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Report Designer

Can't customize a report to suit your needs? Are you a technology enthusiast? If you answered "yes" to both of these questions, Report Designer may be right for you.

Report Designer lets you create customized reports from scratch. Report Designer provides powerful query and design functionality to help you create in-depth, professional reports. It also provides a way to organize your reports and leads you through the initial report-building steps.

If you are new to Report Designer, check out the overview and the learning tutorial. You can also select or search for a topic below.

Technical Expertise Required

Report Designer has awesome powers of customization, but the trade-off is a learning curve. Working with Report Designer requires a fair amount of technical knowledge.

If you find that Report Designer isn't the right tool for you, we also offer professional report customization for a fee. If you are interested, please contact Support.

Overview of Report Designer

With ACS Report Designer, you can

- Save the Reports You Design — Reports you create are associated with specific modules in Report Designer. Once you save a report, you can retrieve it, edit it, and save it with a new title.
- Use ACS Advanced Exports to Specify the Data Source — The Data Source options lets you create a new export to use with the report you are designing. Or, you can use an existing ACS Advanced Export as the data source. When you work with the report, you can edit the export and refresh the export's data.
- Sort Data — You can sort the data returned in the report based on the fields you select in Report Options.
- Import and Export — Report Designer includes import and export functionality so that you can share reports between organizations and send and receive reports from ACS Support.
- Use the Query Wizard and Quick Design Tools — Report Designer has a Query Wizard and Report Wizard to help you with data retrieval and report design. The Query Wizard walks you through selecting tables, fields, calculations, groupings, rows, and sort order. The query selections determine what data displays in your report.
- Complete Learning Tutorials to Learn Report Designer — Before you begin creating reports, set aside a day to complete the tutorial guide provided with the software. Completing the guide familiarizes you with many of the tools and concepts found in the Report Designer and is an excellent reference when building your own reports.

Report Designer Learning Resources

The Design Workspace of ACS Report Designer is provided by Digital Metaphor's software, Report Builder. For detailed instruction on using Report Builder, see the Digital Metaphors help below. Please note that ACS uses Report Builder Enterprise version 10.09. These help links may be for different versions of Report Builder.

If you think you would benefit from personalized training with Report Designer, check out our1-2-1 Online Training

services, which are available at additional cost.

Report Designer Tutorial Guide

Use the Report Designer tutorial guide to familiarize yourself with basic report building tasks and advanced report-building techniques. The guide is a series of tutorials that use a sample database to teach you how to create reports from start to finish. The tutorials begin with the basics, such as adjusting bands, and ends with advanced reporting techniques, like crosstab creation.

Set Aside a Day

Before you begin designing reports, set aside a day to complete the tutorials. Keep in mind that they build on one another, moving from basic concepts to complex reports. Therefore, it may be difficult to complete an advanced tutorial without having first completed earlier lessons. Each tutorial produces some kind of report using important aspects of Report Designer.

To use the Report Designer tutorial guide, download and install the setup file first.

To install the tutorial guide setup file

1. Click here to download the setup file.
2. Once it is downloaded, open the file.
3. Follow the instructions in the setup window.

When you finish installing the tutorial guide, you can being using it.

To use the tutorial guide

1. In the **ACS Report Designer Tutorial** folder, open the **Learn Report Designer Guide**.
2. Start reading. When it prompts you to try a task, open the **Learn Report Designer** file. This is a standalone version of Report Designer that includes sample data. Use it to complete the tutorial lessons.
3. If you need further instruction, open the **Learn Report Designer Help** file.

Additional Information

This tutorial guide is for an earlier version of Report Designer. Please keep in mind that the steps for accomplishing tasks, as described in the guide, may differ from the current version of ACS Report Designer. For help with design in the current version, see Designing Reports.

Report Designer Calculations Help

Report Application Pascal (RAP) is the programming language used for formula calculations in the Report Designer. The RAP user guide provides useful information on the functionality found on the designer's Calc workspace and on the **Calculations** menu option associated with the Variable report component.

> **Technical Expertise Required**
>
> This section contains programmer-level help. Although some of the information is not relevant for typical Report Designer users, the reference material is helpful when using the calculation features of Report Designer.

To access the RAP user guide

1. Click here to download the RAP user guide.
2. Once the file is downloaded, open it.

Report Designer Programmer Level Help

The link below opens a help file containing information about Report Builder, the program that ACS Report Designer is built on. This help file provides information relevant to those familiar with Delphi programming.

> **Technical Expertise Required**
>
> This help focuses on computer programming. We recommend it only for users who have experience with the Delphi programming language.

To access the Report Builder user guide

1. Click here to download the Report Builder user guide.
2. Once the file is downloaded, open it.

Report Designer Workspaces

Report Designer contains four distinct workspaces with different tools for creating professional reports:

- The Design Workspace
- The Preview Workspace
- The Data Workspace
- The Calc Workspace

The Design Workspace

When you select **Design Reports**, Report Designer defaults to the Design workspace. This is where you spend the majority of your report-building time. The Design workspace is divided into two areas: the workbench and the canvas. The ***workbench*** is comprised of toolbars, component palettes, rulers, and other tools that you can use to manipulate the canvas. The ***canvas*** is the area that contains the report layout. This is where you place bands and components that ultimately control the content of each page of the report.

The canvas is made up of the header, detail, and footer bands. The header band displays at the top of each page of the report, the detail band makes up the body of the report, and the footer band displays at the bottom of each page of the report.

The Preview Workspace

The **Preview** tab plays an integral role in creating reports. It displays the report on the screen in its printed format. As your report develops, you can access the Preview workspace to see how it is shaping up. You can make changes and corrections based on the report's appearance. Using the tools in this workspace, you can view each page of the report or zoom in to get a better look at a specific page. You can also print the report in the Preview workspace.

The Data Workspace

Use the Data workspace to select and manipulate data for a given report. In most cases, you will not need to use the Data workspace because the Report Designer interfaces with ACS Advanced Export to select data for your report. You can use an existing Advanced Export or create a new one, depending on your reporting needs. This method of data selection simplifies the query process and makes it easier to select data without an in-depth knowledge of databases. Using ACS Advanced Export to select data eliminates the need to use the query functionality of the Data workspace when you are designing a report.

The Calc Workspace

Report Application Pascal (RAP) is the programming language used for formula calculations in the Report Designer. The RAP user guide provides
useful information on the functionality found on the designer's Calc workspace and on the Calculations menu option associated with the Variable report component.

Creating Reports with Report Designer

You can open Report Designer in the ACS Reports window or in the ACS program menu.

To open Report Designer in the ACS Reports window

1. Under **Searches and Reports**, click the **Reports** tab.
2. In the drop-down list, select **Report Designer**.
3. Click **Go** .

To open Report Designer in the ACS program menu, click **Start** > **All Programs** > **ACS Technologies** > **Report Designer**.

After you have opened Report Designer, you can create a new report or modify a standard report.

Creating and Modifying Reports

Report Designer provides several pre-designed standard reports based on frequently used ACS reports. To quickly report your latest data, you can use these reports as they are. You can also modify a standard report and save it under a different name.

For a complete list of standard reports, see Available Report Designer Types. If the standard reports don't meet your needs, you can create a new report from scratch.

Whether you create a new report or modify an existing one, the process includes three overall steps:

1. Selecting a data source
2. Setting the data sort order
3. Designing the report

After you have customized a report, you can save it. If you've created and saved several new reports, you may want to organize them. You can also import a designed report or modify a report template that you saved previously.

Available Report Designer Types

Report Designer includes the following report types, depending on what ACS modules you have.

You can create a new report for any of these report types, or you can modify standard reports to fit your specific needs.

