



## New Features in Reporting Services 2005

### New Reporting Services 2005 Features

A few years ago before Reporting Services 2005 was released, I had these 2 issues at the User Acceptance Test in a data warehouse project: run time sort and non scrolling header. We could not satisfy these requests because these features were not available at that time. Now that these features are available in Reporting Services 2005, in this article I will share this experience with you, in case you encounter the same issues on your data warehouse project.

### Run Time Sort

Run time sort is a new feature in Reporting Services 2005. This feature is formally called Interactive Sort. It was not available in the previous edition of Reporting Services. In the previous edition of Reporting Services, we can only specify the sorting order when we design the report. For example, if we have a report consisting of 5 columns, the sorting order could be column 1 descending then column 2 ascending. But at run time the users have no means to change the sorting order. Interactive sort is sorting order at run time, i.e. the users can sort the report on any column they want when they are viewing the report. As shown on the Amadeus Entertainment Store Details report on figure 1, on the column header there are 2 little triangles which the users can use to sort that column.



Store No	Store Name	Store Type	Region	Division
1805	Perth	Distribution Centre	Australia	America, Asia and Australia
3409	Frankfurt	Distribution Centre	Germany	Europe, Middle East & Africa
1209	Zaragoza	Distribution Centre	Spain	Europe, Middle East & Africa
1014	Strasbourg	Distribution Centre	France	Europe, Middle East & Africa
2903	Delhi	Distribution Centre	India	America, Asia and Australia
2705	Sapporo	Distribution Centre	Japan	America, Asia and Australia
2236	Leeds	Distribution Centre	UK	Europe, Middle East & Africa
1808	Canberra	Full Outlet	Australia	America, Asia and Australia
1803	Sydney	Full Outlet	Australia	America, Asia and Australia
1804	Darwin	Full Outlet	Australia	America, Asia and Australia
1806	Brisbane	Full Outlet	Australia	America, Asia and Australia
2022	El Paso	Full Outlet	Central US	America, Asia and Australia

Figure 1. A report with interactive sort

To do this, right click on the column header that you want the 2 little triangles to be, and select Properties. Click on the Interactive Sort tab and set the sort expression, data region and scope, as shown in figure 2 below.

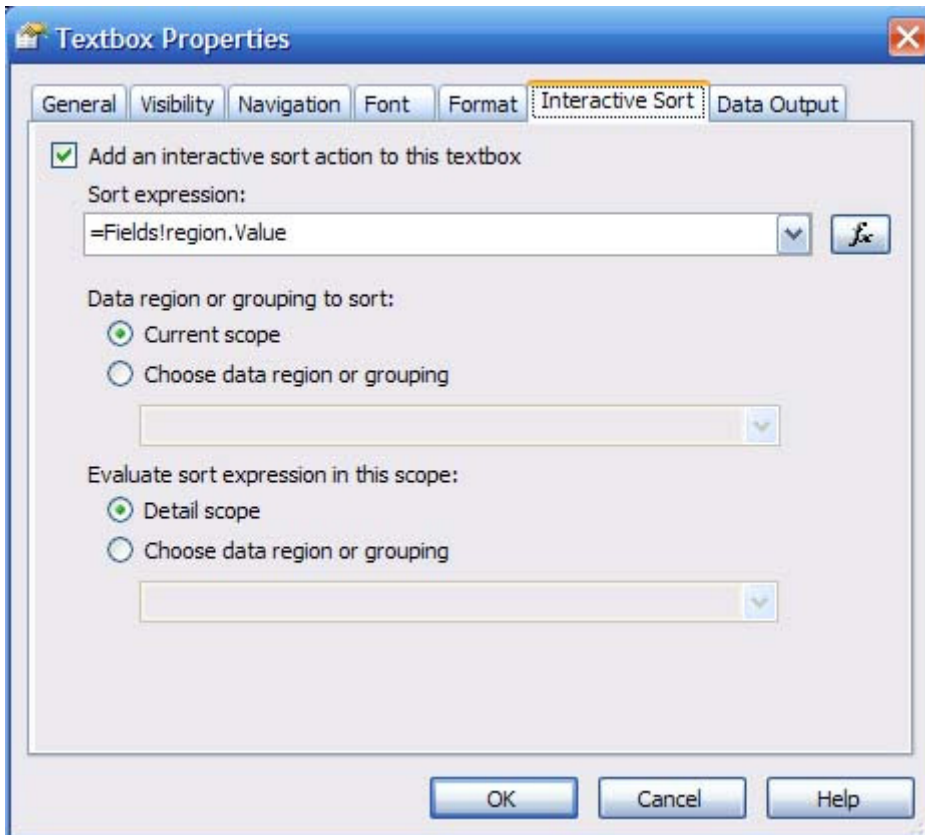


Figure 2. Configuring interactive sort

## Non Scrolling Header

In the previous edition of Reporting Services, when you scroll down a report, the report header goes away, leaving us with only the cells of the report, as shown on figure 3 below. This makes it difficult to identify which columns belong to which headers. Non scrolling header is a feature by which we can fix the header so that when we scroll the report down we can still see the header.

