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Blank Value in the Power BI Slicer and Filter

September 10th, 2020



By [Justin Song](#), Senior BI Analyst

Have you ever been using [Power BI](#) and wondered why you can see a blank in the Power BI slicer and filter? You might wonder if you have done something wrong or if Power BI has added a blank as a default value. In actuality, seeing a blank in slicer or filter is a common problem in Power BI when you have some bad data in the data model. I will show you why this happens and how you can fix it.

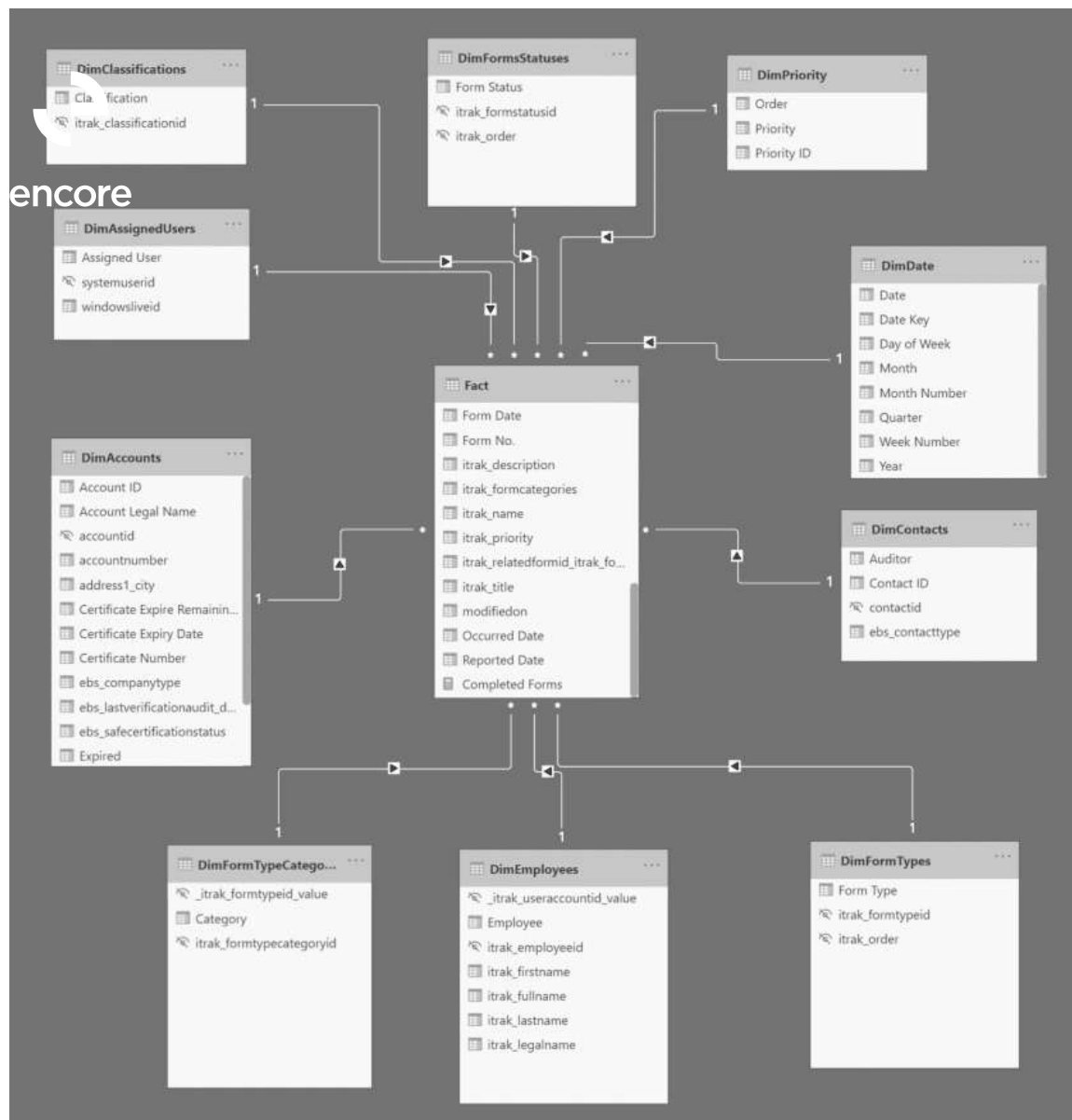
You've designed good data model with a star-schema in Power BI:

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You can start designing visuals by adding slicers and filters from the dimension tables. You may have seen the “(Blank)” value in slicer and filter, like the below screenshot:

The screenshot shows the Power BI interface with a grid on the left and a Filters pane on the right. The grid has a column header 'Customer' with a list of names and a '(Blank)' option. The Filters pane has two sections: 'Customer' and 'Type'. Both sections show a list of values with counts. The '(Blank)' option is highlighted in yellow in both sections.