Module	Report Name	Report Description
People	Create a New Report	Allows you to create a custom report.
People	Individual Request for Information — Blank	Create a blank Request for Information form to have members and/or prospects complete to help with data entry.
People	Individual Request for Information with Data	Create a Request for Information form for selected individuals, with the data for each person filled in.
People	Master Listing of People	Creates a list of selected individuals. The list includes name, home, and work phones, gender, marital and member status, date joined, and date of birth.
People	Master Listing of Phones and E-mails	Creates a list of selected individuals with their phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Also included are phone number descriptions, extensions, and if the number is listed or unlisted.
People	Names and Special Fields	Creates a list of selected individuals and selected Special Fields.
People	One-Line Phone List	Creates a list of individuals, along with primary address and phone number. The Head and Spouse names are printed on the same line.
People	People Profiles	Creates a profile report for each family. Along with printing the family address and phone number, demographic data is printed for each family member.
Organizations	Create a New Report	Allows you to create a custom report.
Organizations	Contributing Churches	Creates a report of selected organizations with their year-to-date totals for the last seven years.
Organizations	Organizations Staff Directory	Creates an extract of organizations and staff members, including organization and meeting addresses, phone and fax numbers, and e-mail addresses.

Module	Report Name	Report Description
Organizations	Remitters Summary Report	Creates a report that includes the church names, PIN, address, and the funds(s) they have pledged for a selected year/date range and the YTD total pledge and pledge balances remaining on the fund(s). The report only tracks organization records, not staff.
Contributions	Create a New Report	Allows you to create a custom report.
Contributions	Contributions Merge Letter	Creates a separate letter for each selected contributor with a summary of their contributions to each fund for the year.
Contributions	Gift List Detail	Creates a detailed list of transactions for each selected contributor. Details include posted date, fund, gift amount, check number, value of service, and gift description. Prepayments made in previous years are not included.
Contributions	Pledge Details Listing	Creates a detailed list of pledges for selected contributors for a selected year. This includes pledge amount, frequency, term, start date, prepayments, total pledge amount, and pledge-to-date amount.
Attendance	Create a New Report.	Allows you to create a custom report.
Connections	Contacts by Contact Date	Creates a list of contacts per individual. This includes the type of contact made and notes linked to the contact.
Connections	Create a New Report.	Allows you to create a custom report.
Reservations	Create a New Report.	Allows you to create a custom report.
Checkpoint	Create a New Report.	Allows you to create a custom report.
Special Mailings	Create a New Report.	Allows you to create a custom report.
General Ledger	Create a New Report.	Allows you to create a custom report.

Modifying a Standard Report

You can modify a standard report in Report Designer to better fit your organization's needs and save it under a different report name. Study the standard report thoroughly and determine what changes you need to make before accessing the report to make changes. This will save you time during the editing process and reduce the chance of error.

To modify a standard report

1. Under **Searches and Reports**, click the **Reports** tab.
2. In the drop-down list, select **Report Designer** and click **Go** .
3. In the upper sidebar, select Contributions, Connections, People, or Organizations.
4. In the **Reports** list, select the standard report.
5. In the lower sidebar, click **Customize**.
6. Modify the data source, sort order, and report design.

After you have modified the report, you can save it.

Creating a Data Source

The first step in creating a new report is selecting the data that it pulls. You can choose from several methods for retrieving report data:

- Create a Data Export — Interfaces with ACS **Advanced Export** in **Searches**. You can use the Data Export Designer to create a new data export for your report.
- Import an ACS Advanced Export — Imports an existing ACS **Advanced Export**.
- Create an Org Staff/Activities Extract — Pulls staff, activities, and other organization data from the Organizations module.
- Create a People Direct Datasource — Pulls People data from a specific dataset.
- Create a Financial Direct Datasource — Pulls Financial data from a specific dataset.

After you have selected the data source, you should set the data sort order.

Creating a Data Export

Uses the Advanced Export functionality in **Searches** to create a data export for your report.

To create a data export

1. On the **Report Options** tab, click **Get Report Data**.
2. Select **Create a Data Export**.
3. In the **Select Export Type** window, select one of the following:
    - **File Export** — This option enables you to create a single file containing selected export information. If you are unsure of which export type to choose, select this option.
    - **Database Export** — This option enables you to create multiple files that are linked by common fields.
4. Click **OK**. The ACS Data Export Designer displays.
5. **Optional:** Click **Description** to enter a description of the export.
6. On the **Groups** and **Fields** tabs, manage the options to your liking.
7. Click **Save & Close**. The export is generated automatically.
8. A message displays indicating that you can limit the number of records exported. Do one of the following:
    - To limit the number of records exported, enter the maximum number of records to export and then click **OK**.
    - To export all records, click **OK**.

Importing an ACS Advanced Export

You can import an existing Advanced Export to retrieve data for your report.

To import an ACS Advanced Export

1. On the **Report Options** tab, click **Get Report Data**.
2. Select **Import an ACS Advanced Export**.
3. Select the advanced export file.
4. Click **OK**.
5. A message displays indicating that you can limit the number of records exported. Do one of the following:
    - To limit the number of records exported, enter the maximum number of records to export and then click **OK**.
    - To export all records, click **OK**.

Creating an Org Staff/Activities Extract

You can extract Organizations data into Report Designer. You must have the Organizations module to use this option.

To create an Organizations Staff/Activities extract

1. On the **Report Options** tab, click **Get Report Data**.
2. Select **Create an Org Staff/Activities Extract**.
3. Under **Date Selection**, select the **Effective Date**.
4. To include only active staff in the extract, select **Include Active Staff Only**. (Otherwise, both active and inactive staff are included.)
5. Under **Staff Phone/E-mail Settings**, select the data you want to export for:
    - Business Type
    - Mobile Type
    - Pager Type
    - Fax Type
    - E-mail Type
6. Under **Include Activity Groups**, select **Include All** to include all Activity Groups. Or, select only the Activity Groups you want to include.
7. Click **Save**.

Creating a People Direct Datasource

If you have more than one ACS Financial Suite dataset, you can select a specific dataset as your report data source. If have only one dataset, it is selected as the People Direct Datasource by default.

To create a People Direct Datasource

1. On the **Report Options** tab, click **Get Report Data**.
2. Select **Create a People Direct Datasource**.
3. To include archived datasets in your list of options, select **Include Archived Datasets**.

4. Select the dataset.
5. Click **OK**.

Creating a Financial Direct Datasource

If you have more than one ACS People Suite dataset, you can select a specific dataset as your report data source. If have only one dataset, it is selected as the Financial Direct Datasource by default.

To create a Financial Direct Datasource

1. On the **Report Options** tab, click **Get Report Data**.
2. Select **Create a Financial Direct Datasource**.
3. To include archived datasets in your list of options, select **Include Archived Datasets**.
4. Select the dataset.
5. Click **OK**.

Editing Data Export Options

Once a report is associated with a data source, you can edit the data export. For example, you may want to modify the data export of a standard or saved report.

> **Create Data Source First**
>
> The editing data options are only available when the report is already associated with a data source. The specific edit options available depend on the chosen data source. If the edit options are not available, you must create a data source first.

To edit data export options

1. On the **Report Options** tab, click **Get Report Data**.
2. Select the edit option associated with the chosen data source.
3. When the Data Export Designer displays, make the changes to the export and click **Save & Close**.
4. A message displays indicating that you can limit the number of records exported. Do one of the following:
    - To limit the number of records exported, enter the maximum number of records to export and click **OK** to refresh the data.
    - To export all records, click **OK**.

Refreshing a Data Source

Once a report is associated with a data source, you can refresh the data for the report. This ensures that your reports contain the most recent data retrieved in the export.

Using the refresh option, you can also limit the number of records exported so you can work with a smaller subset of the data while designing your report. This decreases the time it takes to process data before you design the report. After you have finished the report design, you can then export all records.

You can refresh data at any time. When you create a data export, import a data export, or edit data export options, the program prompts you to refresh data. You may also be prompted to refresh data when you set the data sort order or click **Design Report**.

> **Useful Information**
>
> The refresh option is available when the report is associated with a data source. If the option is not available, you must create a data source first.

To refresh data for the data source

1. On the **Report Options** tab, click **Refresh Data**.
2. A message displays indicating that you can limit the number of records exported. Do one of the following:
    - To limit the number of records exported, enter the maximum number of records to export and click **OK** to refresh the data.
    - To export all records, click **OK**.

Setting the Data Sort Order

Once you have created the data source for your report, you can set the sort order of the data. Setting the sort order is especially important for reports that include vast amounts of data. It makes locating information within the report much easier.

When you set the data sort order, you select what fields to sort the report by. The first field in the list is the primary sort criteria: the data is sorted by this field first. You can choose additional fields to sort by, up to a max of 15.

