fiscal year begin.
    d. Leap years include an extra day.
2. For any company calendar, each fiscal year is divided into four quarters. All fiscal calendars have 12 months, 12 periods, or 13 periods.
    a. For 12-month calendars, each quarter counts three months. Obviously, the weeks and days therein are determined by the actual calendar month.
    b. For 12-period calendars (5-4-4, 4-5-4, 4-4-5), the quarters are divided up into 4 periods of 13 weeks each.
    c. For the 13-period calendar, the quarters are divided into 3 periods, 3 periods, 3 periods, and 4 periods, respectively.
3. For month/period, there are the following calendars:
    a. 12-month. Here each month has beginning and end potentially in the middle of weeks/year begin.
    b. 12-period as:
        1) 5-4-4 – P1, P4, P7, and P10 have 5 weeks. All others 4 weeks.
        2) 4-5-4 – P2, P5, P8, and P11 have 5 weeks. All others 4 weeks.
        3) 4-4-5 – P3, P6, P9 and P12 have 5 weeks. All others 4 weeks.
    c. 13-period. Here each period has four weeks.
4. Weeks:
    a. For 12-month calendar, a week can share two months, two quarters, or two fiscal years.
    b. For all other calendars, the weeks fit neatly into everything except a fiscal year. The first and last weeks can be shared by two fiscal years.
5. Days:
    a. Days are the smallest increment. Going up the hierarchy the appropriate week, month/period, quarter, and FY will be chosen.
    b. Extra days currently go into the final quarter, month/period, and week.
6. Warning: With respect to 5b, there is a notion of a 53^{rd} week for period calendars. I have not added this because I don't understand it. Until somebody can explain it, we go by the 5b rule.

User options:



1. The user can choose the fiscal years from the engagement to be included.
    a. Currently, it is not required that the fiscal years be contiguous.
2. The user can choose the fiscal intervals to be included from the engagement.
3. One of the <u>selected</u> fiscal intervals must be the *anchor*. The anchor is the interval (or "units" per se) the user uses to select the beginning and the end of the interval.
4. Once the anchor is determined, the user must choose the beginning value and the ending value for that fiscal increment.
5. The beginning value only applies to the first fiscal year chosen (thus, providing the range).
6. The end value only applies to the last fiscal year chosen (thus, providing the range).
7. The user can select the desired collection locations from the engagement.
8. The user can select the desired taxonomy nodes from the engagement.

I believe the custom template will be used mostly for data collection. I think the "export all" will be used more for looking at / viewing results.

Thanks,

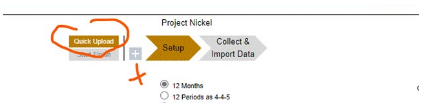
Chris

Month - Fiscal year begin must be the 1st day of the month
Period - It can be any day

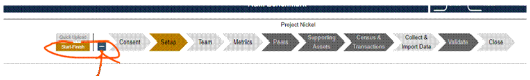
Quick Upload/Start-Finish

As discussed, build 50 has better logic for the recent changes to the chevrons in the engagement editor.

If you're in "quick upload mode" it will always be reduced to the two chevrons and the +/- will be disabled.



In start-finish mode, you can then select "more" or "less" with +/-. This makes more sense now I think.

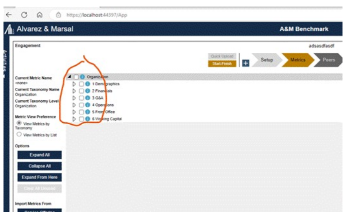


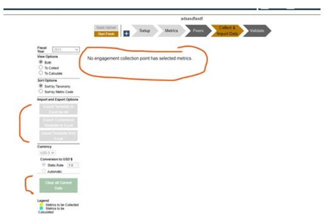
Collect & Import Data: No metrics selected

As discussed yesterday, if no metrics have been selected in the engagement, an appropriate message appears on the "Collect and Import" chevron. This is in build 49.2 (or 50).

Thanks,

Chris





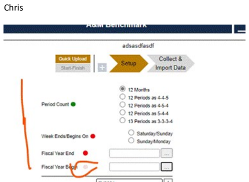
Exported Spreadsheet Customized Parameter requirements

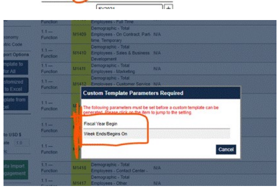
As discussed yesterday, when invoking the custom template, if all required parameters aren't satisfied, a error message box will appear instead of the template selections indicating which parameters are missing. As with the same pattern with the "Close" chevron, the error list contains jump links to take you to the parameter the user clicked on and the red light will blink.

This is in build 49.2 (or 50).

Thanks,

Chris



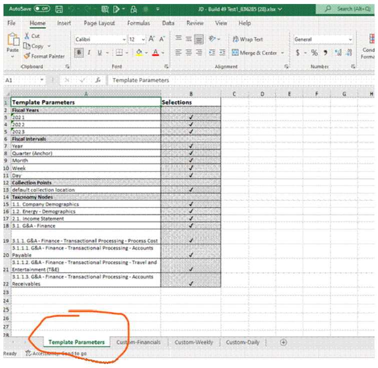


Exported Spreadsheet Customized "Parameters" page

As discussed, the new feature of the "Parameters" tab has been implemented in build 49.2.

