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Software release

This documentation accompanies Atlas xl version 4.0 and which is suitable for Microsoft Dynamics AX versions 4.0 SP1, Microsoft Dynamics AX 2009 and for the 2007 Microsoft Office System.

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Reader comments

Any comments or suggestions regarding this publication are welcomed and should be addressed to the attention of:

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1 Introduction

1.1 Outline

Atlas is a global reporting solution for Microsoft Dynamics™ AX. The purpose of this document is to outline for our partners and customers what is new in the Atlas for Microsoft Dynamics AX.

Core enhancements included in this version include:

- New task pane user experience for authoring, context sensitive business intelligence and ad-hoc reporting with enhanced drill-down capabilities.
- All Ribbon bar for menu selection
- Collaboration through the use of Saved Queries
- Atlas web-service

In addition, new programs, tools and services are planned to complete the product offering. For example, certification requirements for Microsoft Dynamics partners will enable greater recognition within the community, a higher quality of services for implementation and support. Enriching the application with integrated web services, communities, and tools are our priorities to enable our customers to realize their full potential through their business software.

Beyond the Atlas 4 release, our product strategy is to provide a foundation layer enabling (Atlas) certified ISV Partners to offer Atlas as the Microsoft Office integration solution for their own verticals. Although Atlas 4 has been developed for Microsoft Dynamics AX; this foundation layer will allow Atlas to integrate to other solutions such as Microsoft Dynamics GP or NAV and indeed any custom developed solutions that have a relational database (SQL) backend.

We will continue to deliver major improvements in usability to culminate in an application that is truly tailored to user needs for ERP software: **Personal Business Intelligence**. According to a 2006 study by AMR Research, nearly 85% of the employees in an organization typically do not have access to the ERP system. Atlas 4 will allow Microsoft Dynamics AX to have a greater footprint in an organization through the use of the 2007 Microsoft Office System as a front-end.

Design improvements are targeted at all points in the application life cycle, from installation to everyday use, maintenance, and upgrade.

1.2 Product editions

There are two product offerings:

- Atlas xl 4.0 for Microsoft Dynamics AX
- Atlas for Microsoft Dynamics AX

Atlas xl 3.5 Customers who possess a current maintenance subscription are entitled to Atlas xl 4.0 at no additional software cost. These customers can cross-grade to Atlas for Microsoft Dynamics AX for a nominal fee.

Atlas for Microsoft Dynamics AX is available for all new customers. This product supports Microsoft Dynamics AX 4.0 and 2009.

2 Common features

2.1 User experience

2.1.1 Outline

This section deals with the changes that apply to how the user interacts with the product. The user experience is unlike that of previous versions. For example, the Ribbon used in version 3.5 was optional and was a reflection of the pull-down menu found in the Add-ins group. This version is for the 2007 Office System and the features and functions are accessed solely using the Atlas Ribbon. Additional user experience issues include task pane use and how Atlas works between Office applications.

2.1.2 Ribbon bar

Users of Version 3.5 for Microsoft Excel 2007 had a choice of add-ins; a pull-down menu or a Ribbon bar. This version accesses the features and functions of the product solely through the Atlas Ribbon.

In the Office Fluent UI the traditional menus and toolbars have been replaced by the Ribbon. The tabs on the Ribbon display the commands that are most relevant for each of the task areas in the applications. For example, reporting or upload. These tabs simplify accessing Atlas features because they organize the commands in a way that corresponds directly to the tasks people perform in the application.

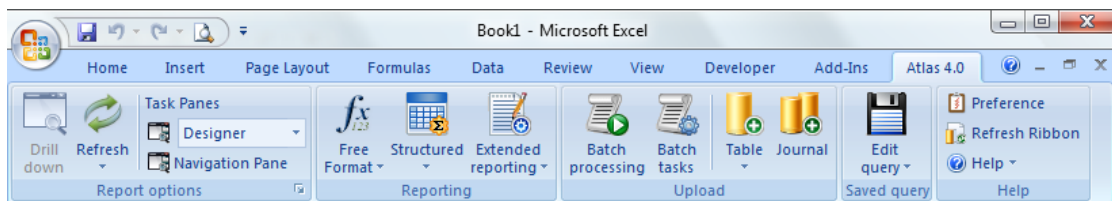


Figure 1 Atlas Ribbon in Microsoft Excel

2.1.3 Task pane user interface

A key design feature for Atlas 4 was the use of non intrusive task panes. These can be docked according to personal preference; left, right or floating and can be adjusted for width to suit. This is a departure from previous versions where a pop-up window was employed for building reports and uploads.

The task panes operate in one of two modes; Designer and Context (run-time). The content delivered through the task pane is dependent upon this mode. For example, when using the Balance function in Context mode, the task pane can be used to show up to five drill-out queries; whereas in Designer mode, the settings of the Balance formula are displayed.

2.1.4 Efficient and effective report building

The definition and structure for all reporting functions can be saved as a building block for personal or shared use. These building blocks can be recalled and used at any time.

Shared Saved Queries promote better collaboration. Subject matter experts will author and publish these to a common folder location. End users can be assured that these queries will have a high degree of integrity, accuracy and they eliminate any guesswork the end user might undertake.

Unlike previous versions of Atlas xl, Saved Queries are not bound to the Office document. Once defined, they can be re-called and used in any Office application or new document.

2.1.5 *Inter-Office synergies*

Once you have mastered the new version of Atlas you can use it in the different Office applications it supports. Atlas uses:

- The same reporting features and functions in all of the supported Office applications¹
- Host application objects onto which the Atlas functions can be attached. In Microsoft Excel these are cells and the list object, Microsoft Word it is the content control and in Microsoft PowerPoint it is shapes.

2.2 *Setup and deployment*

2.2.1 *Outline*

Here the deployment and installation specifics are addressed. Highlights include zero Microsoft Dynamics AX footprint along with licensing and deployment.