For example, you generate a report of all the people in your dataset. Your first sort field is **Member Status**. This is helpful because it sorts everyone into the status of member, visitor, contributor only, and so on. However, whether you have 80 or 8,000 members, you need further organization within these categories. So, you select **Last Name** as the second sort field. This way, the report is sorted first by member status, but the names within each status are also sorted by last name.

To set the data sort order

1. On the **Report Options** tab, click **Set Data Sort Order**.
2. In the **Available Fields** list, double-click the first field. It then displays in the **Sort Report by** list.
3. If you prefer, select another field to sort by. You can select a max of 15 fields.
4. To re-arrange the order of fields, click **Move Up** and **Move Down**.
5. To remove a field from the Sort by list, select it and click **Remove**.
6. You can specify whether the data is sorted in **Ascending** (A...Z, 1...10) or **Descending** (Z...A, 10...1) order.
7. When you are finished, click **OK**.

Once you have set the data sort order, you can design the report.

Designing Reports

Once you have selected data for your report and set the sort order, you can design your report. You do this by creating a layout of objects that describe how the document will look.

To start designing a report

1. On the **Report Options** tab, click **Design Report**.
2. A message displays indicating the last time the data was exported and gives an option to limit the number of records exported. Do one of the following:
    - To limit the number of records exported, enter the maximum number of records to export and click **Yes** to refresh the data.
    - To export all records and refresh the data, click **Yes**.
    - If you do not want to refresh the data, click **No**.

The Design Workspace opens.

Customizing the Page Setup in Report Designer

In Report Designer, you can customize the page setup to change your paper size and margins, print in portrait or landscape orientation, and choose the number of columns for your reports. These options are for both viewing and printing reports.

To customize the paper settings

1. On the Report Designer menu, select the report.
2. Click **Customize** and select your Data Source and Report Options.
3. Click **Design Report** > **OK**.
4. Click **File** > **Page Setup**.
5. Select the **Paper** tab.
6. Select the **Printer Name**.
7. Select the **Paper Size**, and enter or select the **Width** and **Height**.
8. Select the **Paper Source**.
9. Click **OK**.

To customize the margins

1. On the Report Designer menu, select the report.
2. Click **Customize** and select your Data Source and Report Options.
3. Click **Design Report** > **OK**.
4. Click **File** > **Page Setup**.
5. Select the **Margins** tab.
6. Under Margins, enter the values you want for each margin, or click the arrows to select these values.
7. Under Orientation, select **Portrait** or **Landscape**.
8. Click **OK**.

To customize the columns

1. On the Report Designer menu, select the report.
2. Click **Customize** and select your Data Source and Report Options.
3. Click **Design Report** > **OK**.
4. Click **File** > **Page Setup**.
5. Select the **Columns** tab.
6. Enter the number of columns that you want, or click the arrows to increase or decrease the number of columns.
7. On the **Columns** tab, select additional options.
8. Click **OK**.

Combining Two Fields on a Report

For some reports, you may want to combine two ACS fields into one. For example, you may want to print names in First Name + Last Name format (for example, Jane Aaron). You can do this in Report Designer by using a **Variable** component . To do this, first create a sample report with your ACS data. Then, you can combine the first and last name fields.

To create a new report

1. Under **Searches and Reports**, click the **Reports** tab.
2. In the drop-down list, select **Report Designer** and click **Go** .
3. In the **Report Type** list, select the **People** report type, then select **Create a New Report**.
4. In the lower sidebar, click **Customize**.
5. Click **Get Report Data** > **Create a Data Export**.
6. In the Select Export Type window, select **Database Export** and then click **OK**. The ACS Data Export Designer window displays.
7. On the **Groups** tab, select **People**.
8. Click the **Included Data** tab and then select **Personal**.
9. Click **Save & Close**.
10. In the **Refresh Export** window, enter the number of records you want to limit the export to and then click **OK**.
11. On the **Report Options** tab, click **Design Report**.
12. In the **New Items** window, click **Cancel**.

To combine the First Name and Last Name fields

1. In the design workspace, click **Variable** .
2. Click in the **Detail** band to place a **Variable** component in the report.
3. Right-click the **Variable** component and then select **Calculations...** .
4. In the **Code Toolbox: Data** section of the Calculations window, select **People**.
5. On the **Data** tab, click the **FirstName** field and drag it into the left-hand area of the Calculations window. The following text displays:
   Value := People['FirstName']
6. Type a plus sign, an apostrophe, a blank space, an apostrophe, and a plus sign. The calculation should now look like this:
   Value := People['FirstName']+' '+
7. On the **Data** tab, click the **LastName** field and drag it into the left-hand area of the Calculations window. The calculation should now look like this:
   Value := People['FirstName']+' '+ People['LastName']
8. Type a semicolon. The final calculation should look like this:
   Value := People['FirstName']+' '+ People['LastName'];
9. Right-click in the left-hand area of the Calculations window.

10. Select **Compile**. At the bottom of the window, a message displays indicating any errors in calculation.
11. To return to the design workspace, click **OK**.
12. To check your calculation, click the **Preview** tab. The names on the report should look like this:

Ralph Blackwood

Margaret Blackwood

Carl Abel

Bronson Wilson

Anna Wilson

Creating a Cover Page for a Report

When you create a report for formal presentation, you may want to add a cover page to introduce your report.

To create a cover page for a report

1. In the design workspace, on the **Report** menu, select **Title**.
2. Increase the height of the title band by dragging the divider down until the guide reaches the 9.5 inch mark on the vertical ruler.
3. Place the components you need to design your cover page in the **Title** band.
4. Design the cover page.

Creating a Tabular Report

When you create a tabular report in Report Designer, labels display across the page and data displays down the page.

To create a tabular report

1. In the design workspace, on the **Report** menu, select **Data Tree**.
2. On the **Data Tree**, click the **Layout** tab.
3. In the **Style** list, select **Tabular**.

Creating a Vertical Report

When you create a vertical report in Report Designer, labels display down the page and data displays across the page.

To create a vertical report

1. In the design workspace, on the **Report** menu, select **Data Tree**.
2. On the **Data Tree**, click the **Layout** tab.
3. In the **Style** list, select **Vertical**.

Creating Labels in Report Designer

You can use the Label Templates wizard in Report Designer to create labels and other items such as name tags.

To create labels in the Report Designer

1. In the design workspace, on the **File** menu, select **New**.
2. In the **New Items** window, select **Label Templates**.
3. Click **OK**.
4. In the **Label Templates** window, select the appropriate printer and label information.
5. Click **OK**.
6. Add the desired information to the label in the design workspace.

Entering Additional Field Descriptions in Report Designer

Your additional lists, fields, and dates are used to print the Individual Request for Information – Blank and Individual Request for Information with Data reports. Because the lists, fields, and dates are unique for each organization, the labels on the reports are not auto-populated. You must edit the labels on these reports for the appropriate information to display.

Once you have a list of your additional data, you can enter the descriptions in the report labels.

To obtain a list of your additional lists, field, and dates

1. Under **Manage Records**, click the **People** tab.
2. In the drop-down list, select **View/Edit Individual** and click **Go** .
3. Select a record and then click **View/Edit**.
4. Click the **Additional Fields** tab.
5. Click the **Family** tab.
6. Print this screen or write down the field names.

> **Note**
>
> Make sure you copy the field names in the exact order that they appear, including any fields labeled **Not Defined**. The fields appear in the same order on the Individual Request for Information reports, so you need to keep them in the appropriate order to know which field is which.

7. Click **Close**.

To enter descriptions for your additional fields

1. Open Report Designer,
2. Select the specific Individual Request for Information report.
3. In the lower sidebar, click **Customize**.
4. On the **Report Options** tab, click **Design Report**.
5. The additional fields, lists, and dates are labeled **Open Category**, **Open Field**, or **Open Date**. Click the first label to select it.
6. Enter the label for the additional field in the **Set Value** box located on the toolbar.

> **Useful Information**
>
> If any of your additional fields, lists, or dates are **Not Defined**, you can make the label and blank next to it visible by right-clicking the component and clearing the **Visible** option.