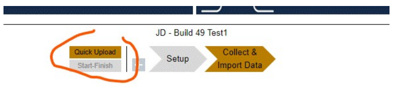
Thanks,

Chris



Quick Upload vs Start-Finish mode

For all engagements created with build 49.2 and after, the initial engagement "mode" setting will depend on how the engagement was created.



If the engagement was created with a default service offering (metrics preselected), the initial setting will be "Quick Upload".

If the engagement did not have a default service offering provide the preselected metrics, the initial mode will be "Start-Finish" with the "+" available.

This does not apply to previously created engagements. They will remain as "Quick Upload" initially.

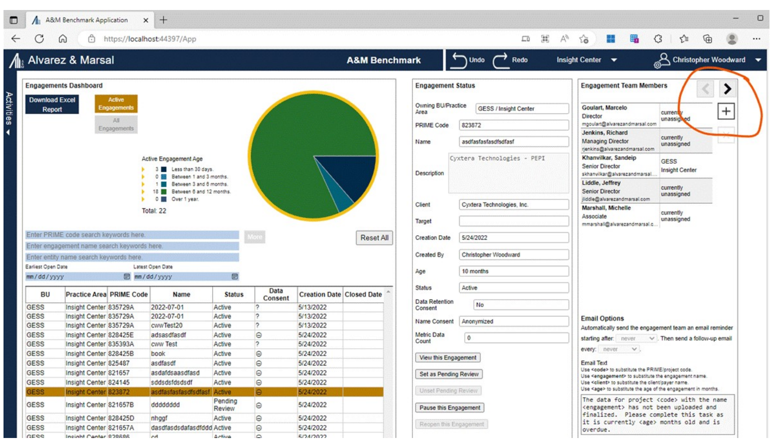
Collect: Export Custom - Latency Issue

Regarding the "race condition" that made the taxonomy selections empty when choosing the "custom template": I've added code that blocks the metric list display any calendar-related updates are completed.

It is very difficult for me to test it because everything is on my computer, and the response is too fast for me to catch it.

If you switch to the collect chevron before the wait cursor is done, you will get a message "Please wait. Pending completion….". It will disappear when the functions complete the transaction and then everything will be as before.

Dashboard - Engagement Team/Engagement Access



Clear All Data button

This change is implemented in 49.4. Although we didn't have transactional data yet, the stored procedures were already accounting for it. For testing purposes, the change impacts using the "Clear All" button and subsequent imports of data or setting the data via the GUI. Because the metric data is no longer completely erased (as the census/transactional data remain now), it could be that there are unexpected consequences when new data comes in under certain conditions.

Just wanted you to be aware of the extent of this since it is not obvious in any particular way.

From <https://outlook.office.com/mail/options/accounts-category/signatures-subcategory?nativeVersion=1.2023.425.600>

Outdated Template Characteristics

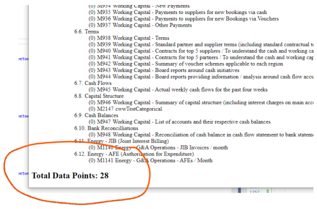
With build 56 and on, if the template importer encounters a value in an outdated template that is no longer present in the engagement (i.e. in DB), there will be a warning on the import page.

Examples of outdated values:
1. Removal of any previously set fiscal increment (e.g. a whole fiscal year, or "weeks", etc.)
2. Removal of any previously set metric

From
<https://outlook.office.com/mail/inbox/id/AAMkADkxNjgwZDAyLTVmNjAtNDNmMC1hMWE2LWMwOGY3MGVkYWRjMQBGAAAAAACwRa%2B0D86nSawBppUWGBXaBwCLRoFObtCSQ4jPhpz58oDFAAAAwgIWAABhXPgmUnJDQaciWxeDTpbcAANchpilAAA%3D?nativeVersion=1.2023.516.100>

Total # of Collected data points via the API

Quick change in build 57 to make it quicker and easier until we have the inventory functionality --- I added a total at the bottom of the taxonomy tree in the API in build 57 (this is obviously not PROD, rather my test DB).



From
<https://outlook.office.com/mail/inbox/id/AAMkADkxNjgwZDAyLTVmNjAtNDNmMC1hMWE2LWMwOGY3MGVkYWRjMQBGAAAAAACwRa%2B0D86nSawBppUWGBXaBwCLRoFObtCSQ4jPhpz58oDFAAAAwgIWAABhXPgmUnJDQaciWxeDTpbcAANchpi1AAA%3D?nativeVersion=1.2023.516.100>

Build 100 - 2/27/2024

Build to remediate Prod Bug: 2559 - PROD - Calculated values entered in the GUI are not currently being exported in the Excel template

1. Select an engagement
2. Navigate to Collect & Import chevron
3. Enter values in calculated metrics
4. Export template
5. Collected metric data values is missing from the template
   Note: This bug was introduced in Release 1.4 code base that was installed with Prod Bug fix (#2402).

From <https://amdevelopment.visualstudio.com/AlvarezMarsal.AMBenchmark.Application/_workitems/edit/2559/>

Build 1.3.6.100 has been deployed to UAT.

Note: Visual Studio has been strange lately. In fact, after doing the fix on the 1.3 branch, the DB in UAT ***should*** have been identical to the previous 1.3 version. I made no changes to DB code/schema. There was a difference, however, during deployment. This difference should have zero impact on anything, but it is suspicious to me that there is one at all. When doing the smoke test on parts not related to QA testing (template, data collection chevron), be a little extra alert.