

Build Floating Reports in DB2 Web Query Dashboards

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Use this simple method to manage the display size of your reports

When you create a dashboard in DB2 Web Query, it often contains a combination of graphs, reports, and, optionally, selection criteria. Because of changing criteria or business loads, the size required to display these reports changes. By default, Web Query uses fixed locations, which means that you need to plan for the largest size to avoid overlap. However, when you have smaller reports, this leads to large sections of undesired white space. In this TechTip, I will explain how to avoid this problem by using floating reports.

Within Developer Workbench, reports and graphs are both considered procedures. Therefore, while the following example shows two reports, it can be done with any combination of graphs and reports. Build your reports in the orientation that you want. This example focuses on the top-down style of floating reports. I made the frame as wide as I expect will be needed but as short as possible.

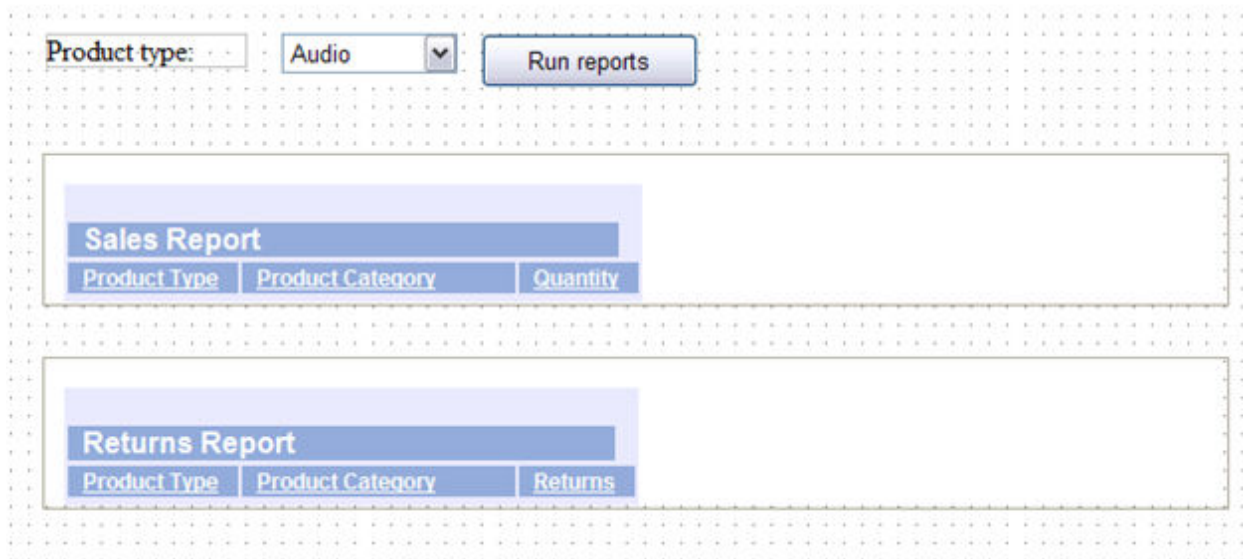


Figure 1: Make the frame as wide as necessary but short.

For more precise alignment, use the toolbar buttons to make elements the same height or width or to align to common top, bottom, left, or right positions.



Figure 2: Don't forget to use the toolbar for better precision.

Set the desired gap size between the reports. Click the bottom report, hold control, and then click the top report. Now, click the Relate Bottom_Left button. If you were doing different orientations, you could choose any of the other "relate" buttons.

