Advanced Chart Design

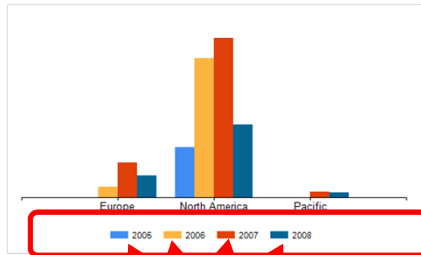## Exploring useful chart properties
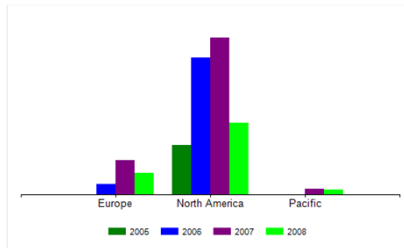
Overview

- Colors
- Scales
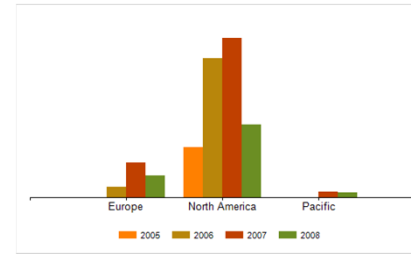- Series

Color Palette
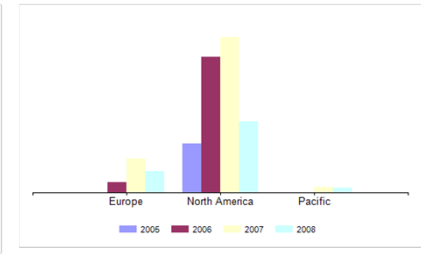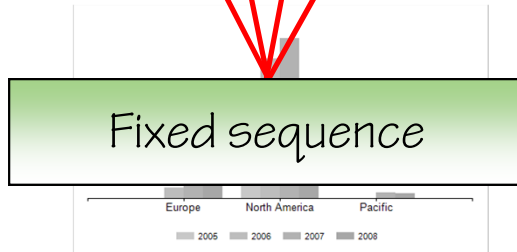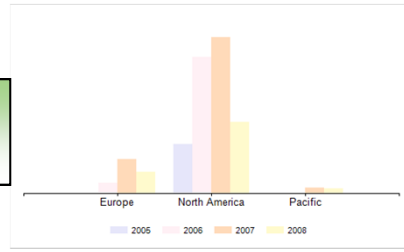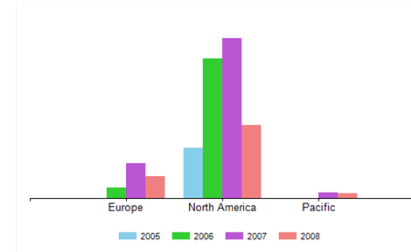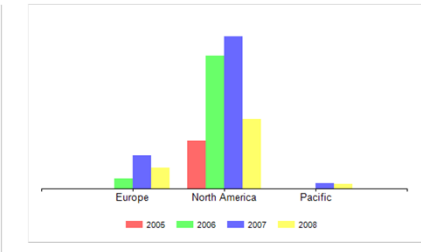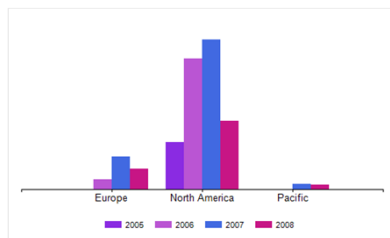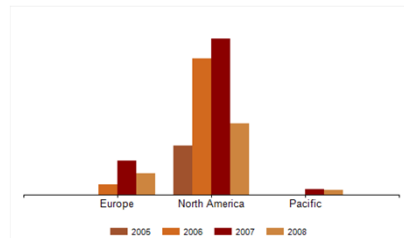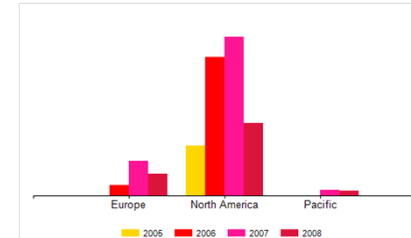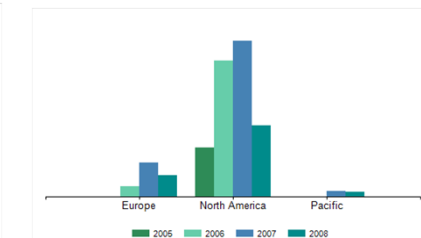