2.2.2 *Zero Microsoft Dynamics AX installation footprint*

Atlas xl version 3.5 introduced a new menu into Microsoft Dynamics AX; its purpose was to manage the reporting tables and to provide a platform upon which upload templates could be defined. Because this menu and associated features were installed into Microsoft Dynamics Microsoft Dynamics AX, access to a development layer (BUS/VAR/CUS/USR) was needed. Furthermore, additional labels were added to the Microsoft Dynamics AX application folder. Atlas 4 is self-contained and all these supporting features have been moved to the 2007 Microsoft Office System. This provides a number of benefits:

- Easier installation process as there is no specialist assistance needed to complete the installation
- The supporting elements can be readily shared amongst the user community

2.2.3 *Microsoft Excel 2007 add-in*

Previous versions used Visual Basic for Applications (VBA) technology to provide the integration. This has been replaced with .NET technology and uses Visual Studio Tools for Office (VSTO). Any add-ins that are needed are added automatically and there is no manual, first time selection.

2.2.4 *Deployment options*

2.2.4.1 *Outline*

Typically, you will choose a multi-tier deployment and possibly the web-service deployment if you have people who need to use Atlas remotely. Standalone configurations are expected to be used for demonstration purposes or for single user sites.

2.2.4.2 *Named user license model*

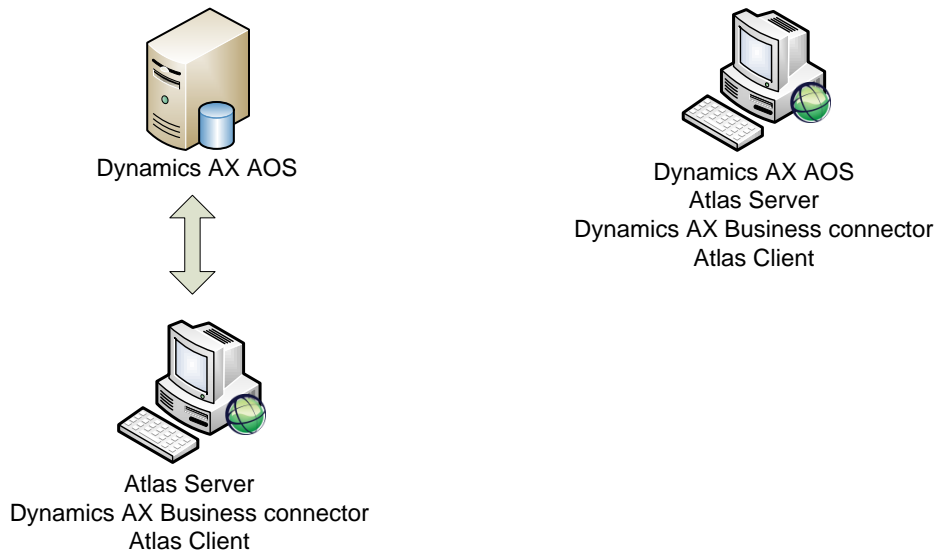
A move away from a concurrent user to a named user model has been implemented to coincide with the same changes undertaken by Microsoft with respect to the Microsoft Dynamics AX Business Connector (now known as the Microsoft Dynamics Client for Office). Each Atlas named user will be given an activation key which is not tied to an AX serial number.

¹ Pivot reporting is only available for Atlas products inside Microsoft Excel. Outlook supports paste functions only. Drill-down and drill-out are unavailable.

The benefit is that once activated, Atlas can connect to any Microsoft Dynamics AX installation provided you have been granted the appropriate access privileges.

2.2.4.3 Standalone deployment model

Consider this configuration to be most suited for non-production environments and will typically be employed for demonstration use.



1. Workstation has Atlas Server and Client installed

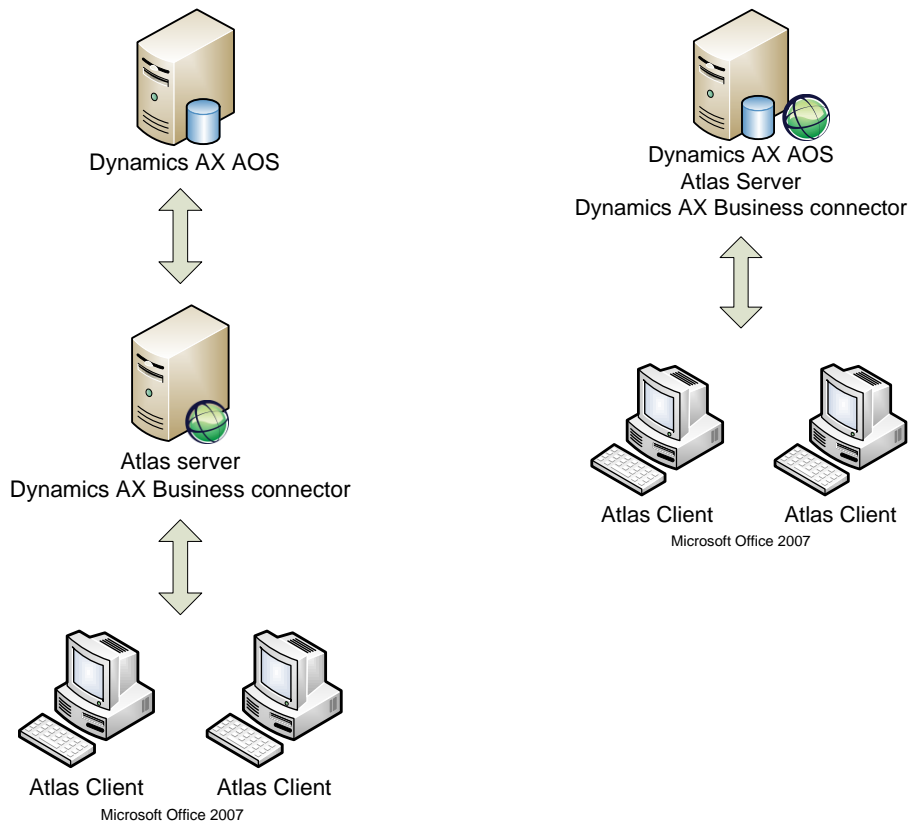
2. Dynamics Microsoft Dynamics AX is run locally



