

DeltaMaster clicks!

02/2011

Greeting, fellow data analysts!

In a good restaurant, you expect the waiter to subtly mention if certain menu items are no longer available. That way, you won't be disappointed if they don't have what you want and your order won't take longer than necessary. The restaurant could just cross out these items from the menu or daily specials sign – but that doesn't look particularly good.

In multidimensional data models, you also have many different choices with respect to the direction in which you would like to take your analysis. *DeltaMaster* offers excellent services in this respect. Its hierarchy menus, for example, constantly adapt to the current starting positions and always show which angles you can explore next. This quickly leads you to your goal – analyses that clearly explain what you have to do to steer your company effectively. Not to mention, its hierarchy menus look impressive as well – whether you are using their default settings or you have customized them to the individual application. This edition of *clicks!* is filled with many tips to spice up these menus.

Best regards,

Your Bissantz & Company team

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:

14 – 25 March 2011

Our training sessions for *DeltaMaster* and Microsoft SQL Server/Analysis Services.

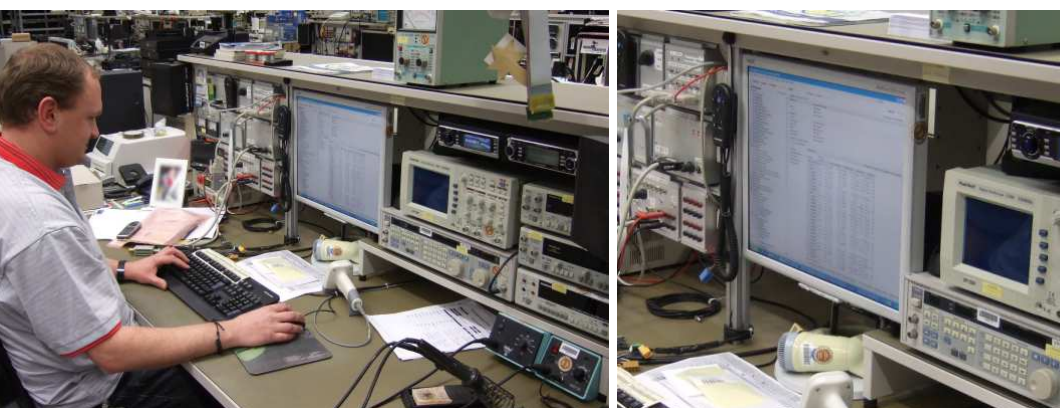
www.bissantz.com/olap-seminar

DeltaMaster@Work

24 February 2011, Nuremberg

Create more effective reports!

www.bissantz.com/dm@w



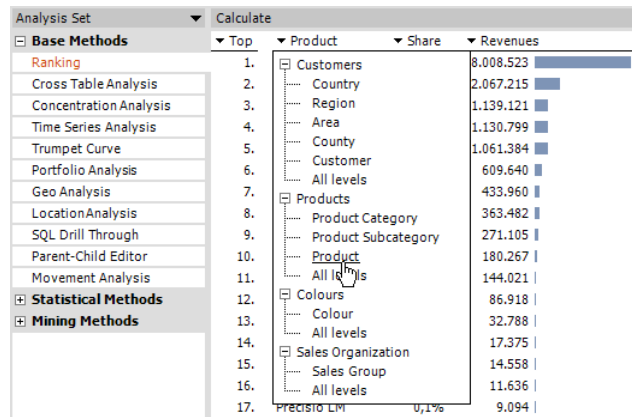
Operative Business Intelligence

This *DeltaMaster* application, as seen in a very large repair shop for electronic devices, is an example to us all. In the midst of measuring devices and soldering stations, the team leader analyzes his operative business daily – before matters get out of control and turn into C-level problems. For more highs and lows in Business Intelligence and our information culture, don't miss our year in review: blog.bissantz.com.

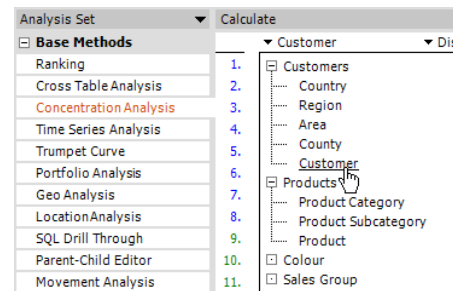
Tip of the month Using adaptive hierarchy menus to select dimension levels

You probably have seen the hierarchy menus of *DeltaMaster* quite often. You can find them anywhere you need to choose a hierarchy level. For example:

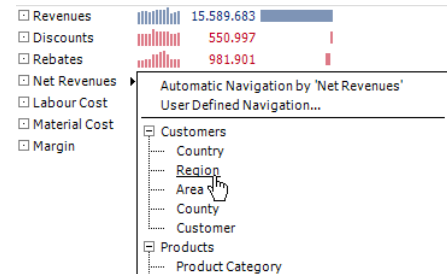
- Should you create a *Ranking* for revenues by product categories, subcategories, or individual products?