Custom Color Palette
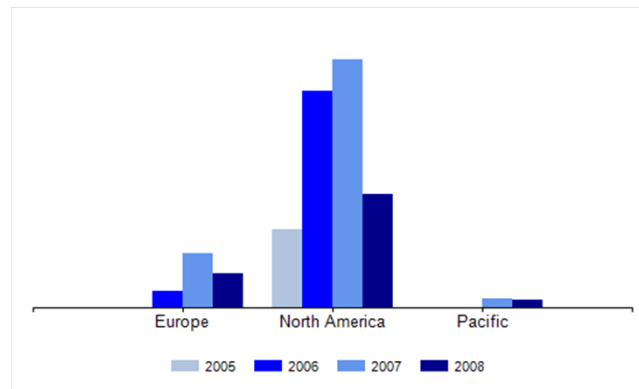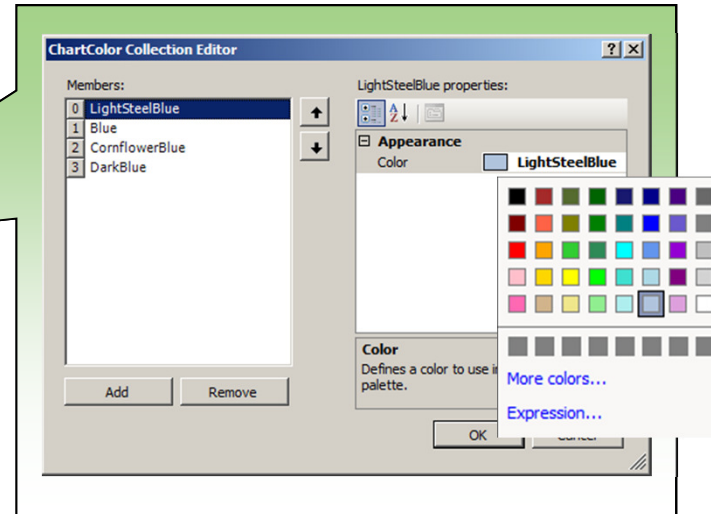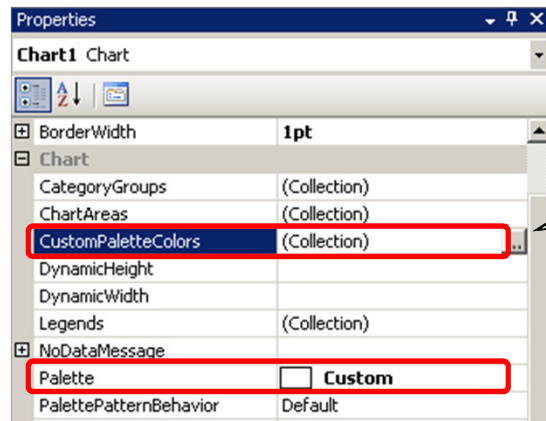
Intervals
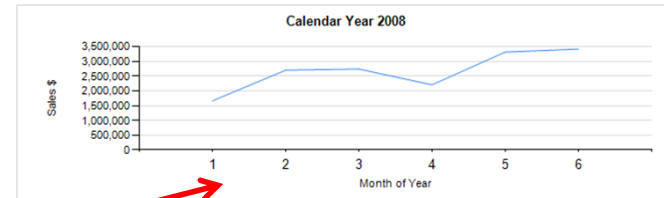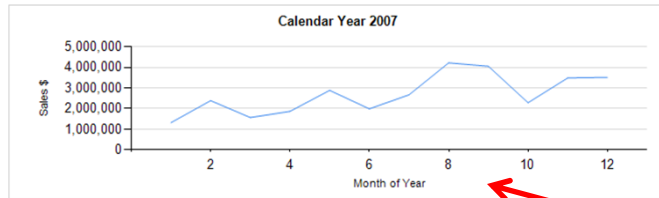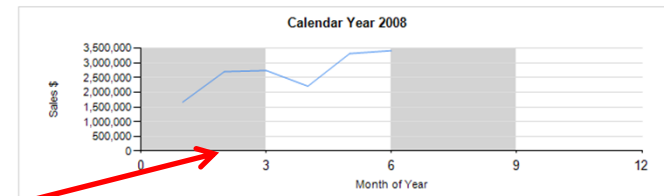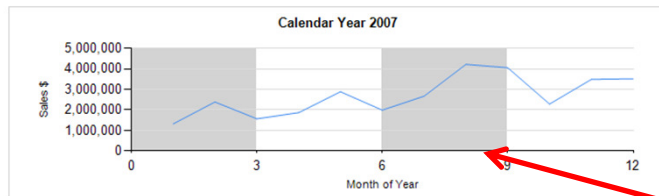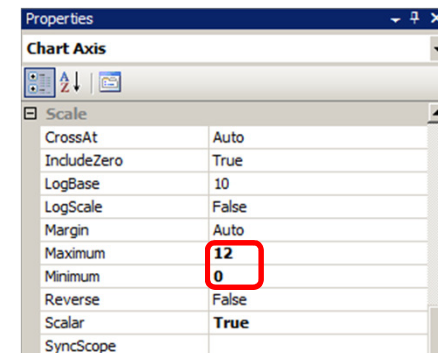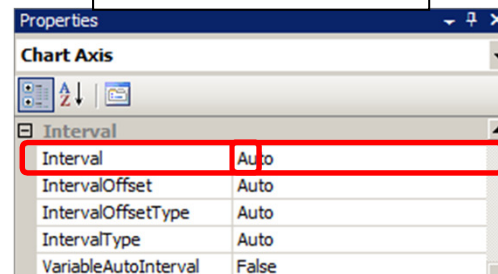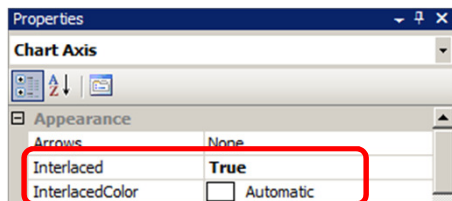
Scale Break