3. Laptop used for demonstrations with all components in a VPC image

2.2.4.4 Multi-tier deployment

Normal deployment for production systems:

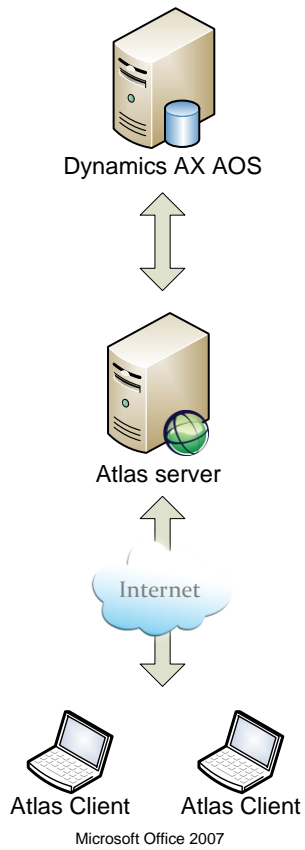


1. Workstation has Atlas Client installed. Atlas server is a client of the Dynamics Microsoft Dynamics AX AOS

2. Dynamics Microsoft Dynamics AX AOS and Atlas Server installed on same computer

2.2.4.5 Web-service deployment

Consider this model when users need access remotely. An example might be to generate quotations or to complete timesheets.



1. Users of the system are remote to the location of the servers. Connection achieved via internet connection only

3 Reporting and analytics

3.1 General

3.1.1 Outline

The overall design emphasis for this Atlas version was to:

- Standardize all report functions in terms of definition and use
- Improve re-usability and to promote the concept of componentized report building blocks
- Improve the availability and use of summary reporting functions
- Improve drill-down capability and to take advantage of the report building blocks
- Build-in features to allow the user to put their reports and analyses into context
- Promote collaboration by providing features that allow for sharing amongst co-workers and to foster role based analytics

These have been achieved by new feature and through enhancements described here.

3.1.2 New features

3.1.2.1 Outline

The following are general reporting features that have been added to this release of the software:

1. New data source list with associated designer
2. Saved Queries for all reporting functions
3. New filter pane that includes the ability to join to related tables
4. New context drill-out feature

3.1.2.2 New data source list

In earlier versions of Atlas, the data sources were system wide and defined using the supported tables list found inside Microsoft Dynamics AX. This has changed to personal data source list which accommodates different needs depending upon user type and role.

The key elements to the new data source list are as follows:

- The data source list can be shared or can be private to the user
- All saved queries are linked to a data source and can be selected and executed directly from the data source selection tab
- The list can be classified into any number of user-defined classifications. These can be applied as necessary at any time
- All supported tables are now managed from within Microsoft Office
- Data source lists are files which can be shared by using Windows Explorer or via email
- Role based data source lists can be selected at installation and personalized
- Table browsing so that you can familiarize yourself with the data before building a report

3.1.2.3 Building blocks for all reporting functions

The definition and structure for all reporting functions can be saved as a building block for personal or shared use. These building blocks can be recalled and used at any time. For example, you might save the definition of a frequently used Balance function for a particular set of revenue accounts; when writing an email you can include this figure by using this saved query in the body of the mail, thus:

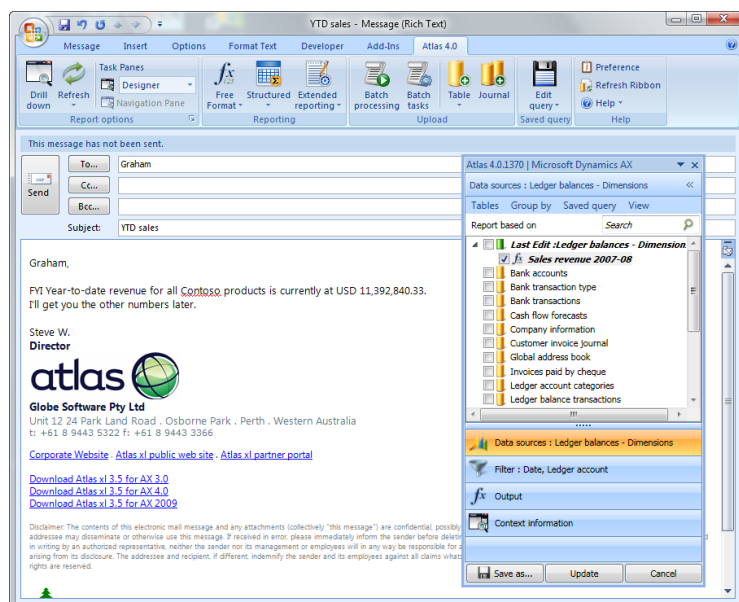


Figure 2 Re-using report building blocks in Outlook

Shared Saved Queries promote better collaboration. Subject matter experts will author and publish these to a common folder location. Shared Queries ensure integrity, accuracy and to eliminate guess work by the end user.

Unlike previous versions of Atlas xl, Saved Queries are not bound to the Office document. Once defined it can be re-called and used in any Office application or new document.

