Using SQL to Load a Star Schema

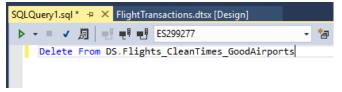
You will use *SQL action queries on SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS) instead of SQL Server Integration Services (SSIS)* to load your flights star schema. In practice, organizations either use *stored procedures containing action queries or integration services like SSIS* when performing data transformations and loads. The stored procedures would be saved in the database. This assignment will give you practice with SQL action queries that could be embedded in stored procedures.

Useful SQL and SQL Server Settings

You will likely have reason to use one or more of these SQL expressions.

Delete All Data in A Table

If you load a table and need to reload it, delete all data from it first.



Reset the Identity Column Sequence

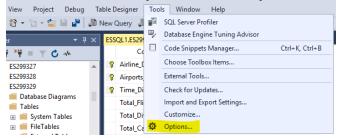
If you load a table that has an identity PK column like W.Flights and need to reload it, you can reset the identity sequence to restart at zero so that the first PK value is 1 (after you delete all the table data). In the example below, the "current identity value '1003360'" is the last identity value in the example before it was reset to zero.

Delete a Table

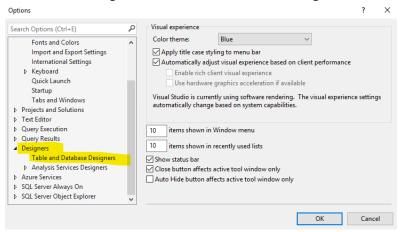
You do not need to use SQL. You can just right-click a table to delete it. Be careful, it is easy to delete a table accidentally.

Change a Table

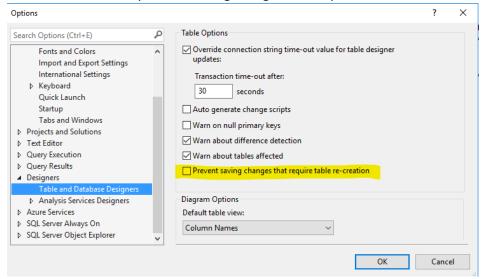
If you need to change a table, it is often best to **remove all data and relationships and save first**. Also, you can change your Designer setting to allow you to make table changes that require that the table be dropped and recreated. To do this, use SQL Server Tools -> Options.



Then choose Designers -> Tables and Database Designers



Uncheck the box that prevents saving changes that require table re-creation and click OK.



Create SS Schema, Tables and Relationships

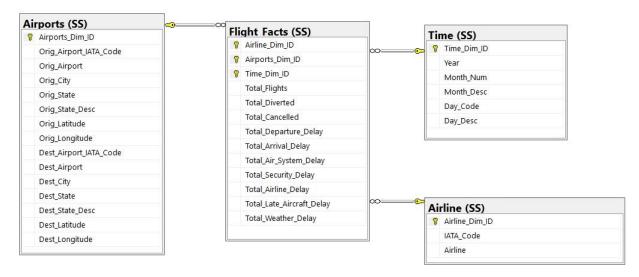
Create a new schema called "SS". Create tables and relationships in the SS schema that are identical to those shown in the attached flights star schema ERD.

Notes:

- Be sure to view table properties when you are creating tables so you can select the correct schema (SS).
- The dimension table PK columns should all be identity columns.
- The fact table primary key is a composite PK combining the dimension table FKs and no identity columns.
- To create a composite PK, select all columns that make up the PK at once, then right-click and select Set Primary Key.
- All table columns are required.

Q1: There are two relationships between W.Airports and W.Flights. Why is there only one relationship between the SS.Airports dimension table and the SS.Flight_Facts table?

Create a database diagram in SQL Server for the SS schema. It should look similar to the following.



Q2: Snip/paste your SS diagram (with the database name showing) into the document.

Load Dimensional Table Data

You will select data from the operational data schema (W) and load it into the dimension and fact tables. You must insert data into the dimensional tables before the fact table due to the foreign key relationships

NOTES:

- 1. You will use a SQL action statement with a syntax pattern of *INSERT INTO ... SELECT* where you construct the SELECT statement used to extract data from one set of tables and insert it into a dimension or fact table.
- 2. You will test the SELECT statement before using it to insert data by commenting out the INSERT INTO portion.
- 3. If you get an error on the INSERT INTO, you may need to add a return after the line.
- 4. The INSERT INTO ... SELECT syntax assumes that the **SELECT columns are in the same order as the target table columns**. You must check this assumption before each load or you will have the wrong data in some columns and/or errors.