Before
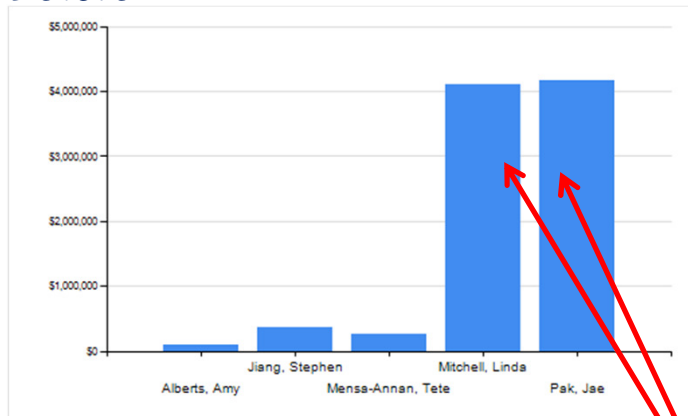
After
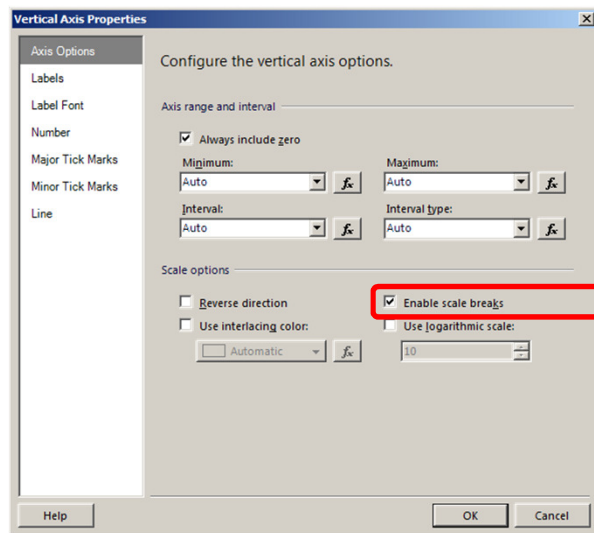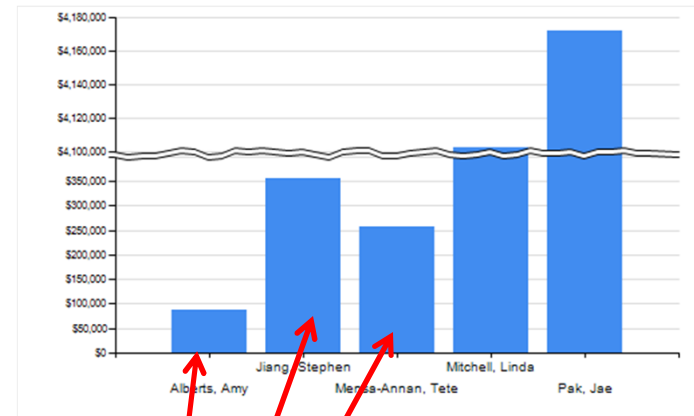
High values
obscure
all other values