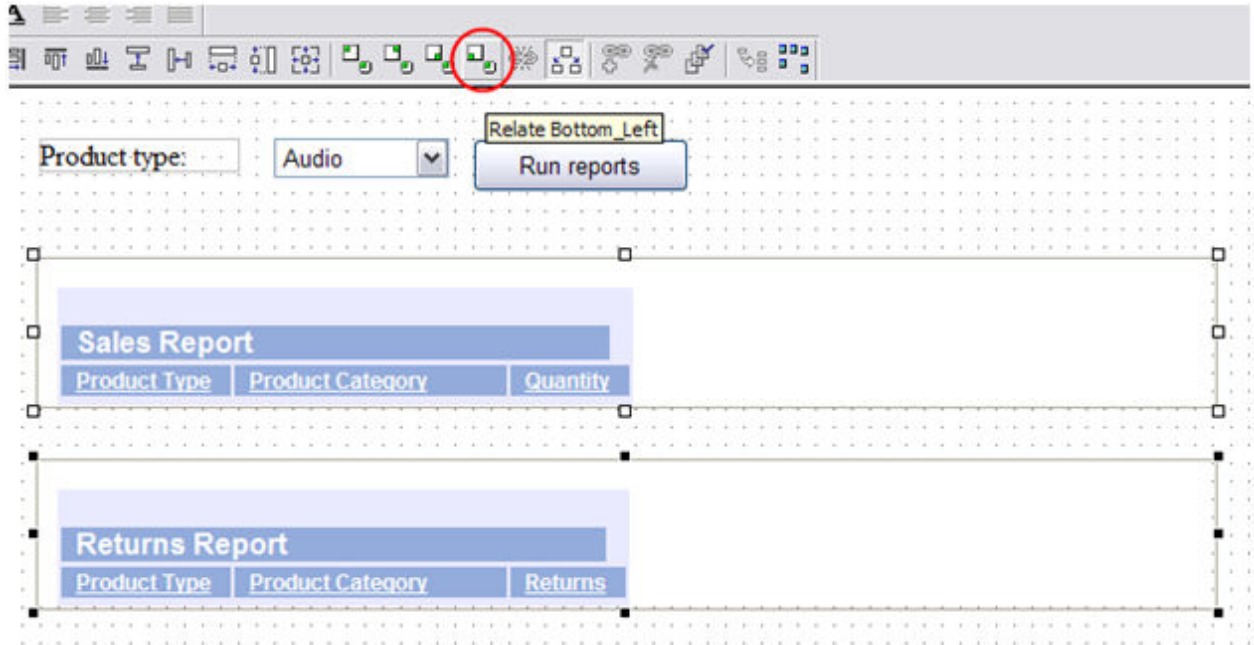


Figure 3: Notice the four "relate" options. I've highlighted Relate Bottom_Left.

You can see that this option created a relationship between the top left-hand corner of the bottom box and the bottom left-hand corner of the top box. The report will always maintain this gap.

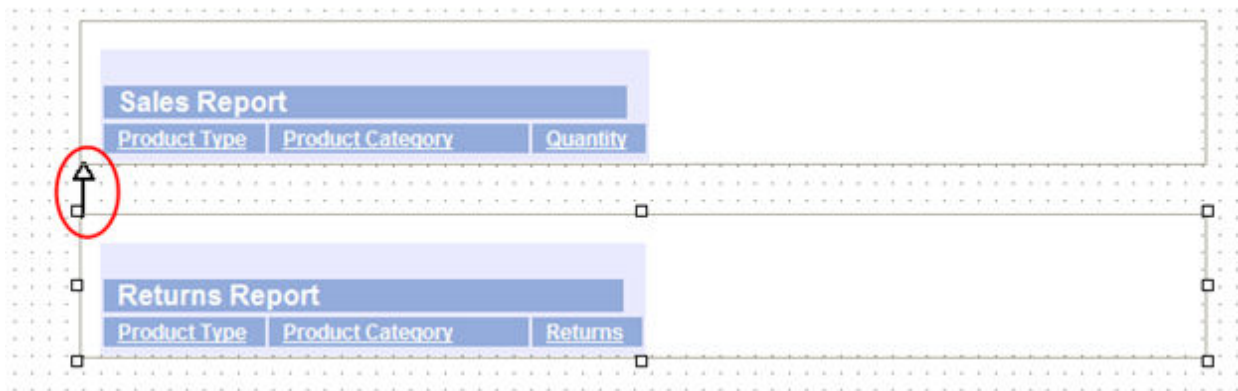


Figure 4: You've set the desired spacing between reports.

You can add as many of these relationships as you would like, tops to bottoms and lefts to rights, to accommodate all the items on your dashboard.

Next, you need to tell the boxes to auto-adjust for content. By default, they will keep a fixed size and put in scroll bars if the content is too large for the size selected. However, since we made our boxes extremely short, they can only grow with the report, giving them an "auto-size" effect. To do this, you just set Sizing and Scrolling in the Properties panel to No for both reports.