Customer

- ☒ (Blank)
- ☐ A Blaney
- ☐ Aaron Antrim
- ☐ Aaron Austin
- ☐ Aaron Baggatio
- ☐ Aaron Battaglio
- ☐ Aaron Battaglio

Filters

Search

Add data fields here

Filters on all pages

Customer
is (All)

Filter type ⓘ

Basic filtering

Search

- ☐ Select all
- ☒ (Blank)
- ☐ A Blaney 1
- ☐ Aaron Antrim 1
- ☐ Aaron Austin 1
- ☐ Aaron Baggatio 1
- ☐ Aaron Battaglio 1

☐ Require single selection

Type
is (All)

Filter type ⓘ

Basic filtering

Search

- ☐ Select all
- ☒ (Blank)
- ☐ AR 1
- ☐ Assessment 1

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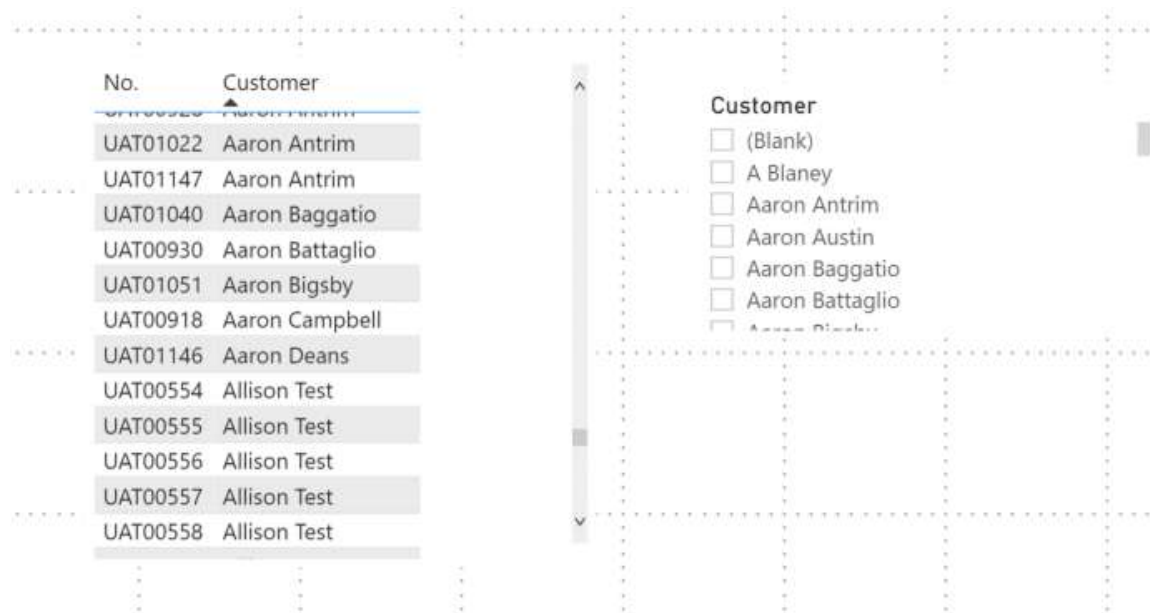
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Why would there be a blank value in the slicer? The reason it appears is because of a data integrity issue, in other words; bad data. Is this something that can be fixed? Yes, but first you need to find the bad data by following the below steps.

Add No/iD from Fact table and Customer from dimension table:



No.	Customer
UAT01022	Aaron Antrim
UAT01147	Aaron Antrim
UAT01040	Aaron Baggatio
UAT00930	Aaron Battaglio
UAT01051	Aaron Bigsby
UAT00918	Aaron Campbell
UAT01146	Aaron Deans
UAT00554	Allison Test
UAT00555	Allison Test
UAT00556	Allison Test
UAT00557	Allison Test
UAT00558	Allison Test

Customer

- ☐ (Blank)
- ☐ A Blaney
- ☐ Aaron Antrim
- ☐ Aaron Austin
- ☐ Aaron Baggatio
- ☐ Aaron Battaglio
- ☐ Aaron Bigsby