Greater distinction
among
lower values
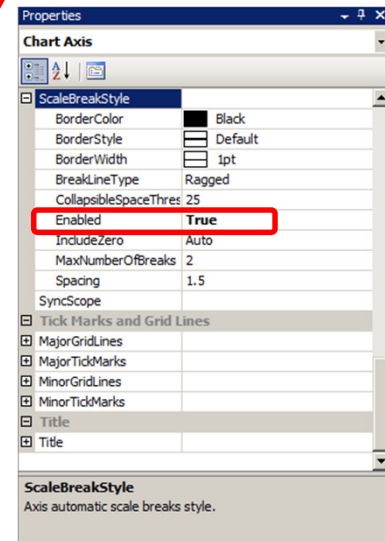
Empty Points
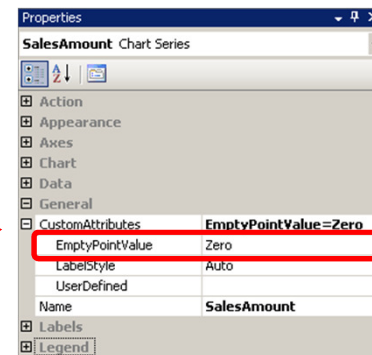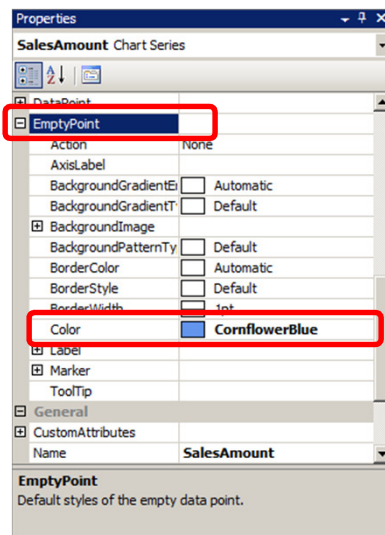
Calculated Series
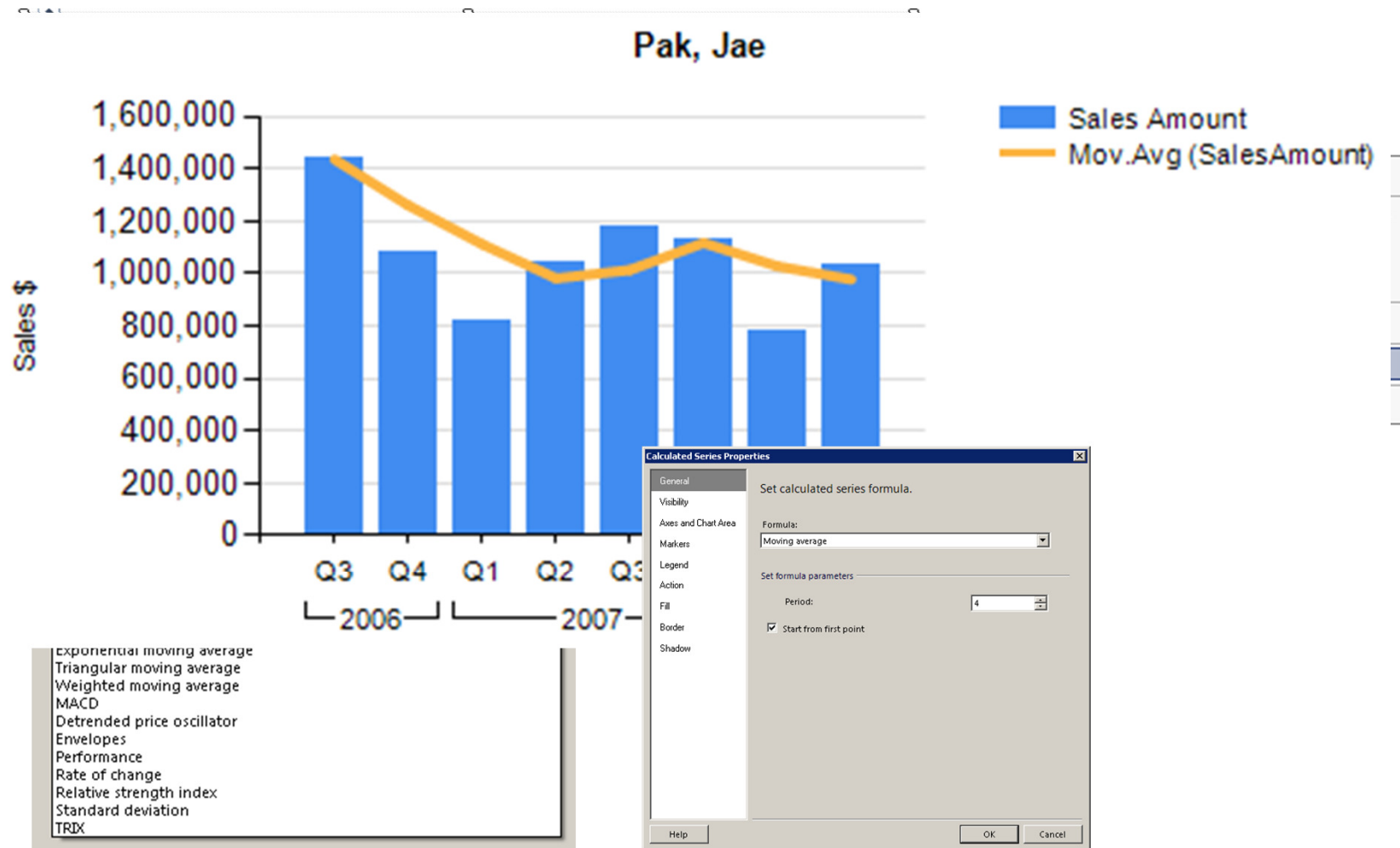
Secondary Axis