SS. Airline Dimension Table Load

The syntax to load the SS.Airline dimension table is shown below with the INSERT INTO statement commented out. If you run it as is, you will select the 14 airlines.

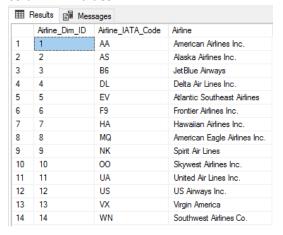
```
--INSERT INTO SS.Airline SELECT * from W.Airlines
```

Q3: Explain what the SELECT statement does. What will be inserted into SS.Airline?

Remove the dashes that comment out the INSERT INTO statement and run it. You will see the following message.



Then select all rows from SS.Airline. Your results should look like the following, including the identity column PK values.



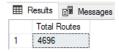
SS.Airports Dimension Table Load

The syntax to load the SS.Airports dimension table requires joining normalized operational tables that describe airports (W.Airports, W.States) with the W.Flights table. The airport dimension table contains *all routes (pairings of origin and destination airports) flown in 2015*.

The maximum number of possible routes would be all possible permutations of airports rather than combinations of airports since order (origin, destination) matters. You could use a permutations formula where n=322 airports and k=2 (two airports for each route) to determine the maximum number of routes as n!/(n-k)! = 322!/(322-2)! = 322!/(320! = 322*321 = 103,362 possible routes.

Fortunately, you will not need to load all possible routes. You can run a query against the W.Flights table to see how many distinct routes it contains (*4696 routes*). This query counts the distinct concatenations of origin and destination airport IATA codes in W.Flights. When you are loading data, it is important to know how many values to expect.

SELECT Count(DISTINCT Origin_Airport + Destination_Airport) as 'Total Routes'
FROM W.Flights



The syntax to load the operational data into the Airports dimension table is shown below with the INSERT INTO statement commented out. Table aliases are used to streamline the SQL syntax. *Make sure you understand what you are doing with the syntax.*

Q4: Explain what the SELECT statement does. What will be inserted into SS.Airports?

Before you load the SS.Airports table, check the SELECT statement with the INSERT INTO statement commented out to make sure it is working properly. Your results should look similar to the following.

⊞ R	lesults	B⊞ Me:	ssages													
	Origin	_Airport	Airport	City	State	State_Desc	Latitude	Longitude	Destination_Airport	Airport	City	State	State_Desc	Latitude	Longitude	4
1	ABE		Lehigh Valley International Airport	Allentown	PA	Pennsylvania	40.65236	-75.44040	ATL	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport	Atlanta	GA	Georgia	33.64044	-84.42694	
2	ABQ		Albuquerque International Sunport	Abuquerque	NM	New Mexico	35.04022	-106.60919	ATL	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport	Atlanta	GA	Georgia	33.64044	-84.42694	
3	ABQ		Albuquerque International Sunport	Albuquerque	NM	New Mexico	35.04022	-106.60919	ORD	Chicago O'Hare International Airport	Chicago	IL	Ilinois	41.97960	-87.90446	
4	ACY		Atlantic City International Airport	Atlantic City	NJ	New Jersey	39.45758	-74.57717	RSW	Southwest Florida International Airport	Pt. Myers	FL	Florida	26.53617	-81.75517	
5	AGS		Augusta Regional Airport A (Bush Field)	Augusta	GA	Georgia	33.36996	-81.96450	ATL	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport	Atlanta	GA	Georgia	33.64044	-84.42694	
6	ANC		Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport	Anchorage	AK	Alaska	61.17432	-149.99619	BET	Bethel Airport	Bethel	AK	Alaska	60.77978	-161.83800	
7	ATL		Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport	Atlanta	GA	Georgia	33.64044	-84.42694	AGS	Augusta Regional Airport A (Bush Field)	Augusta	GA	Georgia	33.36996	-81.96450	
8	ATL		Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport	Atlanta	GA	Georgia	33.64044	-84.42694	ANC	Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport	Anchorage	AK	Alaska	61.17432	-149.99619	
9	ATL		Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport	Atlanta	GA	Georgia	33.64044	-84.42694	DSM	Des Moines International Airport	Des Moines	IA	lowa	41.53493	-93.66068	
10	ATL		Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport	Atlanta	GA	Georgia	33.64044	-84.42694	ELM	Elmira/Coming Regional Airport	Elmira	NY	New York	42.15991	-76.89144	
11	ATL		Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport	Atlanta	GA	Georgia	33.64044	-84.42694	ICT	Wichita Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport A (Wichita	KS	Kansas	37.64996	-97.43305	
12	ATL		Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport	Atlanta	GA	Georgia	33.64044	-84.42694	ILM	Wilmington International Airport	Wilmington	NC	North Carolina	34.27061	-77.90256	
13	ATL		Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport	Atlanta	GA	Georgia	33.64044	-84.42694	SHV	Shreveport Regional Airport	Shreveport	LA	Louisiana	32.44663	-93.82560	
14	AUS		Austin-Bergstrom International Airport	Austin	TX	Texas	30.19453	-97.66987	BOS	Gen. Edward Lawrence Logan International Airport	Boston	MA	Massachusetts	42.36435	-71.00518	
15	AUS		Austin-Bergstrom International Airport	Austin	TX	Texas	30.19453	-97.66987	BWI	Baltimore-Washington International Airport	Baltimore	MD	Maryland	39.17540	-76.66820	
16	AUS		Austin-Bergstrom International Airport	Austin	TX	Texas	30.19453	-97.66987	PDX	Portland International Airport	Portland	OR	Oregon	45.58872	-122.59750	4