3.1.2.4 New filters tab pane

This replaces the Ranges tab of previous versions. Although achieving the same result, the manner in which the filters are applied differs in this version, the key elements are as follows:

- Auto-report field group provides the initial list of filter fields. Filter fields can be added or removed
- Join to related tables to provide additional filter fields
- Include custom document properties as filter criteria
- Save the filter expression so that it can be re-used and shared with others
- Assign a default reference, for example a named range, to the filter field criteria to improve portability
- Improved lookup capabilities for tables and fixed list fields

You can see in the following example, that the year-to-date gross profit filter has been reused and applied from the saved filter drop down list:

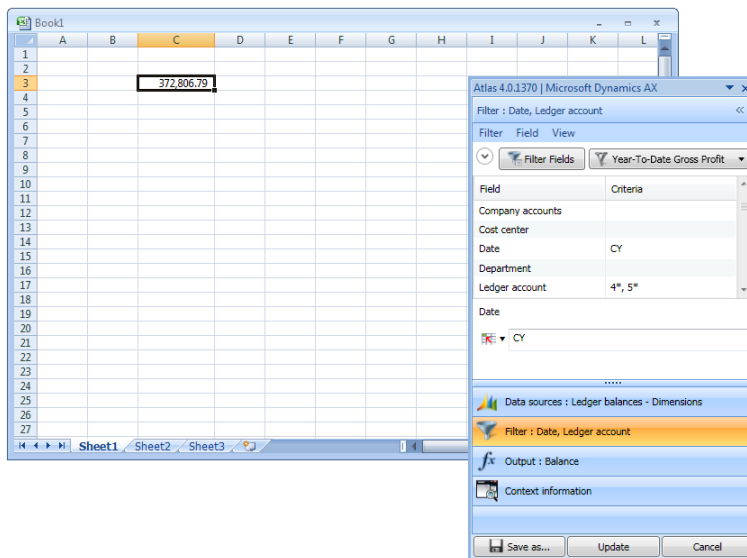


Figure 3 Filter tab with a saved filter expression

3.1.2.5 Contextual drill-out using Saved Queries

This feature allows you to select up to five Saved Queries to be viewed in the context drill-out task pane. Each report provides an alternative context to the base report. Consider as an example, a Balance Sheet item showing the amount owing for all customers. Context drill-out can be used to provide cross-modular, alternative views that let you discover what's driving the figure and why. Such as:

1. Expose a summary of the customers and their individual balances
2. Express the balance by currency and amount
3. Show a summary by transaction type

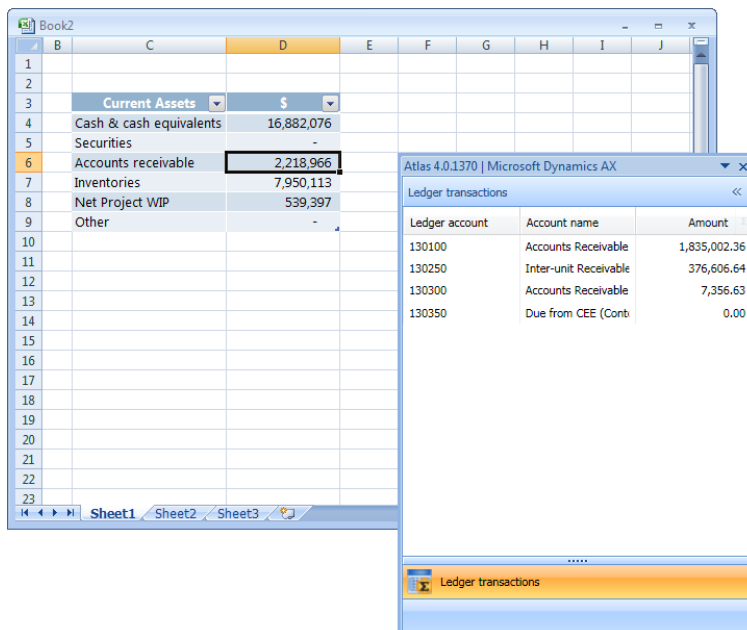


Figure 4 Drill-out giving the balance a context

3.1.3 Enhancements

3.1.3.1 Drill-down window

The drill-down window was only available from the Balance function in previous versions. This has been extended so that all Atlas functions can provide a drill-down for you to discover the underlying figures. When used with Structured reporting functions, this drill-down feature works on a row-by-row basis and on a cell-by-cell basis for Free-format functions. Enhancements include:

- Available to all Atlas functions
- Saved Queries to provide contextual drill-down for each Atlas reporting object
- Saved Queries tagged to a base field, such as Voucher, are automatically available and displayed as sheet tabs in the drill-down form
- Pagination, with user configurable fetch limits
- Columnar sorting; ascending and descending
- Copy results to clipboard or to Microsoft Word or to Microsoft Excel
- Print from drill-down form
- Add / Remove columns
- Adjust drill-down filters to focus on exceptions
- Grouped record set options by column
- Ability to refresh drill-down without closing the form
- For numeric columns, the ability to show as a sub-total the count, sum, average, min, and max of that column
- Property pane to show current settings
- Save current settings as a new report building block

In the following example, you can see a simple drill-down based on ledger transactions:

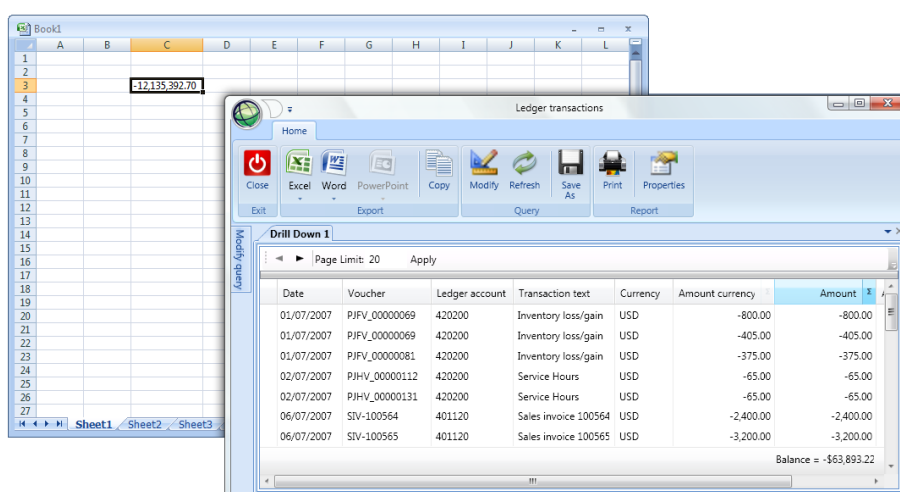


Figure 5 Drill-down from a Balance function

3.2 Free-format

3.2.1 Outline

Free-format reporting includes functions that return a single value to a cell in Excel or other such container in Word or PowerPoint. They act like other Excel functions, meaning that they can be copied, edited, moved and refreshed in the same way as others do.