Before
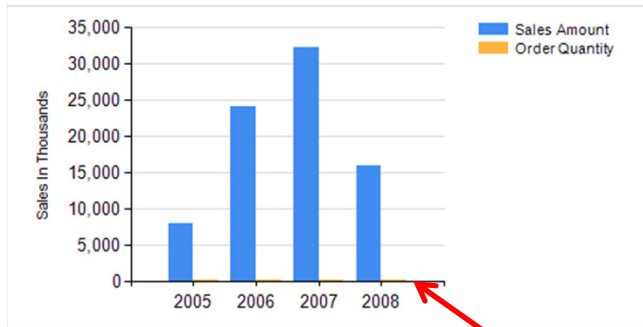
After
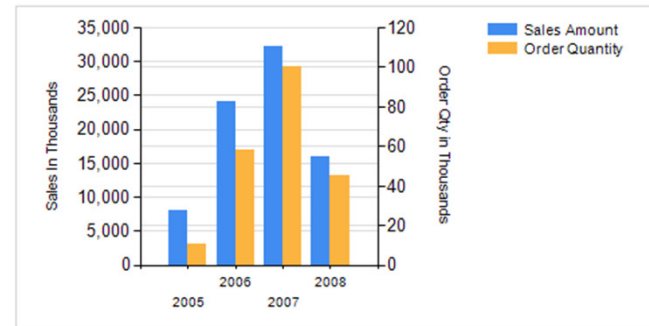
Scale for one series too high for second series

pluralsight
see what you can learn
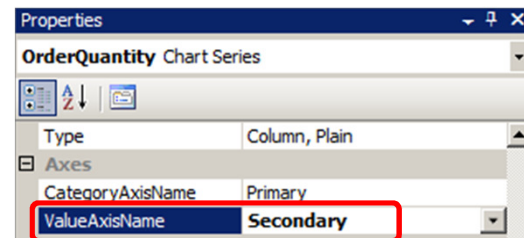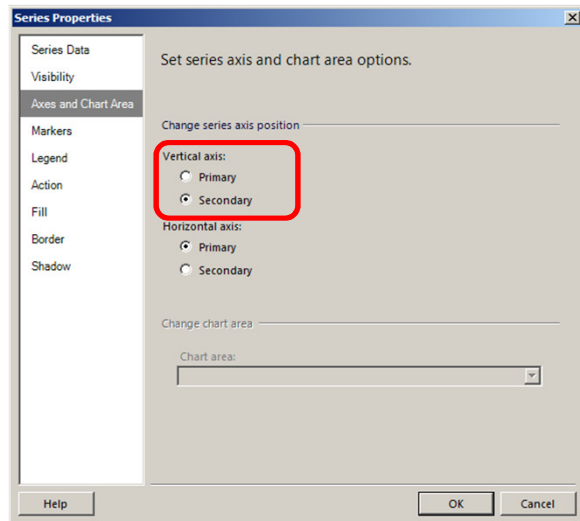
Multiple Chart Types