7. Repeat step 4 for each additional field, list, and date on the report.

Inserting an Image in Report Designer

When designing a report, you can insert images. You can insert images from your computer, such as your church's logo, and you can also insert family and individual photos from the ACS database.

To insert an image

1. In the design workspace, on the **Standard Components** toolbar, click **Image** .
2. Place the **Image** component in the appropriate position in the **Detail** band.
3. Right-click the **Image** component and select **Picture...** .
4. Select the image file you want to include from the appropriate directory.
5. Click **Open**.

To insert a family or individual photo

1. On the **Design** tab, click **RDDBImage** .
2. Place the field in the location that you want in the **Detail** band.
3. From the **Data Field** drop-down list, select the picture type that you want to include.
4. Right-click the picture field, then select **MaintainAspectRatio**.
5. Right-click the picture field then select **Stretch**.

Report Bands

When you create a Report Designer report, you do a significant amount of work in the canvas. The canvas is divided into sections called bands. A band is labeled in the section divider immediately below it; thus, the first band is called the Header, the second is called the Detail, and the third is called the Footer. When the report generates, the bands are printed on different parts of the page.

The bands available for use when creating a report are:

- **Header** — Components placed in the header band print at the top of each page of the report.
- **Detail** — Components placed in the detail band make up the body of the report.
- **Footer** — Components placed in the footer band print at the bottom of each page of the report.
- **Title** — Components placed in the title band print at the beginning of the report, displayed as a title.
- **Summary** — Components placed in the summary band print at the end of the report, such as a total record count or total amount.
- **Page Style** — A page style can be designed just like a report band, but it generates as a background to the bands of the report. Page Styles are used to produce forms.
- **Group Header** — Components placed in a group header band print at the beginning of a group of information.
- **Group Footer** — Components placed in the group footer band print at the end of a group of information.

Adjusting Report Bands

The bands of your report can be adjusted to accommodate the size of larger components, or additional components, as necessary. For example, if you want to increase the height of the header band to accommodate a large logo or table title, you can do so using the ruler on the left-hand side of the Design workspace.

To adjust a report band

1. Place your cursor on the divider label for the band to adjust. For example, if you want to adjust the **Header** band, place the cursor over the Header divider label. The cursor changes to an up/down arrow, indicating that you can drag the divider up and down.
2. Hold down the left mouse button and drag the divider up and down to adjust the size.

> **Useful Information**
>
> Notice the two lines that display on the vertical ruler to the left of the divider. These lines are called "guides" because they represent the new position of the divider.

Report Components

A report component is an element used to control how a report looks. Each component has a unique purpose. There are four types of components used in Report Designer:

- Standard Components
- Data Components
- Advanced Components
- Check Box Components

Standard Components

The **Standard Components** in Report Designer are the components that are most frequently used to build reports. The standard report components include items such as labels, memo, and images. These components do not retrieve data from your database to display. Rather, you assign the content that a standard component displays when you are creating the report.

Data Components

The data components in Report Designer are similar to the standard components. The difference is that data components are data-aware, meaning that they have the ability to read the value of a field from a database table and then display that value in the report. You associate a data-aware component with a database table and field by selecting the data pipeline and the data field from drop-down lists in the edit toolbar.

Advanced Components

The advanced components help you with complex reporting requirements. You can create regions, subreports, and crosstabs using advanced components. See Advanced Component Selection.

Check Box Components

CheckBox components in Report Designer are components that can be used to place marked or unmarked check boxes in a customized report. CheckBox components help you to avoid having to manually draw your check boxes, and can be used in a variety of ways. You can use CheckBox components to display a constant marked or unmarked value in your report. You can also configure CheckBox components to retrieve data and display as marked or unmarked in your report based upon the selected Boolean value. The two types of CheckBox components available in Report Designer are CheckBox and DBCheckBox.

CheckBox

You can use the CheckBox component to display either a constant checked value or an empty check box on your report. For example, if you wanted to create a basic group list for an activity or event to determine which individuals would be willing to participate, you could place an unchecked CheckBox beside each of the individual records on your report and then mark each of the participating individuals as they sign up. Once you have placed a CheckBox component on your report, you can use the Edit toolbar to select the type of checkbox that you want and right-click the CheckBox component to access the Checked speed menu option.

DBCheckBox

You can use the DBCheckBox component to read the value of a field from a database and display a checked or unchecked box based upon the values you select on the Checkbox Settings window. Once you have placed a DBCheckBox component on your report, you can use the Edit toolbar to set the data pipeline and select a data field for the check box.

Advanced Component Selection

When you are using a shape component as a background for a band, you need to use specific techniques to select multiple components while using a bounding box in front of that background shape. The bounding box method described in the Basic Component Selection topic does not apply when you use a component as a background.

To select multiple components using a bounding box

1. Hold down the **Ctrl** key.
2. Click on the white space to the left of the first component.
3. Hold down the left mouse button.
4. Drag the mouse until the box encloses all the components.

When you release the mouse, all of the components are selected. Notice that the background component is also selected.

To clear the background component

1. Hold down the **Shift** key.
2. Click the component.

To clear the components

- Click in the white space of another band. Or, click a deselected component.

Aligning Components

When you are designing a report, there are components that must be aligned with each other. For example, if you are using three labels in your Header, you may want to align them by the top or bottom of the component boxes. You may also want to left-align each label component with its corresponding DBText component.

To align components

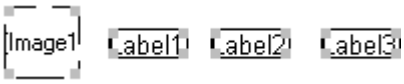
1. Select one of the components to align and adjust its position appropriately.
2. Press and hold the **Shift** key.
3. Select the other components.
4. Release the **Shift** key. Notice that all of the components stay selected.
5. Click the appropriate alignment icon for the type of alignment you want to perform. For example, if you are aligning your label components at the top of each label component box, click **Align Top** .

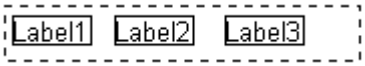
All selected components are aligned with the first component.

Basic Component Selection

Once the components of your report are created, you need to carefully position them to create a high-quality report. To position components, you need to understand component selection in Report Designer. Here are some tips for selecting components in Report Designer.

- Select a component by clicking it. The selected component should look like this:

- To select additional components, hold down the Shift key and then click the other components. All of the additional components, and the original component, should now be selected. You can tell that they are selected by the small gray boxes surrounding each component. These boxes are called selection handles.
  

- You can select multiple components using a bounding box. To select components using a bounding box, click in the white space to the left of the first component, hold down the left mouse button, and drag the mouse until the box encloses all the components. When you release the mouse, all the components are selected. If you place your cursor over one of the components and drag it in any direction, all the selected components move in unison. This is called a component selection.
  

- Click in the white space of any design band to deselect components.

Bolding Text in Components

Useful Information

When saving a Report Designer report as PDF using Print to File, select the **Embed All Used Fonts** option on the Compression & Font Encoding tab. Selecting this option ensures that the fonts remain in bold type.

To bold text in components

1. Select the component(s) you want to display in bold type. Small gray boxes, called selection handles, display around each component to indicate that it is selected.
2. Click **Bold** B . All selected components display in bold type.

Tip

To bold multiple components at once, press and hold the **Shift** key while selecting the components.

Configuring a DBCheckBox Component

You can configure a **DBCheckBox** component to retrieve data and display as marked or unmarked in your report based upon the selected Boolean value.

To configure a DBCheckBox Component

1. On the **Data Component** workspace toolbar, click **DBCheckBox** .
2. Click the white space of the **Detail** band to place a **DBCheckBox** component in the detail band.
3. Notice that there are two drop-down lists in the upper left-hand corner of the Design workspace. The drop-down list on the left, the **Data Field** list, contains the fields selected from the datasets. The drop-down list on the right, the **Data Pipeline Name** list, contains the datasets from which you selected data in the Advanced Export.
4. In the Data Field list, select the data field for the **DBCheckBox** component. The first field value displays in the **DBCheckBox** component.
5. In the Data Pipeline Name list, select the dataset of the field you want to select for the **DBCheckBox** component.
6. Right-click the **DBCheckBox** component to access the Speed Menu.
7. Click **Settings**. The Check Box Settings window displays.
8. Select a **Style** for the check box.
9. Enter the **Boolean True** and **Boolean False** values that you want.
10. Click **OK**.