There are a number of free-format functions available in Atlas 4. These are described here.

3.2.2 New features

3.2.2.1 Outline

New features added by version 4.0 include formula functions as follows:

1. Lookup
2. Cache
3. Report ranking
4. Label

3.2.2.2 Lookup function

This function returns to a cell in your workbook, a single value or comma separated list of values selected from a task pane. This should be referenced as an input filter by other functions. The list of possible values shown in the task pane is defined when you choose the function; you build a list or summary report and nominate which field is to be returned. For example, you might define a list based on the customer table and want to return the customer account, as is illustrated here:

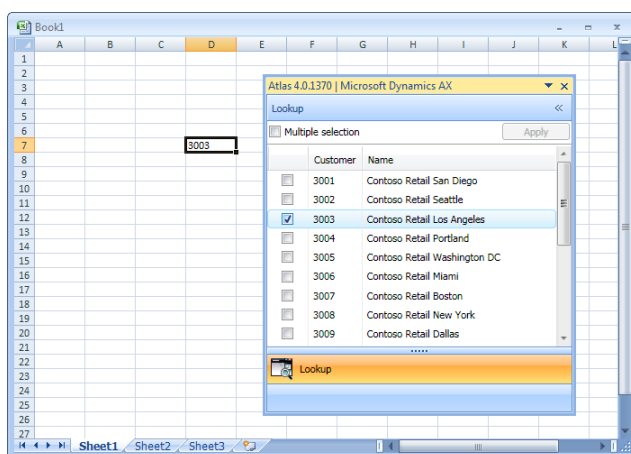


Figure 6 Lookup function showing how you can select a customer account

The Lookup function is used when you want to control the type of information that users are allowed to enter into worksheet cells. This minimizes typing mistakes for example.

3.2.2.3 Cache function

This is an advanced reporting option. The cache function is used to create an in-memory table that can be consumed as input by other Atlas functions (such as Balance or List); as if it was a physical table in the Microsoft Dynamics AX database. Use this function on workbooks that contain large volumes of balance formulas; that would otherwise repeatedly inspect the

database. When an entire column varies by a single filter, for example Ledger account, then this is a candidate for the cache function.

In the following example, the cache function is in cell E3: CacheSummary_2. It is an in-memory list of ledger account balances for the current financial year.

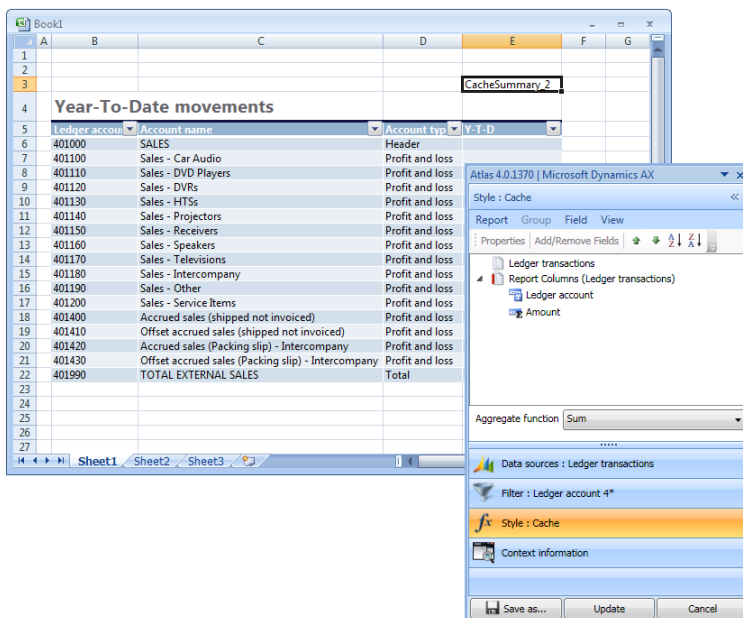


Figure 7 Inserting a Cache function to act as an in-memory data source

The balance function is then used to consume this cache function, in effect as a data source.

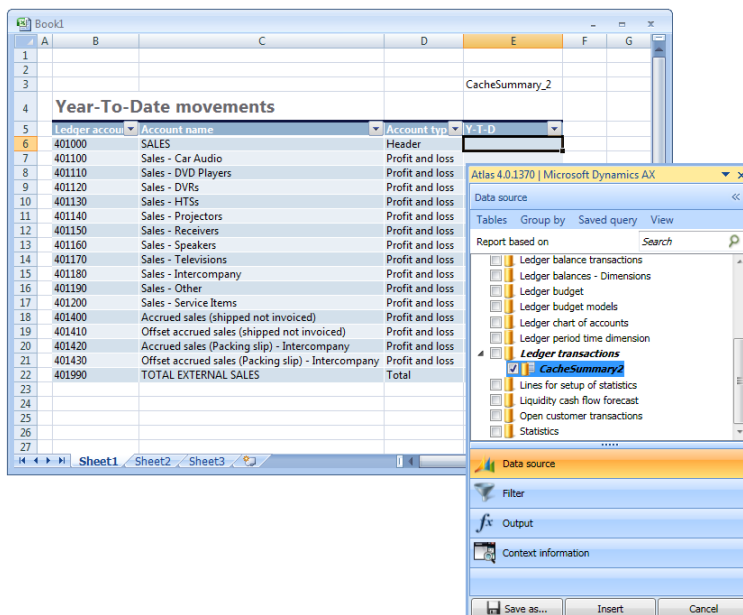


Figure 8 Use the in-memory data source in other Atlas functions

When inserted, the balance function appears as any other but its data source is the cache:

Ledger account	Account name	Account type	Y-T-D
401000	SALES	Header	
401100	Sales - Car Audio	Profit and loss	\$ 78,562.63
401110	Sales - DVD Players	Profit and loss	\$ 585,500.00
401120	Sales - DVRs	Profit and loss	\$ 1,352,050.00
401130	Sales - HTSs	Profit and loss	\$ 687,061.65
401140	Sales - Projectors	Profit and loss	\$ 594,324.77
401150	Sales - Receivers	Profit and loss	\$ 40,200.80
401160	Sales - Speakers	Profit and loss	\$ 4,278,678.23
401170	Sales - Televisions	Profit and loss	\$ 3,776,112.25
401180	Sales - Intercompany	Profit and loss	\$ -
401190	Sales - Other	Profit and loss	\$ 350.00
401200	Sales - Service Items	Profit and loss	\$ -
401400	Accrued sales (shipped not invoiced)	Profit and loss	\$ -
401410	Offset accrued sales (shipped not invoiced)	Profit and loss	\$ -
401420	Accrued sales (Packing slip) - Intercompany	Profit and loss	\$ -
401430	Offset accrued sales (Packing slip) - Intercompany	Profit and loss	\$ -
401990	TOTAL EXTERNAL SALES	Total	

Figure 9 Completed report. When the Cache function changes so does the report

Because the Cache function is a cell function, it can behave dynamically with respect to inputs from other cells on the sheet. When recalculated all dependent reports will also be recalculated.

3.2.2.4 Rank function

The Rank function supersedes the Top 10 function from the previous version. It works in a similar fashion to the Cache function in that a function for the rank is inserted into the document which is then consumed via another function such as Balance. The function can return the ranked element or it can return the ranking value itself. Ranking can be based upon multiple columns from the selected data source.

In the following example, customer is ranked by revenue contribution:

Rank	Name	Y-T-D Spend
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Figure 10 Rank operates like Cache. Here an in-memory rank is inserted

Balance and column functions are used to return the name and the ranked value based on the ranked result set:

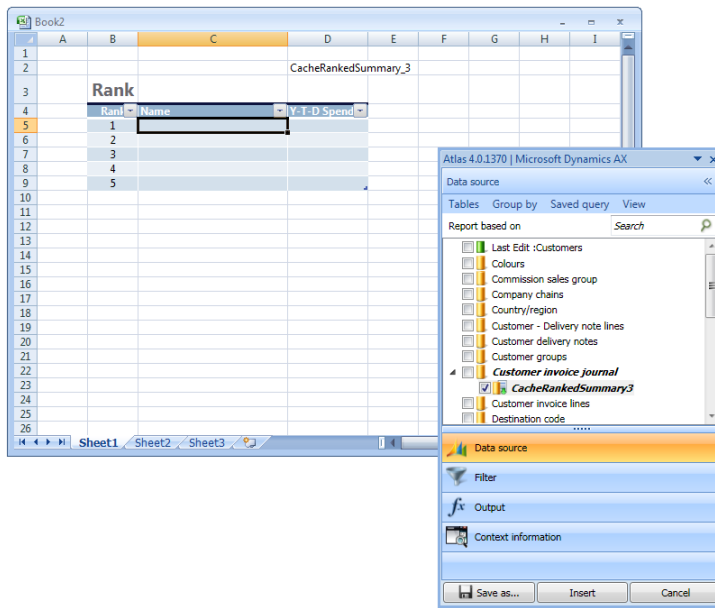


Figure 11 Consume the in-memory ranked data source with other Atlas functions

Here is the completed worksheet:

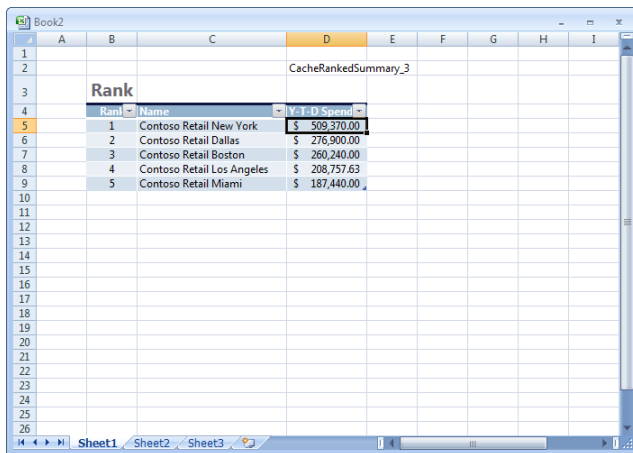


Figure 12 Completed Top 5 Customers

Because the Rank function is a cell function, it can behave dynamically with respect to inputs from other cells on the sheet.