Click (Blank) from the slicer:

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Customer	
UAT00049	
UAT00050	
UAT00051	
UAT00052	
UAT00053	
UAT00054	
UAT00055	
UAT00056	
UAT00057	
UAT00060	
UAT00061	
UAT00062	
UAT00063	

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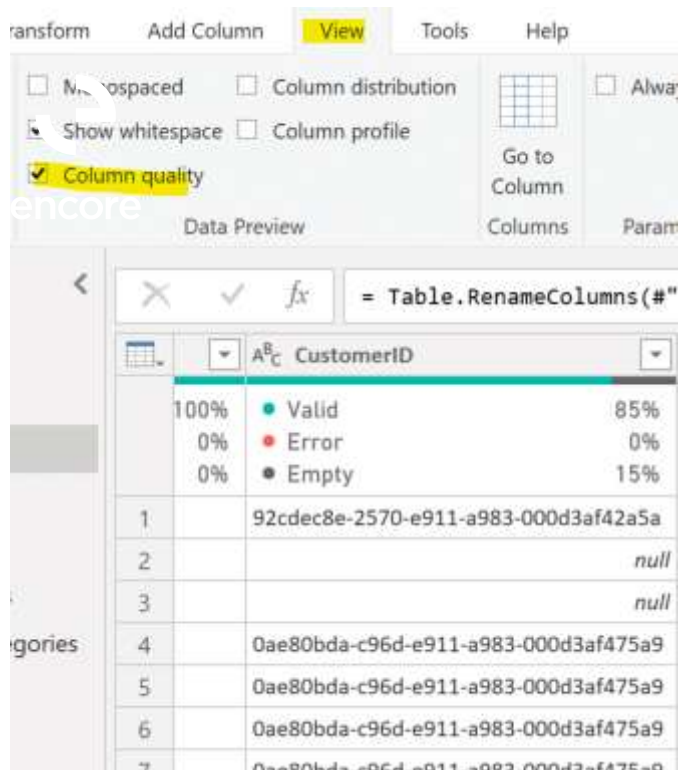
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Go to Power Query Editor. Find CustomerID from fact table and check the column Null or empty value:

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To fix the bad data, you need to go to the source. If that is not an option, you can fix it immediately and temporarily in **Power BI**. This can be done in both Fact and Dimension tables with a simple trick to remove the (Blank) value in slicer and filter by following the below steps.

1. Replace null value with your choice in the Fact table:

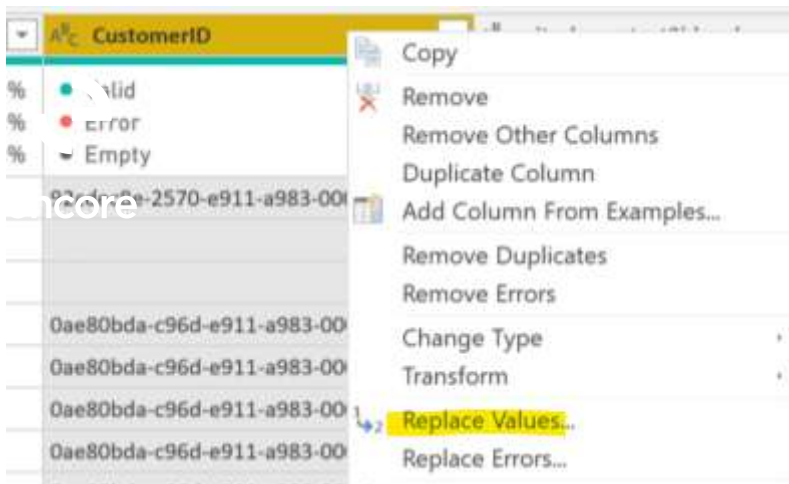
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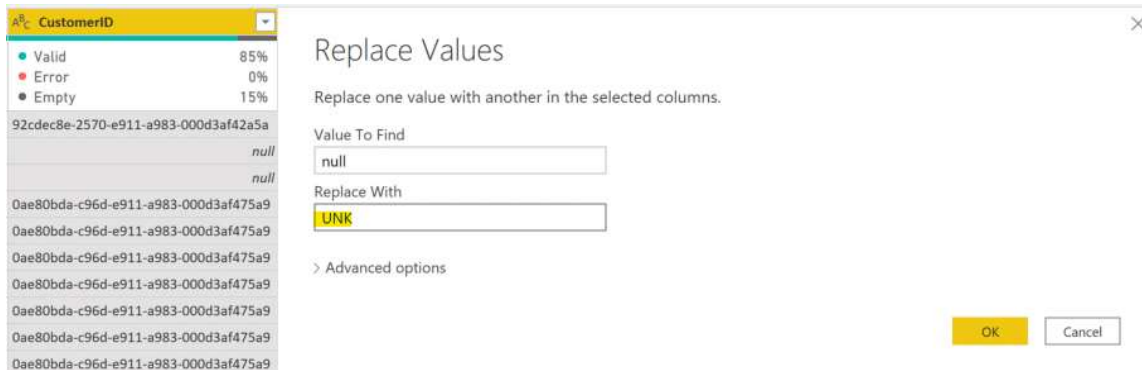
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CustomerID	
Valid	100%
Error	0%
Empty	0%
UNK	
UNK	
UNK	
f9107bee-5b86-ea11-a811-000d3af427b4	
f9107bee-5b86-ea11-a811-000d3af427b4	
f9107bee-5b86-ea11-a811-000d3af427b4	
f9107bee-5b86-ea11-a811-000d3af427b4	
f9107bee-5b86-ea11-a811-000d3af427b4	