2022	LT 1330	Full Outlet	Central US	America, Asia and Australia
2009	Dallas	Full Outlet	Central US	America, Asia and Australia
2237	London	Full Outlet	UK	Europe, Middle East & Africa
2027	Portland	Full Outlet	Western US	America, Asia and Australia
2011	San Jose	Full Outlet	Western US	America, Asia and Australia
2024	Seattle	Full Outlet	Western US	America, Asia and Australia

Figure 3. The report header goes away when we scroll down

To avoid this click on any cell on the report then right click on the top left corner cell (to the left of column 1 header) and choose Properties. Tick on Header should remain visible while scrolling checkbox, as shown on figure 4 below.

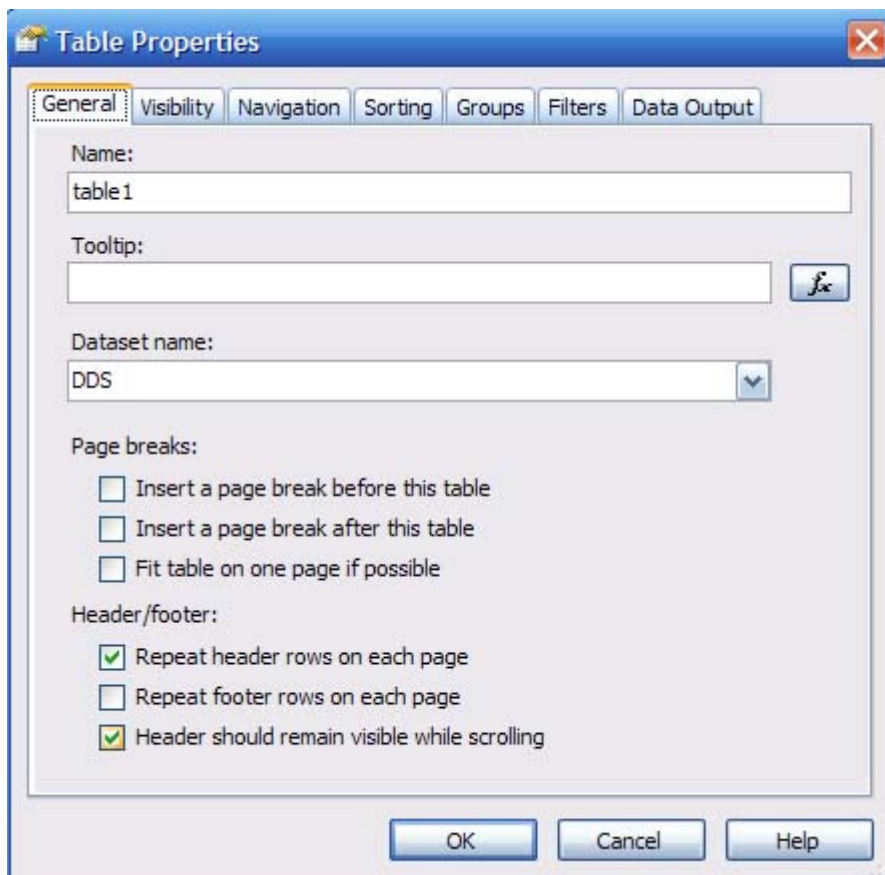


Figure 4. Setting the report header to remain visible when scrolling

Now when we scroll down the report, the header remains visible on the top of the report, as shown on figure 5 below.

Store No	Store Name	Store Type	Region	Division
2022	El Paso	Full Outlet	Central US	America, Asia and Australia
2009	Dallas	Full Outlet	Central US	America, Asia and Australia
2237	London	Full Outlet	UK	Europe, Middle East & Africa
2027	Portland	Full Outlet	Western US	America, Asia and Australia
2011	San Jose	Full Outlet	Western US	America, Asia and Australia
2024	Seattle	Full Outlet	Western US	America, Asia and Australia
2014	San Francisco	Full Outlet	Western US	America, Asia and Australia

Figure 5. The report with non scrolling header in place

Although these 2 new features are simple and easy, they are very important to user friendliness. I hope you will find them useful.

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