Once the SELECT statement works correctly, remove the dashes that comment out the INSERT INTO statement and load the SS.Airports table. Your results will show 4696 rows affected since you added them to the table.



Select all from the SS.Airports table and your results should look similar to the following. *Make sure your identity PK column is working properly.*

Airp	ports_Dim_ID	Orig_Airport_IATA_Code	Orig_Airport	Orig_City	Orig_State	Orig_State_Desc	Orig_Latitude	Orig_Longitude	Dest_Airport_IATA_Code	Dest_Airport	Dest_City	Dest_State	Dest_State_Desc	Dest_Latitude	Dest_Longitude
1		ABQ	Albuquerque International Sunport	Abuquerque	NM	New Mexico	35.04022	-106.60919	SAN	San Diego International Airport A (Lindbergh Field)	San Diego	CA	California	32.73356	-117.18966
2		AEX	Alexandria International Airport	Alexandria	LA	Louisiana	31.32737	-92.54856	IAH	George Bush Intercontinental Airport	Houston	TX	Texas	29.98047	-95.33972
3		ALB	Albany International Airport	Albany	NY	New York	42.74812	-73.80298	IAD	Washington Dulles International Airport	Chantilly	VA	Virginia	38.94453	-77.45581
4		ALB	Albany International Airport	Abany	NY	New York	42.74812	-73.80298	MSP	Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport	Minneapolis	MN	Minnesota	44.88055	-93.21692
5		ANC	Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport	Anchorage	AK	Alaska	61.17432	-149.99619	LAS	McCarran International Airport	Las Vegas	NV	Nevada	36.08036	-115.15233
6		ATL	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport	Atlanta	GA	Georgia	33.64044	-84.42694	ABQ	Albuquerque International Sunport	Abuquerque	NM	New Mexico	35.04022	-106.60919
7		ATL	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport	Atlanta	GA	Georgia	33.64044	-84.42694	BOS	Gen. Edward Lawrence Logan International Airport	Boston	MA	Massachusetts	42.36435	-71.00518
8		ATL	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport	Atlanta	GA	Georgia	33.64044	-84.42694	DTW	Detroit Metropolitan Airport	Detroit	MI	Michigan	42.21206	-83.34884
9		ATL	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport	Atlanta	GA	Georgia	33.64044	-84.42694	EGE	Eagle County Regional Airport	Eagle	CO	Colorado	39.64257	-106.91770
10		ATL	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport	Atlanta	GA	Georgia	33.64044	-84.42694	EYW	Key West International Airport	Key West	FL	Florida	24.55611	-81.75956
- 11		ATL	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport	Atlanta	GA	Georgia	33.64044	-84.42694	FWA	Fort Wayne International Airport	Fort Wayne	IN	Indiana	40.97847	-85.19515
12		ATL	Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport	Atlanta	GA	Georgia	33.64044	-84.42694	SGF	Springfield-Branson National Airport	Springfield	MO	Missouri	37.24433	-93.38686
13		AUS	Austin-Bergstrom International Airport	Austin	TX	Texas	30.19453	-97.66987	ELP	El Paso International Airport	El Paso	TX	Texas	31.80667	-106.37781
14		AUS	Austin-Bergstrom International Airport	Austin	TX	Texas	30.19453	-97.66987	HRL	Valley International Airport	Harlingen	TX	Texas	26.22851	-97.65439
15		AUS	Austin-Bergstrom International Airport	Austin	TX	Texas	30.19453	-97.66987	SEA	Seattle-Tacoma International Airport	Seattle	WA	Washington	47.44898	-122.30931
16		BIL	Billings Logan International Airport	Billings	MT	Montana	45.80766	-108.54286	MSP	Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport	Minneapolis	MN	Minnesota	44.88055	-93.21692
17		BLI	Bellingham International Airport	Bellingham	WA	Washington	48.79275	-122.53753	HNL	Honolulu International Airport	Honolulu	HI	Hawaii	21.31869	-157.92241
18		BMI	Central Illinois Regional Airport at Bloomington-N	Bloomington	IL	Ilinois	40.47799	-88.91595	DTW	Detroit Metropolitan Airport	Detroit	MI	Michigan	42.21206	-83.34884
19		BOS	Gen. Edward Lawrence Logan International Airport	Boston	MA	Massachusetts	42.36435	-71.00518	BUF	Buffalo Niagara International Airport	Buffalo	NY	New York	42.94052	-78.73217