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2. Add a new row manually in the Dimension table:

- Select the dimension table, then open advanced editor.
- Add a line below to add a new line with the same Customer ID that you used in Fact table.
- Note that if you have 10 columns in a dimension table, you need to add all 10 columns.

```
CustomAddRow = Table.InsertRows("#Removed Columns", 2, { [CustomerID = "UNK", Customer = "Unknown" ] })
```

in

CustomAddRow

3. Click Done:

A ^B C CustomerID		A ^B C Customer	
Valid 100%		Valid 100%	
Error 0%		Error 0%	
Empty 0%		Empty 0%	
1	71d4ec6d-f380-ea11-a811-000d3af427b4	Alexa Google	
2	68304273-1084-ea11-a811-000d3af427b4	Ican Learn	
3	UNK	Unknown	
4	0a2a395a-a285-ea11-a811-000d3af427b4	Kevin Mckamey	
5	f9107bee-5b86-ea11-a811-000d3af427b4	Diane Fritz	
6	36ad94f4-5b86-ea11-a811-000d3af427b4	test tester	
7	2b2bc314-bb88-ea11-a811-000d3af427b4	Test Base	
8	26022d1d-618a-ea11-a811-000d3af427b4	New Bie	

PROPERTIES

Name

DimCustomer

[All Properties](#)

APPLIED STEPS

- Source
- Navigation
- Removed Other Columns
- Renamed Columns
- Removed Columns
- CustomAddRow

4. Click Close & Apply button, and you're done!

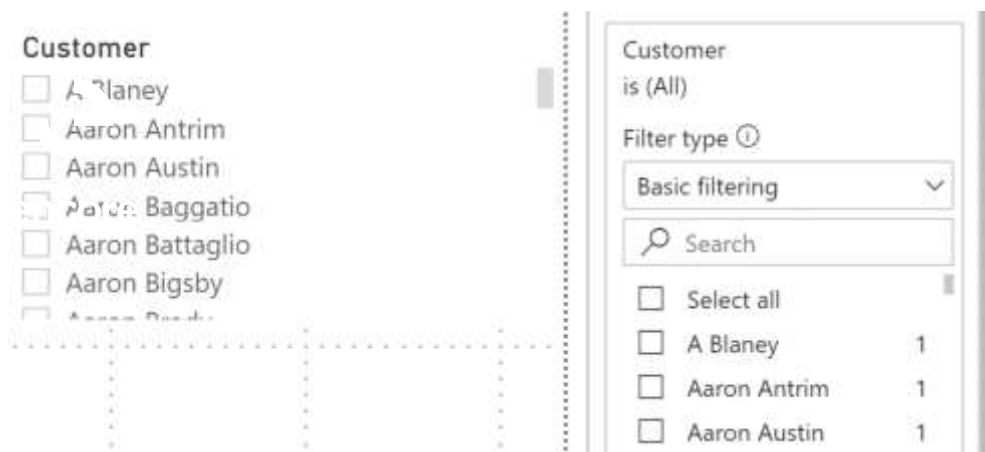
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If you have any questions about using Power BI, please feel free to [connect with us](#).

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Author



Justin Song

Justin is a highly qualified Senior Business Intelligence and Data Analyst who holds numerous professional certifications in accounting, business intelligence, project management, data, development and a wide range of technologies.

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By [Pierre Manaigre](#)

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