Creating a DBText Component

A **DBText** component displays data from a database field you selected in the **Advanced Export** used for the report. DBText components cannot handle rich text or images.

To create a DBText component

1. On the **Design** workspace toolbar, click **DBText** .
2. Click the white space of the **Detail** band to place a **DBText** component in the detail band.
   Notice that there are two drop-down lists in the upper left-hand corner of the Design workspace. The drop-down list on the left, the **Data Field** list, contains the fields selected from the datasets. The drop-down list on the right, the **Data Pipeline Name** list, contains the datasets from which you selected data in the Advanced Export.
3. In the **Data Field** list, select the field for the **DBText** component. The first field value displays in the **DBText** component.
4. In the **Data Pipeline Name** list, select the dataset of the field you want to select for the **DBText** component.

> **Tip**
>
> To see the names of these lists, place the cursor over the field. A tool tip displays the name of the list.

Front-to-Back Order

In Report Designer, you can use a shape component to create a background for other components. To do this, you need to establish the correct front-to-back order for components. Front-to-back order refers to the order components are presented in when they overlap. When you are creating a background for a report band, you need to position it behind the other components in the band, or "send it to the back." To access the available options for ordering a component, simply right-click the component.

Placing and Naming Label Components

A label is a component in the Standard Component Palette that functions as a header for another kind of component, such as a DBText component. Labels are placed in the header band of the Design workspace so they print on each page of the report. Proper label naming is important in making your report columns easy to follow.

To place and name a label in the Design workspace

1. On the **Standard Components** toolbar, click **Label** .
2. Click the white space of the header band to create a label.
3. Locate the **Edit** toolbar (below the label component icon on the toolbar). It should contain the text 'Label1', which is the caption of the currently selected label.
4. Select the text in the edit toolbar and enter the label name.
5. Repeat steps 1 through 4 to create additional labels for your report.

Positioning Components

Once you have added a component in the design workspace, you can adjust the position of the component box to better format your report.

To adjust the position of a component

1. Right-click the component and select **Position...**
2. Set the appropriate **Left** position, **Top** position, **Width**, and **Height** of the component.
3. Click **Apply**.
4. Click **OK**.

> **Tip**
>
> Use the vertical and horizontal rulers to position components. If the rulers are not visible, in the **View** menu, select **Rulers**. When a component is selected, you can view the measurements of the component in the lower right-hand side of the status bar.

Sizing Components

To achieve the best format for reports, you need to resize components. You can make components larger or smaller, depending on the area you want to use in the report band and what is displayed in the component.

To size a component

1. Make sure all components are deselected: click in the white space of any report band.
2. Select the component.
3. When the component is selected, small black boxes (called sizing handles) display around the box outline. Place the cursor over the appropriate sizing handle. The cursor becomes a double-arrow. Hold down the left mouse button and drag the cursor to a new size.

Tip

Use the guides on the vertical and horizontal rulers to determine the position and size of the component. You can also adjust the size of a component by selecting it, holding down the Shift key, and pressing the arrow keys. (Use this method to size multiple component selections.

Sizing a Component Stretched to ParentHeight and ParentWidth

When you have a shape stretched using ParentWidth and ParentHeight, you cannot change the size using the sizing handles.

To size a component stretched to ParentHeight and ParentWidth

1. Select the component.
2. Right-click the component and select **ParentHeight**. The **ParentHeight** menu option is cleared.
3. Right-click the component and select **ParentWidth**. The **ParentWidth** menu option is cleared.
4. Use the sizing handles to modify the size of the shape.

Stretchable Components

The **DBMemo** is a special class of component called a "stretchable." As the report prints, stretchable components increase or decrease in height based on their content. This differs from static components, which always print with the same height. When a band contains both static and stretchable components, it is difficult to get the printed pages of a report to look exactly right because stretchable components print at a height that is different from the one given in the report layout. The following properties can help you keep your reports looking good when you use stretchables.

Property	Function
Stretch	Applies to stretchables only, and indicates whether or not the stretchable will adjust its height based on content. A stretchable component with Stretch set to **False** behaves just like a static component, printing at the height defined in the report layout and cropping any content which extends beyond that height. When set to True, Stretch causes the component to adjust its height based on the content.
StretchWithParent	Applies only to shapes and lines and can be used to create a border or background for a stretchable component. The 'Parent' in **StretchWithParent** refers to the band, since the band contains the components.
ShiftWithParent	Used by static components that need to print after a stretchable has completed printing. For example, let's say you need a description of a car, followed by the price. The price should display below the description. To do this, you would place a **DBText** component below the memo, setting the **ShiftWithParent** property to True. When the report prints, the memo would print to completion and then the price would print beneath it.
OverFlow	Whenever a stretchable is printing on additional pages, it is said to be overflowing. When a condition of **OverFlow** exists, other components in the band may print again in order to clarify the content of the stretchable.
ReprintOnOverFlow	This property applies to static components only. Stretchable components often have a set of static components that put the content of the stretchable into context. For example, a memo describing the features of a car might be preceded by the name of the model. If this memo happened to overflow onto additional pages, it might be helpful to print the name of the model again so that the reader is reminded of the model to which the description pertains. To do this, you would set **ReprintOnOverFlow** to **True** for the model name.

Using a Shape as a Background

If you want to add color to your report, you can use a shape as a background for a report band.

> **Useful Information**
>
> While working through this procedure, any components you have in the report band you are working in will be hidden behind the shape component. They are not deleted; when you complete the procedure, the components will move in front of the background component.

To use a shape as a background

1. On the **Design** workspace toolbar, click **Shape** .
2. Click in the report band you want to give a background.
3. Right-click the **Shape** component you created and select **ParentHeight**. The height of the component stretches to the height of the band.
4. Right-click the component and select **ParentWidth**. The width of the component stretches to the width of the band.
5. On the **Draw** toolbar, click the **Fill Color** arrow .
6. Select the color to use as the background for the band.
7. Right-click the component and select **Send to Back**.

Report Designer Groups

A group is a section of a report that contains a group header, detail, and group footer band. It includes records that have a common value for a field that you have selected to group your data by. For example, if you select Member Status to group your data by, the reported data displays in groups under each member status.

When working with groups, you should understand these three important concepts:

- Data Traversal and Groups
- Groups and Sorting Data
- Creating Groups

Data Traversal and Groups

Data Traversal

A report is generated based on a database table. A database table is a collection of data organized into columns and rows. A report document (the pages you see in the print preview window) is created when the report generates a detail band for each row in the database table. The act of moving from one row in the table to the next is called data traversal. Data traversal can have a dramatic impact on how the report document is generated, especially in the case of groups.

Groups

Report groups are represented in the layout by a matched pair of bands: the group header and group footer. The group header prints when the group begins; the group footer prints when the group has ended. For example, let's say you want to see the orders received by a business, organized by each month of the year. You would first create a data selection sorted by month, then you'd create a group based on the 'month' field.

Groups and Sorting Data

Groups

When you create groups, you assign them to a field. As the report generates, the group tracks the value of the assigned field. If the field value changes when the report moves from one row of the database table to the next, then the current group ends (the group footer prints) and the next group begins (the group header prints). Group headers always print at the beginning of a report - in order to start the first group - and group footers always print at the end of the report - in order to finish the last group.

Sorting Data

Groups let you organize the report into sets of rows that share a common value. However, groups can only function if the field they're assigned to has been used to sort the data. If you associate a group with a field, but do not sort the data by that field, the group will function. That is, the group will generate a group footer and group header each time the field value changes, but because the data is not sorted properly, the group appears to generate at random. Whenever you see a group generating too many times, make sure the data is sorted properly.

Creating Groups

When designing a report, you can create groups that group data based on the value of a specified field. For groups to work properly, you must set the sort order for your data by the field you want to group by. Make sure that your data source includes the field you want to group by, and that you sort the data by the field you want to group by.

To create a group

1. On the Design Workspace Report menu, select **Groups**.
2. In the **Groups** list, select the field you want to use to group data. Note:Make sure you select a field that you are using to sort your data.
3. Click **Add**.
4. In the **Break On** section, select **Data Field**.
5. To start a new page each time the group value changes, in the **On Group Change** section, select **Start new page**.
6. To have the page numbering start over for each group, select **Reset page number**.
7. To reprint the header information for each group, select **Reprint group headers on subsequent pages**.
8. Click **OK**.
9. Add the appropriate components to your group header and footer.