SS. Time Dimension Table Load

You will load the Time dimension table from the W.Flights table joined with the various lookup tables. We would expect to see 96 distinct rows (1 year x 12 months x 8 days, allowing for the "unknown" designation). The syntax for the load is shown below (with the INSERT INTO commented out).

```
--INSERT INTO SS.Time

SELECT DISTINCT F.Year, F.Month, M.Month_Desc, F.Day, W.Day_Desc

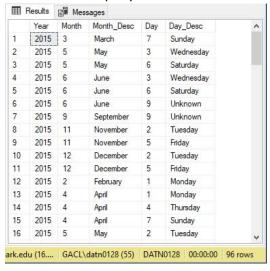
FROM W.Flights AS F

JOIN W.Months As M on M.Month_Num=F.Month

JOIN W.Weekdays As W on W.Day_Code = F.Day
```

Q5: Explain what the SELECT statement does. What will be inserted into SS.Time?

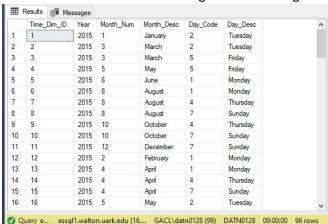
Run the SELECT query to test it before loading. Your results should similar to the following.



Remove the comment syntax and run the INSERT INTO to create the 96 rows.



Select all rows from SS.Time and get the following results, including the identity PK column.



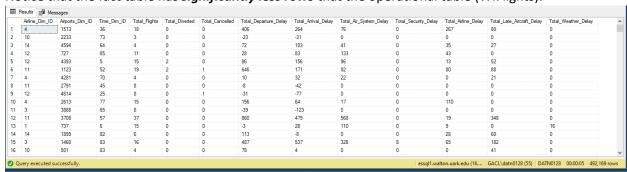
Load Fact Table Data

You will join W.Flights with the dimension tables to load the Flight_Facts table. The syntax to load the operational data into the Flight_Fact table is shown below with the INSERT INTO commented out.

```
-- INSERT INTO SS.Flight FACTS
SELECT AL. Airline Dim ID, AP. Airports Dim ID, T. Time Dim ID,
       COUNT(*) AS Total Flights,
       ISNULL(SUM(F.Diverted),0) As Total Diverted,
       ISNULL(SUM(F.Cancelled),0) as Total Cancelled,
       ISNULL(SUM(F.Departure_Delay),0) AS Total_Departure_Delay,
       ISNULL(SUM(F.Arrival Delay),0) AS Total Arrival Delay,
       ISNULL(SUM(F.Air_System_Delay),0) AS Total_Air_System_Delay,
       ISNULL(SUM(F.Security_Delay),0) AS Total_Security_Delay,
       ISNULL(SUM(F.Airline Delay),0) AS Total Airline Delay,
       ISNULL(SUM(F.Late Aircraft Delay),0) AS Total Late Aircraft Delay,
       ISNULL(SUM(F.Weather_Delay),0) AS Total_Weather_Delay
FROM W.Flights F
JOIN SS.Airports AP
       ON F.Origin Airport = AP.Orig Airport IATA Code
       AND F.Destination Airport = AP.Dest Airport IATA Code
JOIN SS.Airline AL
      ON F.Airline = AL.Airline IATA Code
JOIN SS. Time T
       ON F.Year = T.Year
       AND F.Month = T.Month Num
       AND F.Day of Week = T.Day Code
GROUP BY AL.Airline_Dim_ID, AP.Airports_Dim_ID, T.Time_Dim_ID
```

Q6: Explain what the SELECT statement does. What will be inserted into SS.Flight Facts?