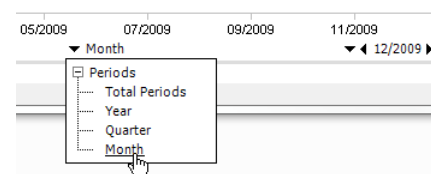
- Should you create a *Concentration analysis* by customers, regions, or entire countries?



- In which dimension level should the *Pivot navigation* branch off next?



- Do you want to examine the budget-actual variances on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis? (In a *Time series analysis* or *Trumpet analysis*, *DeltaMaster* only displays an abbreviated form of the hierarchy menu because it only shows the time dimension.)

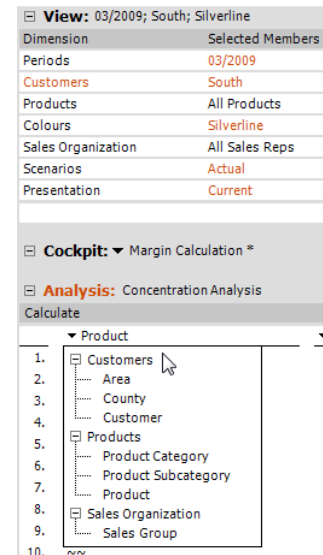


DeltaMaster provides hierarchy menus for these and many other scenarios in which you have to decide what you would like to select next. They work identically in all analysis methods, reports, and cockpits. If you are conducting an interactive analysis in *Analyzer* und *Miner*, you work almost constantly with these menus. That's reason enough to take a closer look at exactly how these menu work and what presentation options they offer.

The view influences the hierarchies in the menu

Which hierarchies the menu contains depends on different factors: the current View, the respective measure, its Analysis context, and the Model context.

The screenshot on your right shows a Concentration analysis in Miner mode. This example clearly shows how the View affects the menu. Although the model contains seven dimensions (see View window), the hierarchy menu (see Analysis window) only contains three – namely, those dimensions in which no base member is selected in the View. As a result, you will not find the dimensions showing periods, colors, scenarios, or presentation types in the menu. In these four dimensions, the selected member is on the lowest level. In other words, you cannot differentiate this data any further and the hierarchy menu shrinks respectively. Due to this same principle, dimensions with flat hierarchies (i.e. not arranged in hierarchical relationships) will never appear in a hierarchy menu. ‘Scenarios’ (e.g. budget or actual), ‘Time utility’ (e.g. current or previous year), and ‘Currencies’ are typical dimensions with flat hierarchies. Since at least one base member is always selected in these dimensions, there is no possibility for a more detailed breakdown.



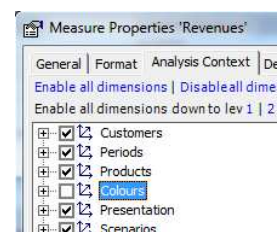
Measures and the model influence the hierarchies in the menu

Besides the view, the given measure also has an influence on the menu's content. As a result, the menu will only show hierarchies and levels that are linked with that measure. The screenshot on your right illustrates this very well by showing a Pivot navigation from our 'BC Worldphone' reference application. This demo connects internal sales data (e.g. revenues by customers, revenues by products, costs, margin) with geographic, demographic, and economic data (e.g. population, size, GDP) for the different countries of the world. While you can allocate internal data to individual countries, you cannot link the population to individual products. As a result, you can investigate revenues by countries, areas, continents, or internal structures such as customer types or products. However, you can only analyze the population based on a single criterion – countries, areas, or continents.



This also applies to analysis models that include multiple cubes.

The items that you can select from the menu also depend on the analysis context of the respective measure (tab under Measure properties) and the model context (Model menu). The hierarchy menu only offers those hierarchies and levels that are activated for the measure or the entire model. In the screenshot on your right, for example, the 'Colours' dimension from the 'Chair' reference application is deactivated. As a result, this criterion will not appear in the hierarchy menu.