Report Designer Regions

A region is a special type of component that can contain other components. You can associate a set of informational components with a single stretching component (such as a memo) in a band using a region. By placing components in a region that is associated with a stretching component, you can ensure that components keep their appropriate placements and that stretchable components do not hide them.

The region component moves relative to the stretching component. You place other components in a region by dragging them into it. When you resize or move a region, the components inside the region shift to accommodate the changes in the region.

When layouts contain multiple stretching components, and other related components are not printing in the correct positions, you can often fix this by using regions to logically group components, then assigning the **ShiftRelativeTo** property to associate regions with the appropriate stretching component.

When designing a report, you can use a region to associate a set of informational components with a single stretching component in a band.

To create a region

1. On the **Advanced Component** toolbar, click **Region** .
2. In the **Detail** band, click in the area where you want to insert a region.
3. Use the sizing handles to size the region appropriately.
4. Select the components you want in the region; drag and drop them into the region area.

Report Designer Speed Menus

The speed menu displays when you right-click a component. It offers different options for altering the overall look of your component via changes in shape, size, and visibility. The speed menu varies slightly for different components.

> **Useful Information**
>
> When you open a speed menu, it applies only to the component you right-clicked, regardless of any components you have selected.

The options listed below are available on the speed menu. Different options are available for different types of components.

Speed Menu Option	Description
AutoDisplay	**AutoDisplay** is a speed menu option available for **DBMemo** and **DBImage** components. If you have a file path stored as a field in your database for an image or text file you want to use, you can set **AutoDisplay** to true so that the component automatically displays new data when the information for the field changes.
AutoSize	**AutoSize** is a speed menu option available for text components. When **AutoSize** is set to true, the component adjusts its width so that all of the text displays.
AutoSizeFont	**AutoSizeFont** is a speed menu option available for **Bar Code** components. By default, the human readable text is set to a standard accepted font size based on the size of the barcode component. Deselect the **AutoSizeFont** option to manually select the font size.
BlankWhenZero	If the value of a field you have selected is equal to zero, you can print a blank instead of a "0" for the field by selecting the **BlankWhenZero** option.
Bring to Front	**Bring to Front** moves an object in front of other objects. This option controls the appearance of overlapping objects.
Calculations...	The **Calculations** speed menu option accesses a **Calculations** area where you can set up calculations for a component.
Center	**Center** is a speed menu option available for image components. Select this option to center an image in the report band.

Speed Menu Option	Description
CharWrap	The **CharWrap** speed menu option determines if the individual characters of a word will be wrapped to the next line when a single word does fit within the width of the control.
Checked	The **Checked** speed menu option is used to display a check in a **CheckBox** component.
Configure...	The **Configure** speed menu option is available for bar code components. Use this option to select properties such as the **Bar Code Type**, **Orientation**, **Bar Width**, and **Wide Bar Ratio**.
DirectDraw	**DirectDraw** is a speed menu option available for image components. Select this option to send an image directly to the printer. If you have a problem with an image printing correctly, selecting **DirectDraw** may correct it.
DisplayFormat...	**DisplayFormat** is a speed menu option available for textual components. This option enables you to display a value in a certain format (decimals with a dollar sign, for example).
Double	**Double** is a speed menu option available for line components. Select this option to print double lines.
Edit	**Edit** is a speed menu option for a Rich Text component that opens a dialog used to open a file and format text.
Force Justify	The **Force Justify** speed menu option is used to force the justification of text in a component.
GraphicType	**GraphicType** indicates the type of graphic image you are loading from the database. The options available are Bitmap, Icon, Metafile, JPEG, and GIF. Bitmap is the default graphic type.
KeepTogether	**KeepTogether** controls the pagination of a component when the contents cannot fit on one page. Normally, the contents print to the end of the available page space and continue on subsequent pages until complete. If you use **KeepTogether**, the entire component moves to the next page if all the contents do not fit on the current page.
Lines...	This memo speed menu option accesses the **Memo Editor**, from which you can open text only files.
MailMerge	**MailMerge** displays when you right-click over a Rich Text component. It enables you to import field values into the Rich Text component.

Speed Menu Option	Description
MaintainAspectRatio	**MaintainAspectRatio** is a speed menu option available for images. It scales an image so that the height and width are adjusted based on the original image size.
ParentHeight	**ParentHeight** is a speed menu option used to set the shape of an object so that it matches the height of a band.
ParentWidth	**ParentWidth** is used to set the shape of an object so that it matches the width of a band.
Picture...	The **Picture** speed menu option is available for image components. Use the **Picture** option to select the picture file you want to use as an image.
Position...	**Position** is a speed menu dialog used to change the size of an object.
PrintHumanReadable	The **PrintHumanReadable** speed menu option is available for bar code components. Use it to print the human readable version of a bar code (the actual letters or numbers). Bar codes like UPC-A and EAN-13 should always use this option. Other types of bar codes do not require it.
ReprintOnOverFlow	**ReprintOnOverFlow** is a speed menu option that applies to static components, or components that always print at the same height. These types of components are frequently used with stretchable components because they serve the purpose of a heading. For example, if a memo prints on several pages, the heading component should print with it. Set the heading component to **ReprintOnOverFlow** so that it prints on each page.
ReprintOnSubsequent	The **ReprintOnSubsequent** option is used in conjunction with the **SuppressRepeatedValues** option. When you are suppressing repeated values, you can force a field to reprint on the first detail line of the new page by selecting this option.
ResetGroup...	The **ResetGroup** option is used to set a control group for a report calculation. To set the control group, you specify a field as the group's **BreakName**, and when the field value changes, the **DBCalc** control is reset to zero and the calculation begins again.
Send to Back	**Send to Back** is frequently used with shapes. This speed menu option moves components to the background. If you want to use a shape as a background, use the **Send to Back** function.
Settings...	The Settings option is used to access the Checkbox Settings window. You can use this window to select the style and Boolean values for a **DBCheckBox** component.

Speed Menu Option	Description
ShiftRelativeTo...	**ShiftRelativeTo** is a speed menu option available for the following components: Memo, DBMemo, RichText, DBRichText, and Region. This option associates these components with one another so that one can print directly after another.
ShiftWithParent	**ShiftWithParent** is used to print a static component after a stretchable component.
Single	**Single** is a speed menu option available for line components. Select this option to print a single line.
Stretch	This menu option applies to stretchable components only. When **Stretch** is not selected, the component behaves just like a static component: it prints the same height each time, regardless of text. When **Stretch** is selected, the component adjusts according to the amount of printing text.
SuppressRepeatedValues	This speed menu option prevents repeated values from printing for **DBText** and **DBCalc** components.
Timing...	The **Timing** speed menu option is used to set the timing of calculations.
Transparent	The **Transparent** option determines whether the background of a report component is clear or opaque. This option defaults to opaque.
Visible	This speed menu option determines the visibility of an object.
WordWrap	The **WordWrap** option determines whether the text in a component has line breaks on words so that the text fits inside the boundaries of the component instead of truncating.

Report Designer Toolbars

Report Designer has several toolbars, component palettes, and data trees to help you design a report:

- Nudge Toolbar
- Size Toolbar
- Draw Toolbar
- Align or Space Toolbar
- Standard Component Palette
- Data Component Palette
- Advanced Component Palette
- Report Tree
- Data Tree
- Standard Toolbar
- Format Toolbar
- Edit Toolbar

To view a list of all toolbars in Report Designer, on the **View** menu, select **Toolbars**. Or, right-click over the gray area of the workbench.

Nudge Toolbar

Use this toolbar when you want to move a component or selection of components with extreme precision. Each icon represents the direction the selection will move. Selections move one pixel each time you press an arrow key.

Button	Function
Nudge Up	Moves all selected components up one pixel.
Nudge Down	Moves all selected components down one pixel.
Nudge Left	Moves all selected components one pixel to the left.
Nudge Right	Moves all selected components one pixel to the right.