Before you load the Flight_Facts table, check the SELECT statement to make sure it is working properly. Your results should look similar to the following with 492,169 rows that will be added to the fact table. Notice that the fact table has *significantly less rows* that the operational table (W.Flights).



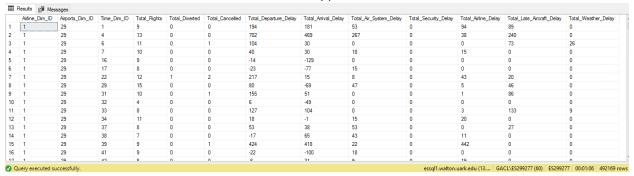
After you load the Flight Fact table, you will see the message below.

```
Messages

Warning: Null value is eliminated by an aggregate or other SET operation.

(492169 rows affected)
```

Select all rows and check the data to see if the load appears to be correct.



Analyze Flights Data with Tableau

Now that you have created a data mart from the cleaned flights data in your warehouse, you will use Tableau to develop a visualization similar to that used in FlightAware's Misery Map.

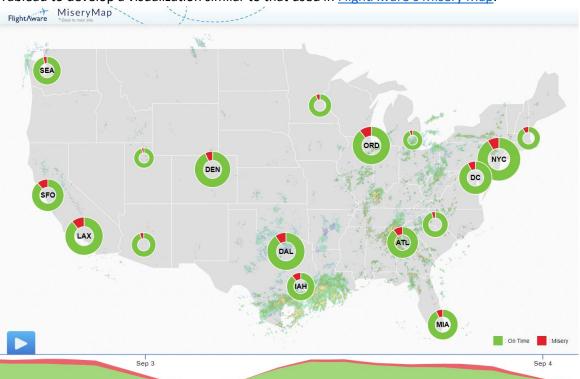


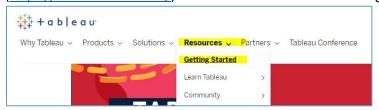
Tableau Introduction

Tableau is a leading software for Analytics and Business Intelligence¹. You will access Tableau on the remote desktop. It can take a little while to open.

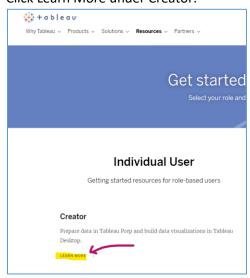


I suggest a short training on Tableau that you can access as follows. If you are interested in this tool, there are many training options.

1. Using a browser on the UArk virtual desktop, go to the Tableau web site (https://www.tableau.com/). Then click Resources and Getting Started.



2. Click Learn More under Creator.

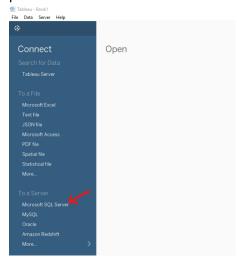


¹ Gartner. (2022, March 22). *Magic Quadrant for Analytics and Business Intelligence Platforms.* https://www.gartner.com/doc/reprints?id=1-29HD7D53&ct=220323&st=sb

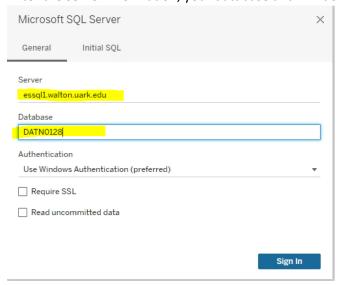
- 3. Scroll down and click Build a Visualization under Build a data visualization.
 - This will require you to create an account. Choose Student in the Job Role options dropdown. (If you already have a Tableau username and password, you can sign it with it.)
 - You do not need to download Tableau since you have it on the UArk virtual desktop.
- 4. After you read the privacy notice, click Watch Video and the training video will start. It lasts about six minutes. You can also download the exercise and solution Tableau workbooks if you want to use them to follow along. Close Tableau afterward.

Open Tableau and Connect to Your Database

Open Tableau again and choose Microsoft SQL Server from the list of data sources in the CONNECT panel.

