

DeltaMaster clicks!

01/2011

Greetings, fellow data analysts!

Many artists feel that art doesn't just belong in a museum. It should also be where people are – in living rooms, in cafes, on the street, in city squares, or wherever else they congregate.

Similarly, we think that Business Intelligence doesn't just belong in supervisory board meeting rooms or executive suites. It should also be in the offices where people make operative decisions day after day – or places where colleagues meet and reflect about their business. People exchange information in production halls, open offices, cafeterias, kitchenettes, break rooms, common areas, hallways, and meeting rooms. And when they ponder and discuss things, new ideas emerge as well.

Meeting places are also an optimal setting for presenting select information gained from Business Intelligence so that employees think about it, discuss it, and (maybe) even get inspired by it. You can easily organize your BI 'exhibit' using the new kiosk mode in DeltaMaster. You will see that DeltaMaster isn't just an important tool for data artists; it also has the power to mesmerize an audience as well.

Best regards,

Your Bissantz & Company team



Not at the newsstand, for subscribers only

Back in November 2004, we launched the first issue of *DeltaMaster clicks!*. Our goal was to keep our users informed about good Business Intelligence in general and *DeltaMaster* in particular – regularly, but subtly, in an easy-to-understand, hands-on manner. You can read this 75th edition and all prior issues in the archive on our homepage: www.bissantz.com/clicks/archiv.asp

Industrial Reporting Seminar – Bella Reporting Standards with Dr. Rolf Hichert 23 February 2011, Nuremberg

Our common fight against anorexic, useless reporting goes into the 9th round.
www.bissantz.com/ir

DeltaMaster Matinee 23 March 2011, Zürich

At our first matinee of the year, you will see two *DeltaMaster* applications in Switzerland: Thomas Schenkirsch from Aebi Schmidt will talk about sales control and planning with *DeltaMaster* while Reto Märki will show what role *DeltaMaster* plays in the management information system at Würth International.
www.bissantz.com/matinee

Executive Forum 27 May 2011, Berlin

Mark your calendars today for our third executive forum of this kind. To get a preview or a review of our 2009 and 2007 forums visit:
www.bissantz.com/executive

Bissantz Campus Next compact course:

17 – 26 January 2011
Our training sessions for *DeltaMaster* and Microsoft SQL Server / Analysis Services.
www.bissantz.com/olap-seminar

DeltaMaster@Work
27 January 2011, Nuremberg
Create more effective reports!
www.bissantz.com/dm@w

Tip of the month Presenting reports automatically – kiosk mode

One of the key themes in *DeltaMaster* is automation: automated analysis, report construction, distribution, etc. Now you can even automate how you present reports using the new *Kiosk mode* in *DeltaMaster* 5.4.5.

In kiosk mode, *DeltaMaster* displays an analysis session as it would in presentation mode but automatically flips from one report to the next in an endless loop, updating the reports from the database each time. Since kiosk mode runs fully automatically, you can use it where you can't have (or don't want) any user interaction. In the introduction on page one of this issue of clicks, we have already listed multiple ways how you can use this new function.

You can start this automatic presentation from any PC or laptop. A typical kiosk system, however, is usually run in a public room, often in its own separate booth or on a screen attached to a wall.



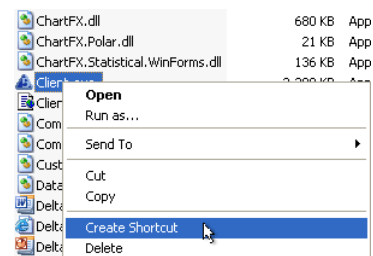
Kiosk mode does not require a special license. You can use it with any licensed *DeltaMaster* installation in version 5.4.5 (or higher). If you only want to use the computer in question as a kiosk system, all you need is a single named user license for the *Reader* level.

Creating a shortcut to start

Kiosk mode is not a setting in *DeltaMaster* or an analysis session. Instead, it is activated by a special parameter in the command prompt when you start *DeltaMaster*. In Windows you can define command prompt parameters in shortcuts, i.e. the icons you use to open a program from your desktop or start menu.

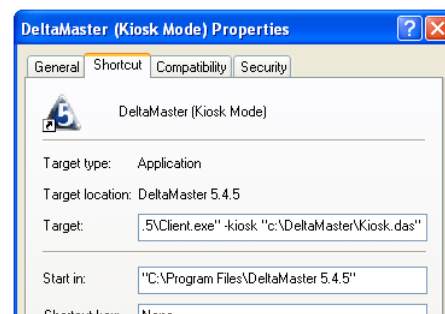


To test kiosk mode, simply create a new shortcut to *DeltaMaster* and place it on your desktop. You can do this by opening Windows Explorer to the *DeltaMaster* installation directory (e.g. 'C:\Program files\DeltaMaster 5.4.5'), selecting the 'Client.exe' executable with a right mouse click, and choosing the *Create shortcut* option. This will generate a new file called 'Shortcut to Client.exe'. You can now rename this file 'DeltaMaster 5.4.5 (kiosk mode)' and drag it onto your desktop.