Before
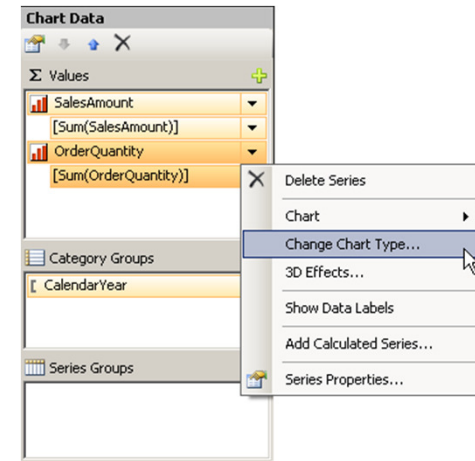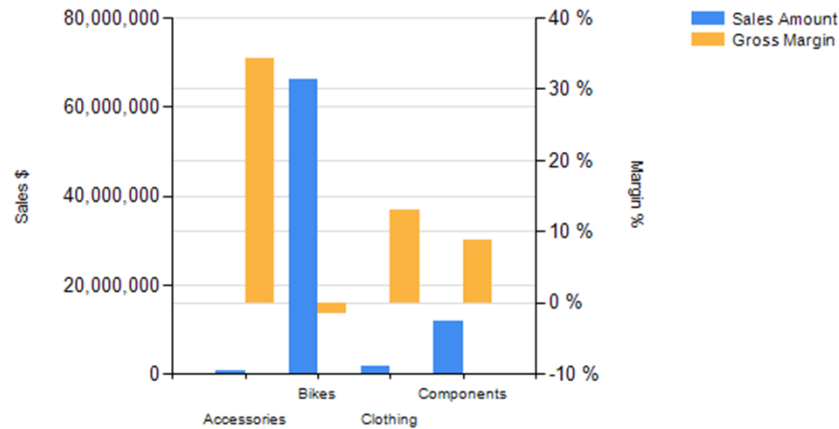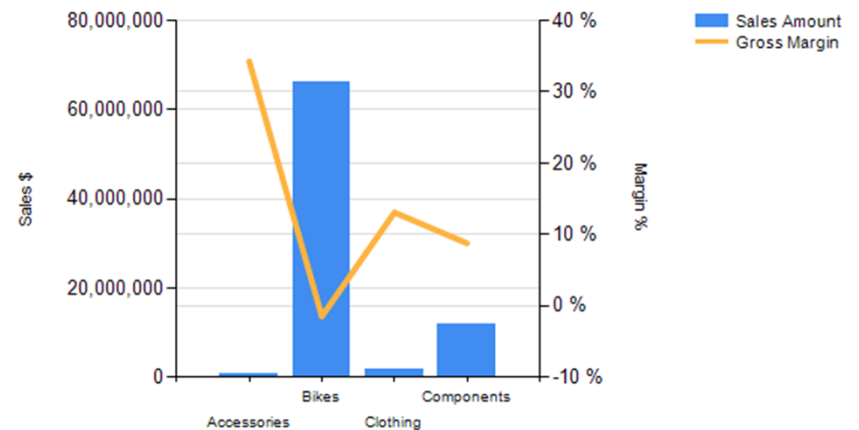
Same chart types implies values should be compared

After

pluralsight
see what you can learn

Multiple Chart Areas

Before
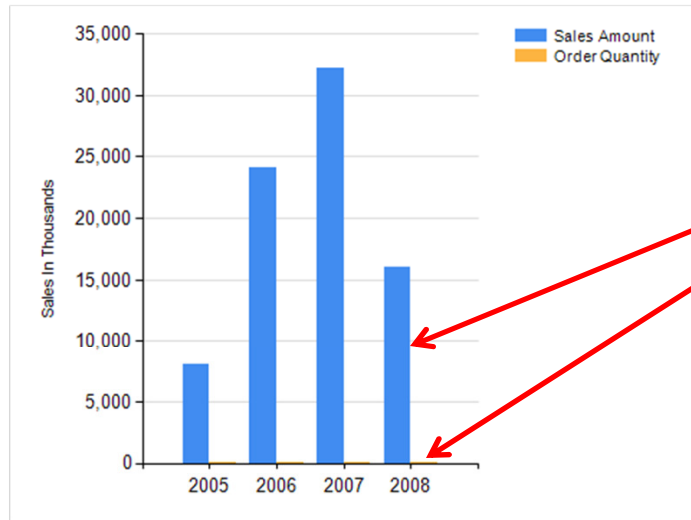
High variance
in values
Between series