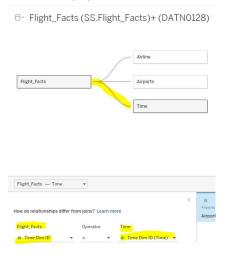


Enter the server information, your database and Windows Authentication for signing in.



Create the Data Source

Drag your SS tables to the work area. Notice that your FK relationships are recognized. If you click on a relationship, you will see the ON criteria that matches FKs to PKs.



Save your Tableau file to the virtual desktop, naming it FlightsAnalysis.twb. **Remember to save frequently on the desktop and upload to your OneDrive periodically.**

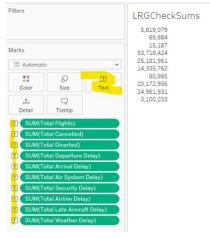
Check Measurement Sums

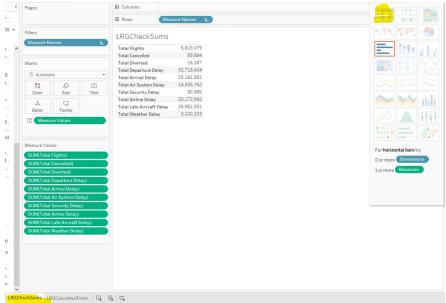
Right click the Sheet 1 tab and rename it *YourInitials*CheckSums (e.g., LRGCheckSums). *You will not get credit for sheets that do not include your initials in the name.*

After you performed the transformation and load SSIS data flow into W.Flights, you performed a check sum of W.Flights measures against the values in DS.FlightsStaging. The W.Flights sums are shown below.



Since we did not eliminate any flights from the star schema, the check sums should have the same values. Our first Tableau analysis will check this. Drag all the measures to the Text mark. Your worksheet will look like the one below. Check to make sure your values match these.



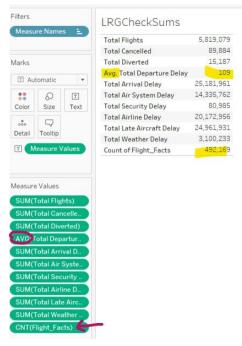


Then click Text Table in the Show Me tab and you will see the following, after rearranging the row order.

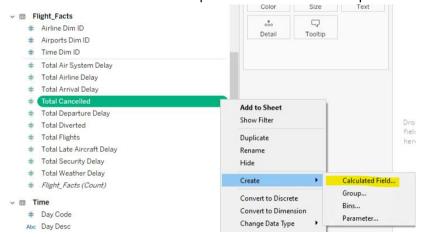
Q7: Snip and paste your CheckSums worksheet, including the tab, into your Word document.

Create Calculated Fields

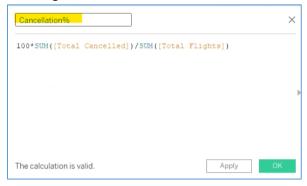
There is an option to change the SUM() to AVG() in the Measure Values. Since we have pre-aggregated facts from the star schema, this will not produce correct results. Using departure delay as an example, the average departure delay should be 53,718,424/5,819,079 (total departure delay/number of flights). This equals 9.2 minutes. If we use AVG(Total Departure Delay), we see 109 minutes. This is because there are 491,169 flight facts (53,718,424/492,169 = 109 minutes). For this reason, we will need to create calculated fields to obtain the correct values.



Right-click your check sums worksheet and duplicate it, renaming the copy, *YourInitials*CalculatedFields. Remove all the measures and expand the Total Cancelled options to create a calculated field.



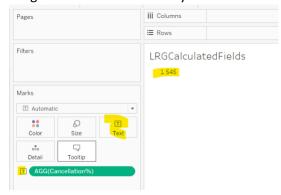
Note: It does not matter which column you expand. It makes the formula a little easier to build by selecting a column used in it. Name the column Cancellation%, build the formula and click OK.



Notice that it appears as a calculated measure under the Measure Names.



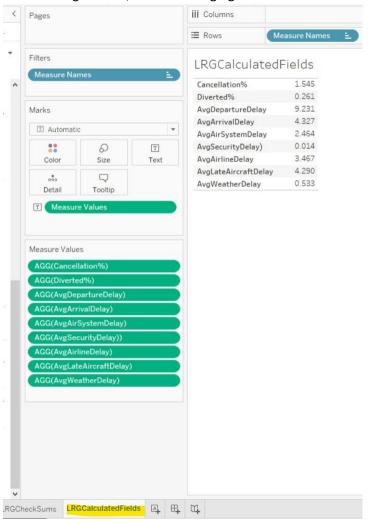
Drag it to the Text mark and you will see the following.