Parallel hierarchies

You can also decide how *DeltaMaster* should treat parallel hierarchies in your analysis models (*Extras* menu, *Options*, *General* tab).

Hide parallel hierarchies in hierarchy menus
Display of hierarchy menu: [Hierarchy and level](#)

If you *Hide parallel hierarchies in hierarchy menus*, *DeltaMaster* will only show one hierarchy per dimension – namely, the one that is selected in the *View* window. In the screenshot on your right, this is the customer dimension, which was used to create a concentration analysis. If you save this as a virtual hierarchy, you can reuse this classification for other analyses. If you hide the parallel hierarchies, the menu will either show the original hierarchy from the database if it is selected in the view, or the virtual hierarchy ‘Customer Abc’ if it is active. This setting is very useful when the analysis model contains several parallel hierarchies, which would make the hierarchy menu very long and difficult to read. *DeltaMaster* also has special options to ‘compress’ the hierarchy menu – more on that later.

View: 03/2009		
Dimension	Hierarchy	Selected Members
Periods	Periods	03/2009
Customers	Customers Abc	Europe
Products	Products	All Products

Cockpit		
Analysis: Concentration Analysis		
Calculate		
	Customer	Revenues
1.	Customers Abc	#
2.	Customer Abc	#
3.	Customer	#
4.	Products	#

If you choose not to *Hide* these hierarchies in the *Options*, *DeltaMaster* will offer all of the available parallel hierarchies – provided that the (common) ‘All’ member is selected for the respective dimensions in the *View* window. If you have already selected a more specific member, *DeltaMaster* will not show the parallel hierarchies in this dimension.

View: 03/2009		
Dimension	Hierarchy	Selected Members
Periods	Periods	
Customers	Customers Abc	
Products	Products	

Cockpit		
Analysis: Concentration Analysis		
Calculate		
	Customer	
1.	Customers	
2.	Country	
3.	Region	
4.	Area	
5.	County	
6.	Customer	
7.	Customers Abc	
8.	Customer Abc	
9.	Customer	
	Products	

You can analyze your data more quickly and flexibly if parallel hierarchies are directly accessible. For instance, you can select another classification (i.e. another direction to take your analysis) in the *Analysis* window without having to switch to the *View* window. More hierarchies, however, make the menu larger.

Levels in the menu

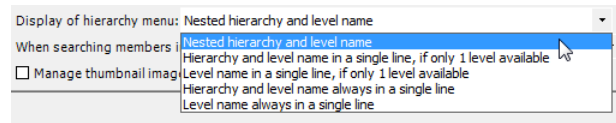
In the menu, *DeltaMaster* offers all levels in which the user can create a further differentiation from the current *View*. This is the reason why the screenshot on your right only shows the levels ‘Area’, ‘County’, and ‘Customer’ in the customer dimension. These are the only levels below the currently selection region ‘South’. The hierarchy menu no longer shows the levels ‘Country’ and ‘Region’ that were still visible in the first screenshot on page 2 because they have since been defined in the member selection. If you select multiple objects on a level, the hierarchy menu will still show this level because you can differentiate these members against each other in your analysis. If you have selected members from different levels in your *View*, this depends on the lowest level.

View: 03/2009; South		
Dimension	Hierarchy	Selected Members
Periods	Periods	03/2009
Customers	South	
Products	All Products	

Cockpit		
Analysis: Concentration Analysis		
Calculate		
	Customer	
1.	Customers	
2.	Area	
3.	County	
4.	Customer	
5.	Products	

Saving space in hierarchy menus

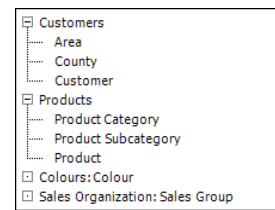
DeltaMaster offers five different alternatives for the *Display of hierarchy menus* (Extras menu under *Options* on the *General* tab). With these options, you can usually visualize the menus in much more compact way, which makes the menus easier to read and improves the user experience because you no longer need to open a monstrous menu or scroll through long selection lists. The five display options are listed in the least to the most compact order.



- a) In the default setting, *DeltaMaster* shows the *Nestled hierarchy and level name*. This means that it displays the name of the hierarchy followed by the available lists indented in a branch-like structure. As usual, you can expand or collapse the lists to show or hide the levels by clicking the plus or minus signs. In a new analysis, however, *DeltaMaster* always shows the lists in a completely expanded state.