3.2.2.5 Label function

The label function allows you to search for a Microsoft Dynamics AX label, select one and then to insert it into the document as a function. When the document opens this is resolved into the user's default language, making that label in the document sensitive to their language. The function can also take a language code as input; use this if you want the document to be always in a particular language:

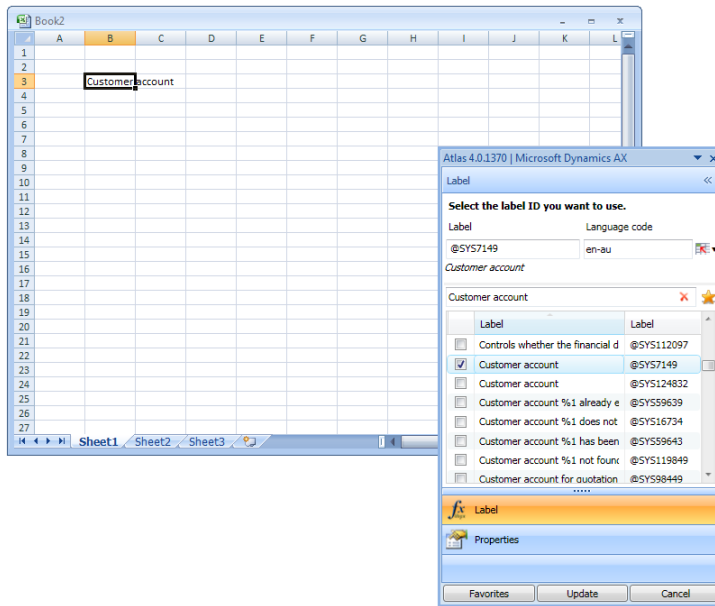


Figure 13 The Label function can be used to make a report multi-lingual

When the language code changes, so does the returned value of the function:

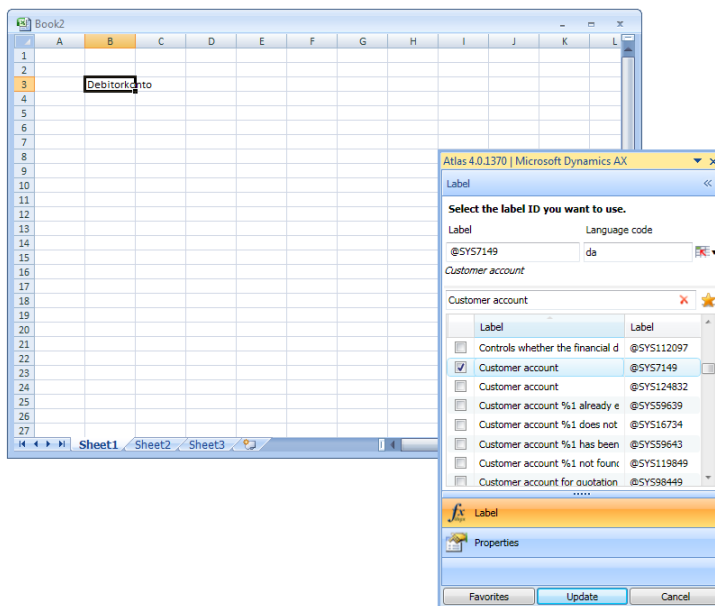


Figure 14 Change the language code and the label changes accordingly

3.2.3 Enhancements

3.2.3.1 Outline

The functions of Balance and Column (formerly main table) have been enhanced to incorporate multi-column features as described below:

3.2.3.2 Balance

The Balance function has had three major enhancements:

- Multi-column arithmetic including +, -, ÷ and ×
- Support for the aggregation methods of SUM, COUNT and AVERAGE, and not just SUM

- Saving and recall of calculations to private or shared file locations

3.2.3.3 Column

The Column function has had two major features added:

- Column definition designer that allows for multiple fields to be returned, along with labels and text. This allows you to describe a name and address in one function
- Saving and recall of column definitions to private or shared file locations

3.3 Structured

3.3.1 Outline

Structured reporting includes list, summary, matrix and in the case of Atlas xl; pivot reporting. Typically these reports use the 2007 Office System table object as the basis for rendering the results. It is these reporting functions that provide the greatest reusability in the product; as they are used in many of the other supporting functions like drill-down and drill-out.

Significantly, formatting of reports is now performed externally to the report request. Use standard Office functions to format the returned results. Subsequent refresh actions respect the applied formats.

3.3.2 New features

3.3.2.1 Summary reporting

The ability to generate summary reports has been added. These allow you to build reports that summarize amount columns on a data source. Typically a summarized amount will be created for each combination of non-amount based columns; for example, if you summarize the amount in default currency on ledger transactions and include the ledger account and department dimension, then for each combination of account and department a balance figure will exist. You can include columns from related (main) tables, for example Name, and you can summarize by columns found on these tables, for example, customer group summary.

You can group these summary reports so that each summary is, in effect a sub-report, within a group column.

3.3.2.2 Matrix reporting

An extension of the summary report is the matrix report. This allows you to tabulate the results of the Summary report using a column basis. An example of this report might be a summary by ledger account with months spread across worksheet columns. The same summary algorithm as is used in the Summary report but an additional feature lets you nominate which column in the report is to be the column basis. This column basis must not be an amount field.

In the following example, the report summarizes the default currency amount by ledger account and then tabulates the results by currency code; the column basis:

Ledger a	Account name	CAD	CNY	EUR	MXN	USD	Total - Am						
401150	Sales - Receivers	-	22,589	-	2,799	-	3,602	-	26,932	-	55,922		
401160	Sales - Speakers	-	113,056	-	581,789	-	1,371,712	-	14,598	-	3,617,712	-	5,698,867
401130	Sales - HTSs	-	-	-	282,543	-	113,528	-	59,057	-	454,869	-	910,017
401140	Sales - Projectors	-	-	-	-	-	467,365	-	-	-	500,484	-	968,049
401100	Sales - Car Audio	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
401110	Sales - DVD Players	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
401120	Sales - DVRs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
401170	Sales - Televisions	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
401190	Sales - Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total		-	135,645	-	867,131	-	1,952,805	-	77,256	-		-	

Figure 15 Matrix of Account and Currency

You can group these matrix reports so that each summary is, in effect a sub-report, within a group column.