Using a similar approach, create the following calculated figures with names in parentheses.

- Percentage of flights diverted (Diverted%)
- Average departure delay minutes (AvgDepartureDelay)
- Average arrival delay minutes (AvgArrivalDelay)
- Average air system delay minutes (AvgAirSystemDelay)
- Average security delay minutes (AvgSecurityDelay)
- Average airline delay minutes (AvgAirlineDelay)
- Average late aircraft delay minutes (AvgLateAircraftDelay)
- Average weather delay minutes (AvgWeatherDelay)

Drag the remaining eight calculated figures to the Text mark, then create a Text Table. It should look like the image below, after rearranging the measure order. Make sure all your values match.



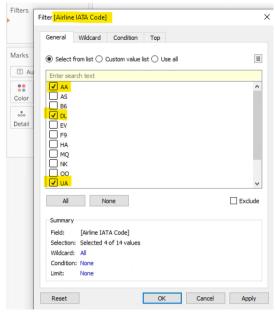
Q8: Snip and paste your calculated fields worksheet, including the tab, into your Word document.

Q9: Discuss what you learned about the airline performance from these measures.

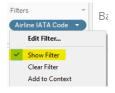
Create BasicComparisons Sheet

Duplicate your calculated fields sheet and rename the copy, *YourInitials*BasicComparisons. Remove all measures except the cancellation percentage, diverted percentage, average departure delay and average arrival delay.

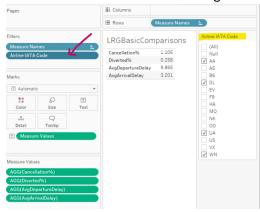
Drag Airline IATA Code to the Filters area and select AA (American Airlines), DL (Delta), UA (United Airlines) and WN (Southwest Airlines) and click OK. These four airlines hold the largest market shares.



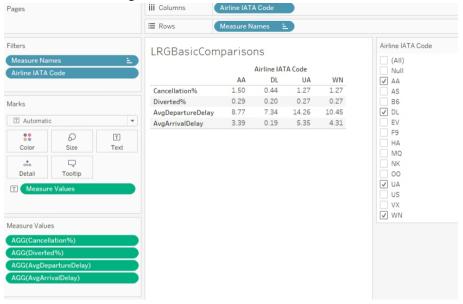
Then click Airline IATA Code in the Filters area and choose Show Filter.



The filter values will show on the right.



We will now create a comparative evaluation of these performance indicators. First, drag Airline IATA Code to the columns. This is an <u>additional</u> use of Airline IATA code beyond the filter. Your worksheet will now look like the following. You can add and subtract airlines from the comparison using the filter checkmarks on the right.

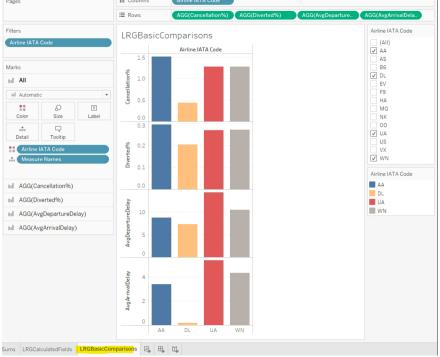


We will now prepare a comparative visualization of these performance indicators. Remove Measure Values from the Marks area and Measure Names from the Filters and Rows. This leaves only the four airline IATA codes. You will see a display similar to the one below.



As a third use of airline IATA codes, drag Airline IATA code to the colors mark. Notice that each airline has its own color now.





Q10: Snip and paste your basic comparisons worksheet, including the tab, into your Word document.

Q11: Discuss what you learned about the four airlines' 2015 performance from this visualization.

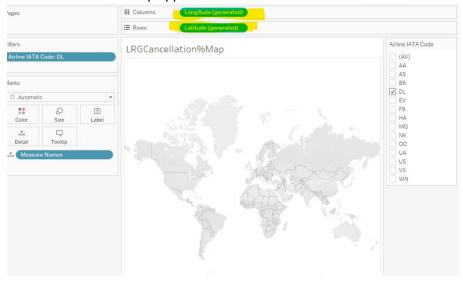
Create Cancellation% Map Analysis

Duplicate your basic comparisons sheet and rename the copy, *YourInitials* Cancellation%Map. The map is intended for Delta Airlines managers to identify origin airports with the highest cancellation percentages.