The command prompt that you need to change to activate the kiosk mode is located in the shortcut's *Properties* (context menu) under the *Target* field. If you have just created the shortcut, you will only see the simple *DeltaMaster* command, for example, "C:\Program files\DeltaMaster 5.4.5\Client.exe".

You can expand this *Target* with the switch '-kiosk', followed by the name (including the path) of the analysis session (.das file) which you would like to present. The command (i.e. *Target*) would then look like this:



"C:\Program files\DeltaMaster 5.4.5\Client.exe" **-kiosk** "C:\DeltaMaster\Kiosk.das"

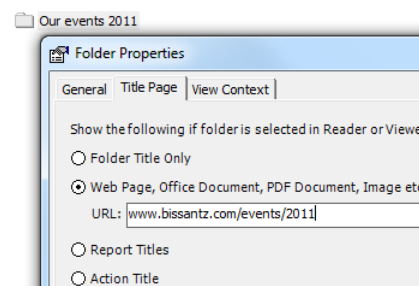
And that's it! If you now double click on this link, *DeltaMaster* will start, open the listed analysis session, change into the full-screen presentation mode (as you normally would if you hit the *F5* key), and display all folders and reports in the briefing book one after another. After a 30-second period, *DeltaMaster* will switch to the next folder or report. After displaying the last report of the last folder title page, the presentation will automatically start again from the beginning (i.e. endless loop) and continue until you stop it by hitting the *Esc* key. This action will not close *DeltaMaster*; it will simply transfer you into a regular analysis session.

If you would like to prepare multiple analysis sessions for an automatic presentation, you can generate a separate shortcut for each session.

Title pages

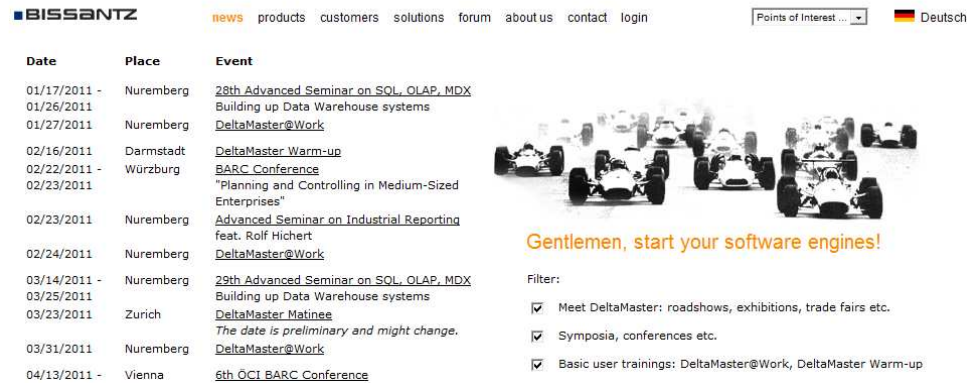
At a newsstand you often only see the front covers of newspapers and magazines; browsing or reading is discouraged. The exact opposite is the case with *DeltaMaster*. Here, it is all about content – in other words, the reports that are stored in the folders of the *Briefing book*. The title pages of the folders make it easier to structure the briefing book and give your readers a better orientation when they are working with it interactively. Folder, report, and action titles, however, don't provide much information in an automatic presentation and simply leave your audience waiting in suspense.

As a result, *DeltaMaster* only displays the title pages of the folders when a *URL* is defined in the *Folder properties* (context menu of folders in the *Briefing book*).



You can also use this option to integrate Web sites, JPEG images, Microsoft Office files, or PDFs into the automatic presentation.

Our events 2011



Date	Place	Event
01/17/2011 - 01/26/2011	Nuremberg	28th Advanced Seminar on SQL, OLAP, MDX Building up Data Warehouse systems
01/27/2011	Nuremberg	DeltaMaster@Work
02/16/2011	Darmstadt	DeltaMaster Warm-up
02/22/2011 - 02/23/2011	Würzburg	BARC Conference "Planning and Controlling in Medium-Sized Enterprises"
02/23/2011	Nuremberg	Advanced Seminar on Industrial Reporting feat. Rolf Hichert
02/24/2011	Nuremberg	DeltaMaster@Work
03/14/2011 - 03/25/2011	Nuremberg	29th Advanced Seminar on SQL, OLAP, MDX Building up Data Warehouse systems
03/23/2011	Zurich	DeltaMaster Matinee <i>The date is preliminary and might change.</i>
03/31/2011	Nuremberg	DeltaMaster@Work
04/13/2011 -	Vienna	6th OCI BARC Conference

Setting the display duration

You can set how long each of the reports should be displayed using another optional command prompt switch:

```
"C:\Program files\DeltaMaster 5.4.5\Client.exe" -kiosk -interval:x "C:\DeltaMaster\Kiosk.das"
```

Here, 'x' stands for the desired display duration in seconds. If this option isn't listed, the standard value of 30 will be applied.