3.3.3 Enhancements

3.3.3.1 List reporting

In previous versions, two list reports were available: Main table reporting and Transaction reporting. These have been merged into one, and renamed to be a List report. List reports show individual, un-summarized records from a data source, for example a list of customers, a list of inventory transactions etc. You can include columns from related (main) tables, for example Name, you can sort by any column and you can apply a record limit; such that only a given number of records are returned. This means you can produce a report of the last five sales invoices for a customer as in the following example:

Invoice	Date	Currency	Invoice amount
101142	30/06/2008	USD	7,610.00
101141	30/06/2008	USD	2,756.92
101140	30/06/2008	USD	12,000.00
101139	27/06/2008	CAD	2,214.45
101138	27/06/2008	EUR	16,573.05
Total			41,154.43

Figure 16 List report of the last 5 sales invoices

List reports can be grouped, so that each set of records is, in effect, a sub-report within a group column.

3.3.3.2 Managed columns

Managed columns were introduced in the previous version of Atlas xl. It is a feature limited to Microsoft Excel and allows you to insert a column into any of the structured reports bar Pivot report and into any position. When inserted you can rename the column as necessary and then apply any Microsoft Excel or other Atlas function you need. For example, a summary report might show the balance of all customer invoices, include a managed column for item cost and then apply a Balance function to get the balance of all inventory sales transactions for each customer in the report. Equally, you might apply an Excel Function to calculate a margin. When the report is refreshed, these columns are automatically refreshed along with the report; hence managed column.

In Atlas xl version 3.5, managed columns were at either end of the report; in Atlas 4 this has been expanded so that they act as placeholders anywhere in the row.

In the following example you can see that Cost, Margin and Margin % are all managed.

Customer ID	Name	Sales	Cost	Margin	Margin %
3001	Contoso Retail San Diego	85,083.84	61,111.90	23,971.94	28%
3002	Contoso Retail Seattle	124,124.63	87,644.02	36,480.61	29%
3003	Contoso Retail Los Angeles	208,507.63	149,289.58	59,218.05	28%
3004	Contoso Retail Portland	97,443.10	71,331.84	25,911.26	27%
3005	Contoso Retail Miami	187,440.00	123,416.60	64,023.40	34%
3007	Contoso Retail Boston	260,240.00	170,778.60	89,461.40	34%
3008	Contoso Retail New York	509,370.00	363,764.98	145,605.02	29%
3009	Contoso Retail Dallas	276,900.00	193,464.20	83,435.80	30%
Total		1,749,109.20			

Figure 17 Managed columns are cost, margin and margin %

3.3.3.3 Pivot reporting

No limitation on the number of summarized columns. In addition, you now have a choice of how to render a cross-tab style report; either as a formatted pivot or as the new Matrix report style.

The Atlas drill-down has now been implemented for pivot reports too.

3.3.3.4 Formatting

Unlike Atlas 3.5 report wizards; in which Auto-formatting and manual formatting was applied therein, for this version all formatting is applied once the report has been rendered into the document. Changes made thereafter are respected whenever the report is refreshed.

In Microsoft Excel, an option is available to remove the default formatting.

4 Upload

4.1 General

4.1.1 Outline

Upload or write-back builds upon and extends the features introduced in version 3.5 of Atlas xl. The design emphasis here was to:

- Converge the user experience with that found in the reporting and analytical functions
- Standardize features of table and journal upload
- Improve re-usability and to promote the concept of componentized upload templates
- Promote collaboration by providing features that allow for sharing amongst co-workers

These have been achieved by new features and through enhancements described here.

4.1.2 New features

4.1.2.1 New data source list

This version uses the data source tab and corresponding designer as a primary means of classifying upload templates. This list will often be different to the ones used for reporting.

4.1.2.2 Test Run

Where applicable, the results of the upload can be sent to the drill-down form instead of Microsoft Dynamics AX. This allows you to review how the records will appear prior to upload.

4.1.3 Enhancements

4.1.3.1 Document property as a default value

The default value can now be sourced from a custom document property.

4.1.3.2 Support for all AX array fields

In previous versions of Atlas xl, support for array fields (as defined in the Microsoft Dynamics AX AOT) was limited to specific types; notably dimension. This restriction has been removed so that fields like asset and project sort codes are supported.

4.1.3.3 Extended field level validation

The following list highlights the new features associated with field level validation:

- Maximum and minimum values for date and numeric amounts
- Disable validation per field

4.2 Table

4.2.1 Outline

Typically the table upload function will be used to perform one of three types of actions on a single data source: Append, Update and Replace. Unlike previous versions, these actions have been made more prominent as each table upload is categorized as one of these types.

4.2.2 *New features*

4.2.2.1 *Simple table upload does not require a template*

In some cases, it is not necessary to apply processing rules, such as number sequences or default values, when the target table is simple. When this is the case, an upload can happen without the need for a pre-defined template.

4.2.2.2 *Input instructions per field*

The template designer can include user upload instructions per field and per template. This gives the end user a reference in determining how to use the template and use it to load data into Microsoft Dynamics AX.

4.2.3 *Enhancements*

4.2.3.1 *Variable periodicity*

Matrix style uploads, with multiple columns now supports variable periodicity. In previous versions, each column represented a fixed interval, this version however, allows for variable intervals. For example, an upload with 8 columns: Months in columns 1 through 6 then quarters 3 and 4 in the final two columns.

4.2.3.2 *Skip if zero by field*

If this is used, then the record will not be uploaded if the value of the field is zero. Where this is applied to multiple fields then all fields must be zero for the record to be skipped.

4.3 *Journal*

4.3.1 *Outline*

The core functionality provided by Atlas xl 3.5 is maintained in Atlas 4. However, the user experience is more in-line with that developed for the table upload and all templates as with Table upload are now managed in the Office document.

4.3.2 *New features*

4.3.2.1 *Returned value to the document*

You can nominate a header field that upon successful upload will return a value to your document. For example, the journal number generated at time of upload can be placed in a cell of a workbook; you can then use the contents of this cell as input to other, related reports.

4.3.3 *Enhancement*

4.3.3.1 *Debit and credit columns no longer merged*

For ledger journal lines, the debit and credit columns are no longer merged and will appear as discrete columns in the template.