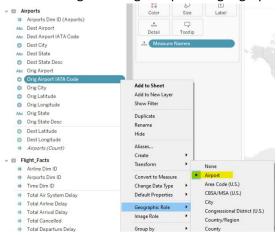
Do the following:

- Remove all airlines from the filter except DL
- Remove Airline IATA Code from the Marks area and Columns shelf
- Remove all measures from the Rows shelf
- Place Longitude (generated) on the Columns and Latitude (generated) on the Rows

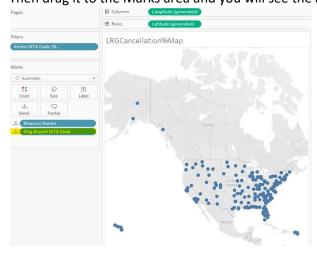
You will see a world map appear in the visualization area.



You will assign the origin airport its geographic role by expanding its options and choosing Airport.



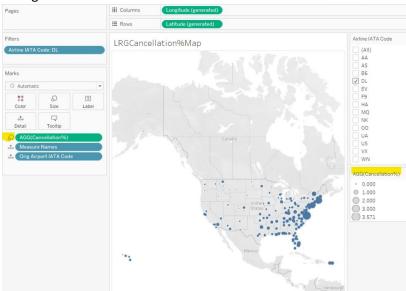
Then drag it to the Marks area and you will see the airports appear on the map.



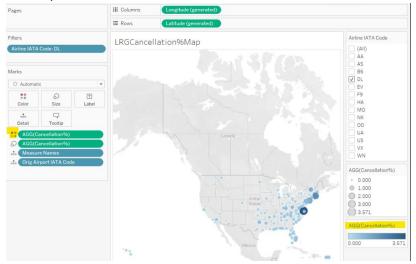
You can resize the map and use the Pan tool to move around it.



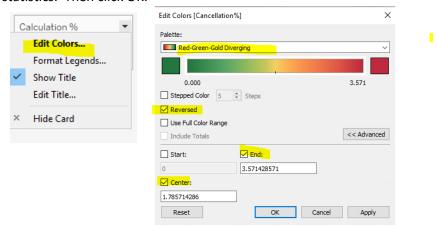
Drag Calculation% to the Size option and see how it changes the map and sheet. Notice that now there is a legend for the different sizes.



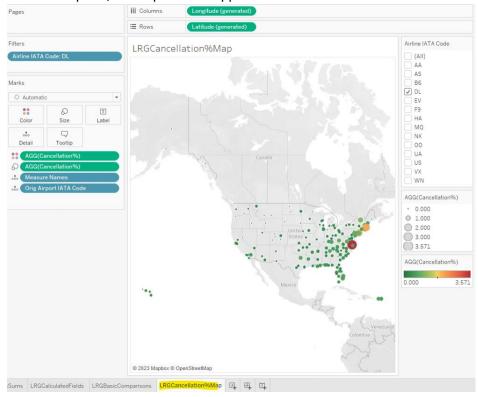
Also drag the Calculation % to the Color option. This adds a legend for the color shading that goes with the shapes



We will change the color code to a Green-Yellow-Red option. Use the color legend dropdown on the bottom right and choose Edit Colors. Choose Red-Green-Gold Diverging and click Reversed so that Green will correspond to small cancellation percentages. Then click Advanced and set the Start, End and Center values obtaining them from the data. (You could also specify these values rather than use the statistics. Then click OK.



Your results should look similar to the following, similar to the Misery Map. Notice that if you mouse over the airports, the airport code appears and the cancellation %.



Q12: Snip and paste your cancellation percentages worksheet, including the tab, into your Word document.

Q13: Determine Delta's problematic airports and their cancellation percentages. Include them in the response to this question.

Create Your Own Analysis

There are many other analyses that would be useful to Delta Airlines managers. Think about measures or dimensions we have not used. Play with Tableau and develop a *new analysis*, making sure that it would likely be useful for Delta Airlines managers. Use measures and/dimensions we have not used. You will be graded on the quality of new information it provides beyond the visualizations you've already created.

Q13: Snip and paste your own analysis worksheet, including the tab, into your Word document.

Q14: Describe the new information your visualization could provide Delta Airlines managers as well as how they might use it.