Bars not
aligned

After

pluralsight
see what you can learn
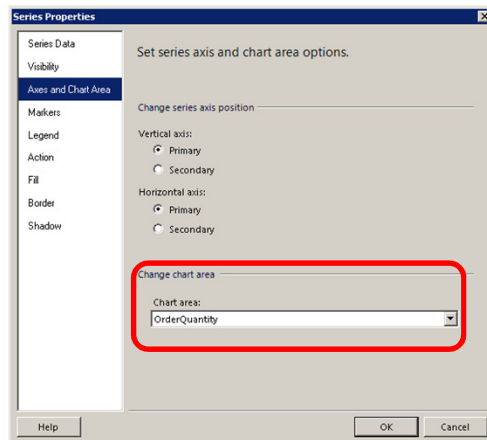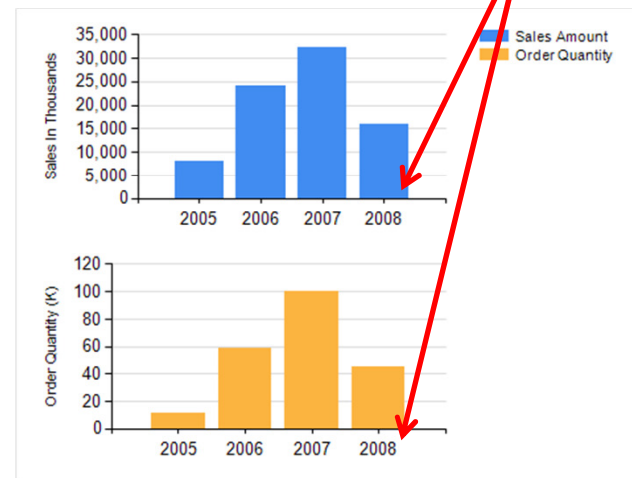
Chart Area Alignment
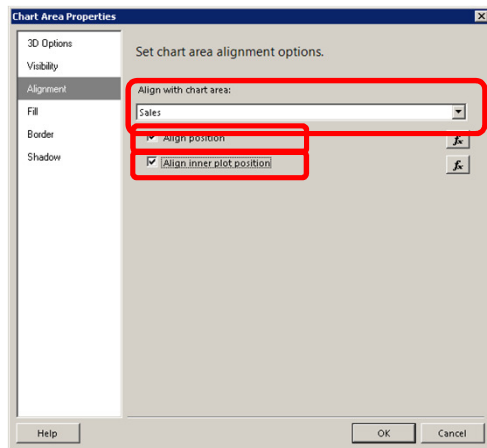
New chart area aligns to top chart area

Final

New chart axis aligns to top chart axis

pluralsight
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Pie Slice Consolidation

Sales by Product Subcategory (large pie chart with full legend)

Legend:
- Bib-Shorts
- Bike Racks
- Bottles and Cages
- Bottom Brackets
- Brakes
- Caps
- Chains
- Cleaners
- Cranksets
- Derailleurs
- Forks
- Gloves
- Handlebars
- Headsets
- Helmets
- Hydration Packs
- Jerseys
- Locks
- Mountain Bikes
- Mountain Frames
- Pedals
- Pumps
- Road Bikes
- Road Frames
- Saddles
- Shorts
- Socks
- Tights
- Tires and Tubes
- Touring Bikes
- Touring Frames
- Vests
- Wheels

Sales by Product Subcategory (simplified pie chart)

Legend:
- Mountain Bikes
- Road Bikes
- Touring Bikes
- Other

Sales by Product Subcategory (pie of pie chart breaking out "Other")

Legend:
- Mountain Bikes
- Road Bikes
- Touring Bikes
- Other
- Bib-Shorts
- Bike Racks
- Bottles and Cages
- Bottom Brackets
- Brakes
- Caps
- Chains
- Cranksets
- Derailleurs
- Forks
- Gloves
- Handlebars
- Helmets
- Hydration Packs
- Jerseys
- Locks
- Mountain Frames
- Pedals
- Pumps
- Road Frames
- Saddles
- Headsets

