

Using a Variable Date Filter

One of the features available in the Report Browser and Attribute/Data Collection date type variables is the ability to use a variable date to filter a report. This is useful when a user wants to set up default dates (calculated off of the current date) set up for specific Attributes or run a daily report that represents that last seven days of data. Normally the user would have to update the date filter every day to insure that the dates represent the last seven days. But with the variable date option the report designer can set the filter to change as the date changes.

Example:

Let's assume that today is January 8, 2014 and we want to run an Asset History Report for the past seven days. As a filter for the report we can use the "Is Between" option and type in "1/1/2014" and "1/8/2014" as our date range. If we want to use the Variable Date we will still use the "Is Between" option but our dates will be replaced with "{Day:-7}" and "{Day:0}". On the day that the report is run these variables will be translated into their appropriate dates. In this example, {Day:-7} will be calculated as seven days before today ("1/1/2014") and {Day:0} will translate into today ("1/8/2014").

NOTE: all date times are translated on reports with the current time. In the above example, if the current time when running the report is 2:36 PM, the variable dates will calculate as "1/1/2014 2:36:00 PM" and "1/8/2014 2:36:00 PM". If records were logged prior to 2:36 PM on the initial date and after 2:36 PM on the final date, they will not be included on the report.

To remove the time stamp and have the date calculated with a midnight time (12:00:00 AM), the variable date will need to be set up with the full Month/Day/Year variable. For the example above: {Month:0}/{Day:-7}/{Year:0}.

The following table will provide examples on how Variable Dates can be used.

Format	Meaning
{Day:0}	Translates into the date the report is run. Meaning that if today is "1/8/14" at 9:36 AM then this variable will translate into "1/8/14 9:36:00 AM".
{Day:-7}	Translates into seven days prior to the date the report is run. Meaning that if today is "1/8/14" at 5:12 PM then this variable will translate into "1/1/14 5:12:00 PM".
{Day:2}	Translates into two days <u>after</u> the date the report is run. Meaning that if today is "1/8/14" at 12:13 AM then this variable will translate into "1/10/14 12:13:00 AM".
{Month:-2}	Translates into two months prior to the date the

	report is run. Meaning that if today is "1/8/14" at 6 PM then this variable will translate into "1/8/14 6:00:00 PM".
{Year:-1}	Translates into one year prior to the date the report is run. Meaning that if today is "1/8/14" at 11 AM then this variable will translate into "1/8/14 11:00:00 AM"
{Month:-1}/1/{Year:0}	Translates to the first of the prior month. Meaning that if today is "1/8/14" the this variable will translate into "12/1/13 12:00:00 AM"
{Month:-1}/{Day:-1}/{Year:0} 6:00:00 AM	Translates to 6am of the previous day of the prior month. Meaning that if today is "1/8/14" the this variable will translate into "12/7/13 at 6:00:00 AM"