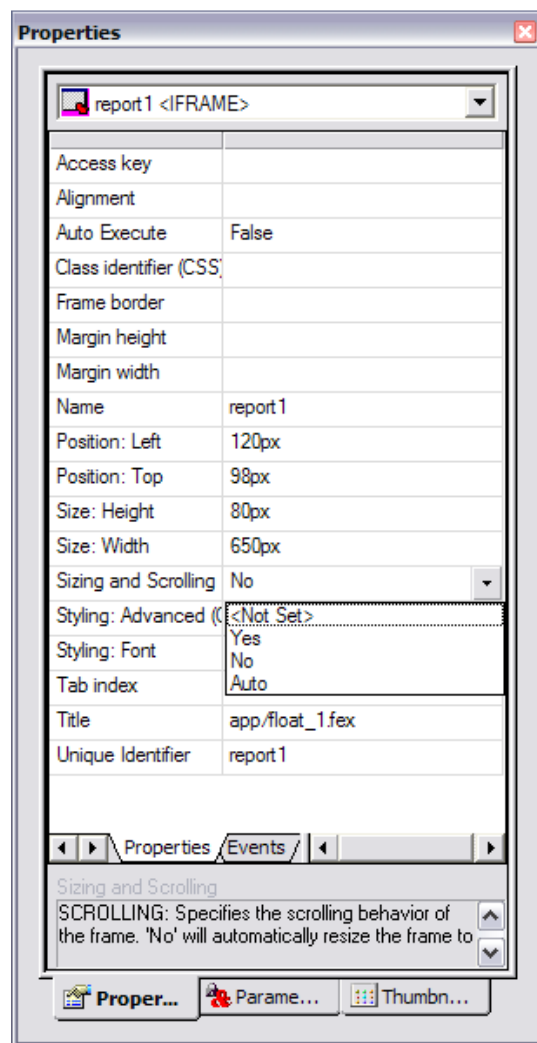


Figure 5: You can set Sizing and Scrolling in the Properties panel.

That's all there is to it. When you run the report, you will see the following. The initial report frames are blank. This was caused by the fact that the reports defaulted the Auto Execute to false. If you would like the reports to be populated as soon as the report is run and before the selection criteria is set, change the Auto Execute property value to true (shown in figure 5).

Product type:

Audio



Run reports

Figure 6: You're ready to run the report.

Notice you start with the frames the size you set. You then run for Audio and get that report.

Product type:

Audio



Run reports

Sales Report

Product Type	Product Category	Quantity
Audio	Amplifiers/PreAmps/Tuners	109422
Audio	Audio Systems	86020
Audio	CD Players and Recorders	82641
Audio	MP3	216042
Audio	Receivers	87377
Audio	Speakers	281337

Returns Report

Product Type	Product Category	Returns
Audio	Amplifiers/PreAmps/Tuners	11356
Audio	Audio Systems	8721
Audio	CD Players and Recorders	8294
Audio	MP3	21793
Audio	Receivers	8997
Audio	Speakers	28794

Figure 7: You have your audio report!

You can see that the frames expanded to fit the content but maintained the set gap spacing. Run again, but this time for Camcorders.

Product type:

Sales Report		
Product Type	Product Category	Quantity
Camcorders	Digital Camcorders	55057
Camcorders	DVD Camcorders	260133
Camcorders	MiniDV Camcorders	48449

Returns Report		
Product Type	Product Category	Returns
Camcorders	Digital Camcorders	5639
Camcorders	DVD Camcorders	26326
Camcorders	MiniDV Camcorders	5149

Figure 8: And here's your camcorder report.

Again, you see that the frames shrank but the gap stayed. Finally, run again for Cameras.

Product type:

Sales Report		
Product Type	Product Category	Quantity
Cameras	Digital Cameras	383843

Returns Report		
Product Type	Product Category	Returns
Cameras	Digital Cameras	38980

Figure 9: Note that all three reports maintained your settings.

As you can see, this option allows you to get a custom position for each element of your dashboard and create a smooth look without extra white space.