Size Toolbar

Use the Size toolbar to set all of the components within a selection to a uniform height or width.

Button	Function
Shrink Width to Smallest	Determines the minimum width of all selected components, then sets the width of the components to that value.
Grow Width to Largest	Determines the maximum width of all selected components, then sets the width of the components to that value.
Shrink Height to Smallest	Determines the minimum height of all selected components, then sets the height of the components to that value.
Grow Height to Largest	Determines the maximum height of all selected components, then sets the height of the components to that value.

Draw Toolbar

Use the Draw toolbar to set the color and style used by shape, line, and region components.

Button	Function
Fill Color	Sets the color for a shape or region.
Line Color	Sets the color of the border for shapes and regions. Sets the color for a line.
Line Thickness	Determines the thickness of a line. Applies to line components only.
Line Style	Sets the style of a line.

Align or Space Toolbar

The **Align** or **Space** toolbar is useful when components need to be positioned uniformly. For example, you can use it to align several components so that the tops are all even, or you can space components so that they have an equal amount of space between them. The first component selected determines the position to which the others align.

Button	Function
Align Left	Aligns a group of components with the leftmost position of the component selected first.
Align Middle	Centers a group of components based on the horizontal center of the component selected first.
	Aligns a group of components with the rightmost position of the component selected first.

Button	Function
Align Right Edges	
Align Top	Aligns a group of components with the topmost position of the component selected first.
Align Center	Aligns a group of components based on the vertical center of the component selected first.
Align Bottom	Aligns a group of components with the bottommost position of the component selected first.
Space Horizontally	Spaces a set of components based on the leftmost position of the component selected first and the rightmost position of the component selected last.
Space Vertically	Spaces a set of components based on the topmost position of the component selected first and the bottommost position of the component selected last.
Center Horizontally in Band	Centers a component horizontally within a band.
Center Vertically in Band	Centers a component vertically within a band.

Standard Component Palette

The icons on the Standard Component Palette represent components that are frequently used to build reports. To create a component, click an icon and then click in a band.

Button	Function
Select Object	Selects one or more components within the layout. Also clears any selection (by clicking in the white space of a band).
Label	Displays text. Use the edit toolbar to set the caption of a label.
Memo	Prints multiple lines of plain text in a report.
RichText	Prints formatted text.

Button	Function
System Variable	Displays common report information such as page number, page count, print date and time, and current date and time.
Variable	Performs calculations.
Image	Displays graphics such as bitmaps, GIFs, and JPEGs.
Shape	Displays various shapes, such as squares, rectangles, circles, and ellipses. Use the **Edit** toolbar to set the shape type.
Line	Displays a line. Use the **Edit** toolbar to set the line orientation.
BarCode	Renders barcodes. Use the **Edit** toolbar to set the data to be encoded. Right-click and select Configure to select bar code types.
ACS Variable	Inserts the name of the report you are designing if you are using a pre-designed ACS report. If you are creating a new report, inserts the text "ACS Report Designer Report."
CheckBox	Displays a **Check Box** component. Use the **Edit** toolbar to select the type of check box that you want. Right-click and select **Checked** to change the marked or unmarked value.

Data Component Palette

This palette offers several components that are identical to ones in the standard palette, except for one thing: they are data-aware.

Data-aware components have the ability to read the value of a field from a database table, and then display that value in the report. This is different from the standard components, which display the content assigned when you lay out a report. You associate a data-aware component with a given database table and field by selecting the data pipeline and the data field from the drop-down lists in the edit toolbar.

Button	Function
DBText	Displays data from most types of database fields. Cannot handle images or rich text.
DBMemo	Prints plain text from a memo field of a database table. It automatically word-wraps the text.
	Prints formatted text from a memo field. It automatically word-wraps the text.

Button	Function
DBRichText	
DBCalc	Performs simple database calculations (Sum, Min, Max, Average, Count).
RDDBImage	Prints graphics (Bitmaps, GIFs, JPEGs) that are stored in a database field. For example, individual and family photos.
DBBarCode	Converts the data from a database field to a barcode symbol.
DBCheckBox	Displays a Check Box component for the selected database field. Right-click and select **Settings** to define the style and Boolean values for the check box.

Advanced Component Palette

The Advanced Component Palette contains components that can help you tackle complex reporting requirements.

Button	Function
Region	Logically groups components together.
SubReport	Handles multiple master details, creates side-by-side reporting effects, and hooks reports together as one.
CrossTab	Allows you to generate a set of calculations that summarize the data from a database table. It displays the calculations in a grid format.

Report Tree

Use the Report Tree to view the components within each band. Components you select in the Report Tree become the selection in the report layout. You can select multiple components by holding down the **Ctrl** key and clicking on each name. You can rename components by right-clicking over the name, selecting **Rename**, and then typing in a new name. Make sure to press the **Enter** key after renaming to ensure that the new name is assigned.

This tool window is dockable only on the left and right sides of the design workspace.

Data Tree

Use the Data Tree to create data-aware components within a band. Simply select a set of fields and drag the selection into the band. A set of corresponding data-aware components is created. This tool window is dockable only on the left and right sides of the design workspace.

Area	Function
Data List	Shows all of the data pipelines in the data workspace. Data pipelines represent a database table or SQL query and provide a set of data structured as records and fields.
Field List	Shows the fields for the currently selected data pipeline.
Data Tab	Shows what data is available for the report.
Layout Tab	Allows you to control the format of the components created when you drag fields from the Data Tree into the layout.

Standard Toolbar

Use the **Standard** toolbar to perform basic functions such as opening, saving, and printing reports, as well as cutting and pasting selections.

Button	Function
New	Creates a blank report.
Open	Displays the Open dialog used to open an existing report.
Save	Saves a report to file.
Page Setup	Displays the Page Setup dialog used to set the paper size and configure the layout for the report.
Print	Displays the Print dialog before sending the report to the printer.
Print Preview	Displays the Print Preview window.
Cut	Places the currently selected components in the clipboard and removes them from the report layout.
Copy	Copies the currently selected components into the clipboard.

Button	Function
Paste	Pastes the components in the clipboard into the report layout.

Format Toolbar

Use the **Format** toolbar to set the font and colors of text-based components. You can also control the layering of components with this toolbar.

Button	Function
Arial **Font**	Shows the name of the font chosen for the selected component.
10 **Font Size**	Shows the size of the font chosen for the selected component.
Bold	Sets text to bold.
Italic	Sets text to italic.
Underline	Underlines text.
Left Justify	Left justifies text.
Center	Centers text.
Right Justify	Right justifies text.
Font Color	Sets the text color.
Highlight Color	Sets the background color.
Bring to Front	Brings a component to the front of other components.
Send to Back	Sends a component to the back of the other components. Use the Report Tree to see the exact layering of the components within the band.

Edit Toolbar

The **Edit** toolbar changes based on the selected component. You can use it with the following components:

- data-aware components
- labels
- shapes

- lines

Data-aware Component

Use the **Edit** toolbar to set the data pipeline and data field for a data-aware component. The drop-down list on the left shows the data pipelines. The drop-down list on the right shows the field names.

Labels

Use the **Edit** toolbar to type the text for a label component.

Shapes

Use the **Edit** toolbar to choose from a list of shapes when a shape component is selected.

Lines

Use the **Edit** toolbar to move the line to the top, bottom, left, or right within a line component.

Report Quick Design Tools

The Report Designer offers tools to assist you with some of the more difficult report-building processes. These tools are:

- Query Wizard
- Query Designer
- Report Wizard
- Label Templates
- ACS Report Templates
- CrossTab Wizard

Query Wizard

The **Query Wizard** is a tool that you can use to access information from your database to use in a report. The **Query Wizard** is accessed from the Data workspace by selecting **File | New**, and then double-clicking **Query Wizard**. Follow the instructions given on each window of the **Query Wizard** to select data.

The **Data** workspace can be used to select and manipulate data for a given report. In most cases, you will not need to use the Data workspace when you work in the Report Designer because the Report Designer interfaces with ACS **Advanced Export** to select data for your report. You can use an existing **Advanced Export** or create a new one, depending on your reporting needs. This method of data selection simplifies the query process and makes it easier to select data without an in-depth knowledge of databases. Using ACS **Advanced Export** to select data eliminates the need to use the query functionality of the **Data** workspace when you are designing your report.