Personalized program

You can extend the '-kiosk' switch so that *DeltaMaster* only presents select reports or folders from the analysis session:

```
"C:\Program files\DeltaMaster 5.4.5\Client.exe" -kiosk:rafbfc* "C:\DeltaMaster\Kiosk.das"
```

- To display a report, use the abbreviation 'r' followed by the report's ID number ('a' in the example above).
- To show a folder, use the abbreviation 'f' followed by the folder's ID number ('b' in the example above). *DeltaMaster* will then display the title page of the folder (if a URL was defined in the *Folder properties* on the *Title page* tab) followed by the reports contained in the folder. This option will not include any subfolders.
- To show a folder structure (i.e. a folder including its subfolders), use the abbreviation 'f' followed by the folder ID ('c' in the example above) and an asterisk (*). *DeltaMaster* will then display the title page of the folder (provided that a URL is defined), all of the reports contained in that folder, all of its subfolders (and title pages if applicable), and all of the reports contained in those folders in the same order that they are saved in the *Briefing book*.

You can obtain the report and folder numbers from the tooltip that appears when you press the *Alt* key while mousing over the respective report or folder. This ID is also listed in the *Report* or *Folder properties*.

You can string these entries together – without empty spaces –so that you can create the ‘script’ of the kiosk presentation as you wish without having to make any changes to your briefing book.

Example: The switch ‘-kiosk:r1r3f12r4f5*r5’ starts a presentation with the following screen sequence: Report 1 (‘r1’), Report 3 (‘r3’), the title page of folder 12 (‘f12’ – if a URL is defined for it), all reports contained in folder 12 but not including any subfolders, Report 4 (‘r4’), the title page of folder 5 (‘f5*’), all of the reports including the subfolders contained in folder 5 in the same order as they are saved in the *Briefing book*, and Report 5 (‘r5’). After this cycle, the presentation will start again with Report 1. All other folders and reports that are contained in the briefing book will not be displayed.

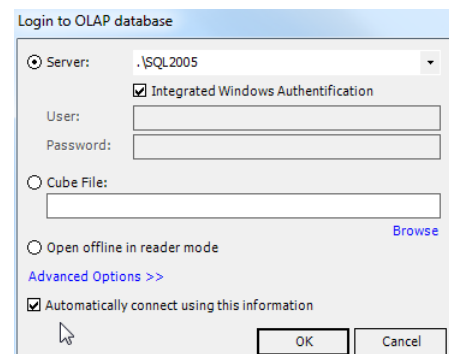
Reports are updated automatically

In *Kiosk mode*, *DeltaMaster* automatically recalculates the reports with the latest information from the database before each display. This is very interesting for overviews that change over the course of the day. The only exceptions occur when *DeltaMaster* runs on an *Offline reader* license or the *Start mode* of the analysis session is set to *Offline reader* (*Extras* menu, *Options*, *Modus* tab). In this case, *DeltaMaster* will not update the results; the reports that are to be displayed, therefore, must already be calculated in the analysis session (.das file). To update this data in regular intervals, you could use *ReportServer*.

Automatic database login should be activated

You can present each analysis session in kiosk mode without having to make any special edits or preparations. To start the presentation without further prompting, you should configure the analysis session (.das file) so that *DeltaMaster* automatically logs into the OLAP database and, if applicable, into the relational database. Otherwise, user interaction will be necessary because the normal dialog box will appear and prompt you to log into the database.

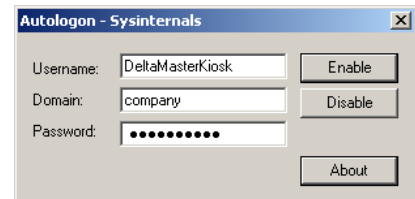
You can activate the automatic database login in the respective dialog box in the *Model browser* (*Model* menu).



Starting DeltaMaster automatically

With the right command prompt in a short cut, *DeltaMaster* can start the presentation automatically. But how can you start *DeltaMaster* automatically? The operation system is responsible for that. One way would be to use the known 'Auto start' folder in the Windows start menu. If you copy your shortcut with the switch for kiosk mode here, Windows will automatically run the program as soon as the system starts or a user has logged on.

Windows will first process the 'Auto start' folder when a user has logged on to the system. If you want your kiosk to run without supervision, however, that could pose a problem. Fortunately, all current versions of Windows contain a mechanism to support automatic logons. The easiest alternative is to activate and configure this option with Autologon, a small program from Microsoft's free 'Windows Sysinternals' offerings (Download and more information: <http://technet.microsoft.com/en-us/sysinternals/bb963905>). Autologon will prompt you for the user name, domain, and password before encrypting and saving the login information to the Windows registry. Please note, that this user profile must have adequate rights to the database.



Questions? Comments?

Just contact your Bissantz team for more information.