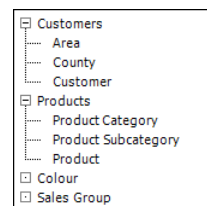


- b) *Hierarchy and level name in a single line, if only 1 level available*: If you are working with hierarchies that only have a single level available for the analysis, *DeltaMaster* will list the name of the hierarchy followed by the name of the level in a row ('Hierarchy: Level') – instead of two separate rows. This will make your menu shorter but wider. In the screenshot on your right, 'Colours' and 'Sales organization' now only need two rows instead of four as in the one above. *DeltaMaster* will display hierarchies with multiple levels the same way as in option a) – in other words, with a plus or minus sign to expand or collapse the levels.



This option has no effect on analysis methods such as *Ranking* or *PowerSearch* in which you can work with either the individual levels or *All levels* of the data model. Through the additional menu entry 'All levels', each hierarchy has at least two levels. As a result, you will never see the one-row notation in these analysis methods.

- c) *Level in a single line, if only 1 level available*: As in option b), if hierarchies only have one available level, *DeltaMaster* will only display the name of it on a level without the name of the hierarchy. This makes the display even more compact in width.



This presentation option is designed for a scenario that occurs frequently in day-to-day business. Many analysis models have dimensions that store a group of criteria without further hierarchal structures below an 'All' member. These include contract types, order status, shipping codes, priorities, ABC/XYZ classes, container types, package sizes, simple product options (e.g. 'Colours' in our 'Chair' reference application), record types, etc. This one level below the 'top' level often has a very similar name or even the same one as the hierarchy itself. If the name of the level clearly states to which hierarchy it belongs, you can spare yourself the redundancy in the menu. In our example, 'Colours: Colours' ('Hierarchy: Level') is simply 'Colours' ('Level') and 'Sales organization: Sales group' is just 'Sales group'.

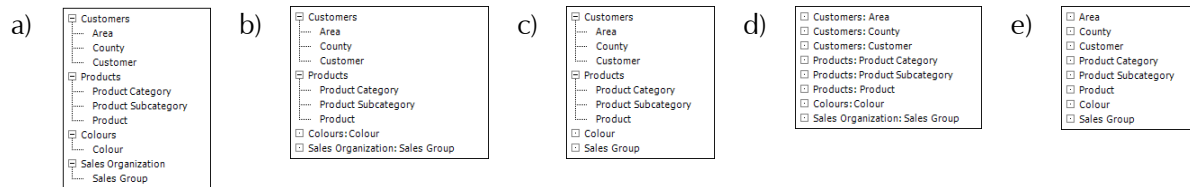
d) *Hierarchy and level name always in a single line:* In the options b) and c) described above, the hierarchy is visualized through an indentation and you can only save space when a single level is available for analysis. Options d) and e), however, don't use an indentation. Since they don't show plus or minus signs, their length is constant. These options, however, take effect when more than one level is available for analysis. As in option b), this option saves space because *DeltaMaster* lists the names of the hierarchy and the level in a single row ('Hierarchy: Level') instead of two.



e) *Level name always in a single line:* This is the most compact menu form. As in option c), it only displays the level names without the hierarchy names.

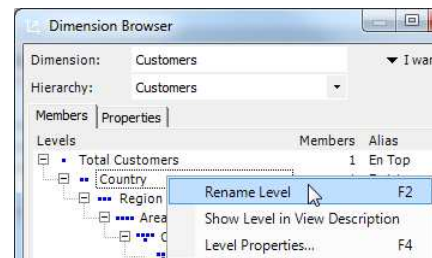


You can see how much space the different options need when you observe the examples above side by side – which makes sense time and time again when you want to compare things.



As you can see, you can use these simple switches in the *Options* to display your menus in a much clearer, more comfortable manner. The extremely compact option e), however, only makes sense when all levels have clear, self-explanatory names.

If necessary, you can also rename hierarchies and levels directly in *DeltaMaster*. This is especially important when dealing with parent-child hierarchies which are only numbered in the OLAP database and have names such as 'Level 01' or 'Level 02'. These level names are unclear if the hierarchy is not listed alongside that level. In the *Dimension browser* (*I want to...* menu or context menu of levels), you can give these hierarchies and levels logical names. Careful naming and modeling make your application easier to understand and make the user interface much cleaner as well.



Questions? Comments?

Just contact your Bissantz team for more information.