Too many categories to interpret chart accurately

Single pie slice combines multiple tiny slices

Secondary pie chart breaks out combined slice

pluralsight
see what you can learn

Single Slice

All values < 10% of total

Secondary Pie Chart
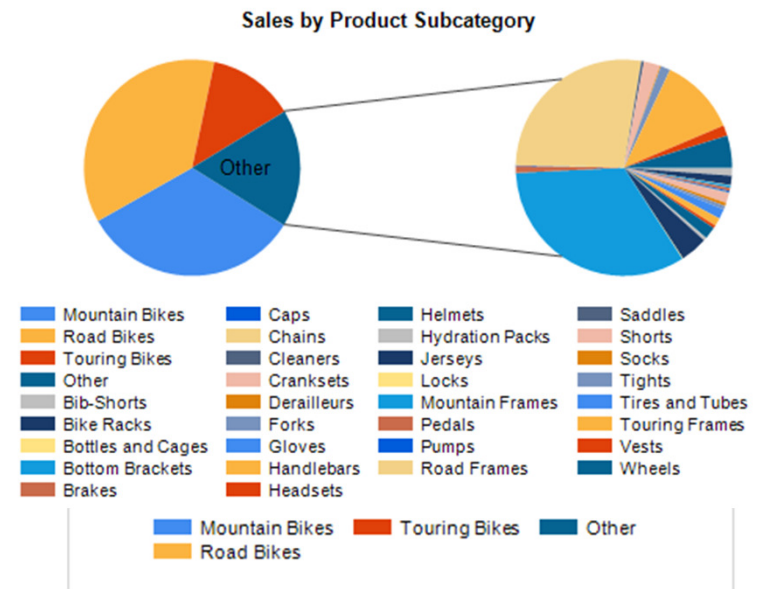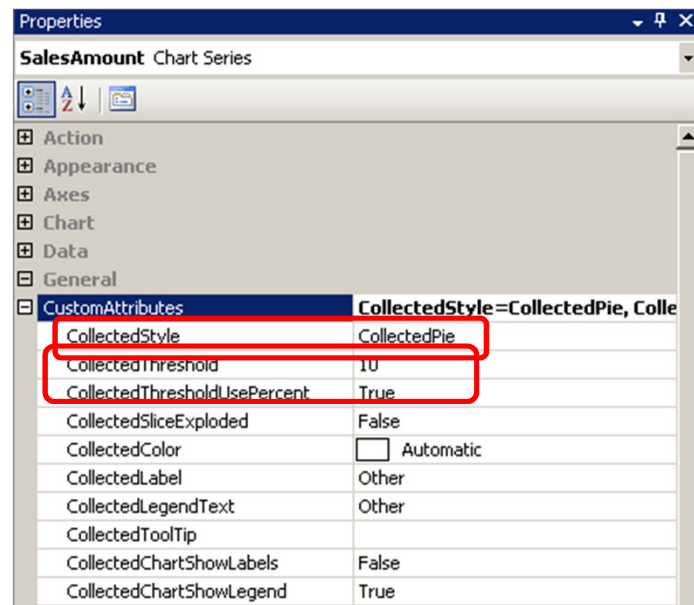
Summary

- **Colors**
  - Color palette, custom color palette
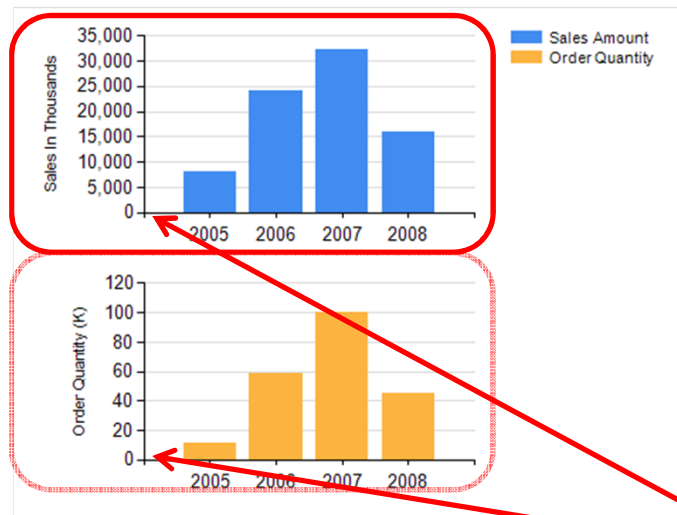- **Scales**
  - Intervals, scale breaks
- **Series**
  - Empty points, calculated series, secondary axis, multiple chart types, multiple chart areas, pie slice consolidation

References

- **Formatting a Chart**
    - http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/bb630425.aspx
- **Displaying Multiple Series on a Chart**
    - http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc281226.aspx
- **How to Collect Small Slices on a Pie Chart**
    - http://msdn.microsoft.com/en-us/library/cc281305.aspx