Query Designer

The **Query Designer** is used to modify query-based dataviews. The **Query Designer** presents a series of notebook tabs; each tab represents a different part of the query. You can use the **Query Designer** to add or remove search criteria from your query.

The **Data** workspace can be used to select and manipulate data for a given report. In most cases, you will not need to use the **Data** workspace when you work in the Report Designer because the Report Designer interfaces with ACS **Advanced Export** to select data for your report. You can use an existing **Advanced Export** or create a new one, depending on your reporting needs. This method of data selection simplifies the query process and makes it easier to select data without an in-depth knowledge of databases. Using ACS **Advanced Export** to select data eliminates the need to use the query functionality of the **Data** workspace when you are designing your report.

Report Wizard

The **Report Wizard** is accessed from the **File | New** menu option of the Design workspace. A series of windows is presented, each requesting information about the report. When the last page is reached, you can select either a preview or design option. When you click **Finish**, the report is created and displayed as requested.

Label Templates

The **Label Templates** wizard is accessed from the **File | New** menu option of the **Design** workspace. The Label Template window displays requesting information about the labels you want to print. You can select the type of labels to print on the **Products** section of this window. Select the appropriate printer and product information and click **OK** to work with a label template.

ACS Report Templates

ACS has provided a report template that you can use when you are designing a new report. The template includes a Header band with the date, time, church name, and page number. When you select the ACS Report Template, the Design workspace is accessed with the template in place.

CrossTab Wizard

The CrossTab Wizard is accessed from the **File | New** menu option of the Design workspace. A series of windows is presented, each requesting information about the report data and the crosstab layout you want to use. When the last page is reached, either a preview or design option can be selected. When you click **Finish**, a report is created and displayed as requested.

Suppressing a Blank Line in Report Designer

On some reports, you may want to keep lines from printing when there is no data in a field. For example, if you print a report that includes the names and addresses for mailing labels, you may not want a blank line to print for each address that does not include an Address Line 2. You can suppress the printing of a blank line using **DBMemo** components and the **ShiftRelativeTo**... option.

The following procedures walk you through creating a sample report and suppressing Address Line 2 when the field is blank.

To create a new report

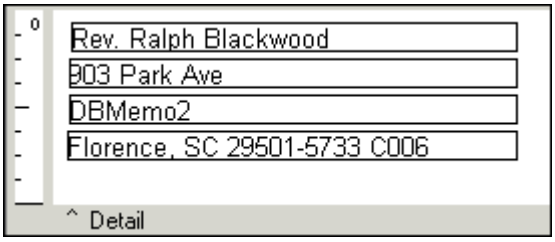
1. Under **Searches and Reports**, click the **Reports** tab.
2. In the drop-down list, select **Report Designer** and click **Go** .
3. In the **Report Type** list, select the **People** report type, then select **Create a New Report**.
4. In the lower sidebar, click **Customize**.
5. Click **Get Report Data** > **Create a Data Export**.
6. In the Select Export Type window, select **Database Export** and then click **OK**. The ACS Data Export Designer window displays.
7. On the **Groups** tab, select **People**.
8. Click on the **Included Data** tab, select **Personal**, then click **Save & Close**.
9. In the **Refresh Export** window, enter the number of records you want to limit the export to and then click **OK**.
10. On the **Report Options** tab, click **Design Report**.
11. In the **New Items** window, click **Cancel**.

Now you can select the name and address fields for the sample report.

To select the name and address fields for the report

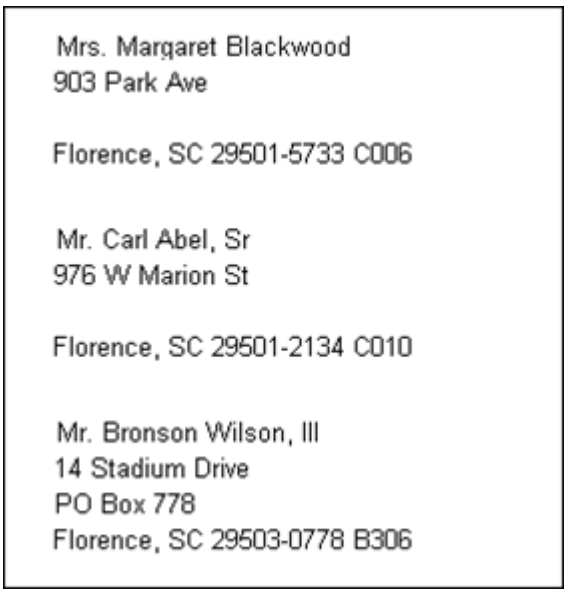
1. In the design workspace, resize the Detail band to one inch high.
2. Click **DBText** .
3. Click in the **Detail** band to place a **DBText** component in the report.
4. In the **Data Field** list, select **IndividualLabelName**.
5. Click **DBMemo** .
6. Click in the **Detail** band to place a **DBMemo** component in the report.
7. Size the **DBMemo** component to the same height as the **DBText** component.
8. In the **Data Field** list, select **Address1**.
9. Place another **DBMemo** component in the report. In the **Data Field** list, select **Address2**.
10. Place a third **DBMemo** component in the report. In the **Data Field** list, select **CityStateZip-Formatted**.
11. Place these fields one below the other, spaced evenly, and align them at the left edge.

The Detail band of your report should look similar to this:



If your **Address2** field contains the text **DBMemo2**, the first record in your export file does not have data in the **Address Line 2** field.

Click the **Preview** tab to preview the report. Addresses that do not have data in **Address Line 2** display a blank line where that data would be. The report should look similar to this:



Now you can suppress the blank lines in the addresses

To suppress blank lines in the addresses

1. In the design workspace, right-click the **DBMemo3** component, which contains the **CityStateZIP-Formatted** field.
2. Select **ShiftRelativeTo...**.
3. In the **Set object position based on** list, select **DBMemo2**
4. Click OK.
5. Right-click the **DBMemo2** component, which contains the **Address2** field.
6. Select **ShiftRelativeTo...**.
7. In the **Set object position based on** list, select **DBMemo1**
8. Click **OK**.

Click the **Preview** tab to preview the report. The blank line is now removed in addresses that do not have data in **Address Line 2**. The report should look similar to this:

Mrs. Margaret Blackwood
903 Park Ave
Florence, SC 29501-5733 C006

Mr. Carl Abel, Sr
976 W Marion St
Florence, SC 29501-2134 C010

Mr. Bronson Wilson, III
14 Stadium Drive
PO Box 778
Florence, SC 29503-0778 B306

Useful Information

Suppressing blank lines only works when you have components placed vertically. You cannot remove blank horizontal spaces by suppressing components with no data.

Saving Designed Reports

When you create a new report using Report Designer, you can save it to use again.

Organizing Saved Reports

To avoid a long list of reports that are difficult to distinguish from one another, you can organize reports into their types.

Before you create a new report, in the upper sidebar of the reports window, select the type of report you are creating. For example, Attendance or Contributions. Then, select **Create a New Report** and click **Customize**. This ensures that the new report is listed under the report type you selected.

For example, you want to create a custom Balance Sheet of your assets and liabilities. This is an example of a General Ledger report. To save this report under the proper type, double-click **General Ledger** before selecting **Create a New Report**. When you save the report, it is located under General Ledger in the reports window.

To save a designed report

1. Once you have designed the report, close the ACS Report Designer window.
2. In the People Suite Reports window, click **Preview**.
3. In the preview window, on the reports toolbar, click **Save**.
4. Enter a new name for the report.
5. To make the report available to other ACS users, select **Public**.
6. Click **Save**.

Saving Report Designer Templates

If you create a report layout that you want to use for other reports, you can save it as a report template. For example, if you have several reports you want to use a similar Header for, you can save the header and open it through ACS Templates.

To save a report template

1. Create the report layout in the ACS Report Designer.
2. Click **File**, then click **Save As Report Template**.
3. In the Save As Report Template window, enter the **Template Name**.
4. Select a **Category** for the template. To add a new category, enter the new category name in this field.
5. Click **Save**.

To open a saved report template

1. Access the ACS Report Designer.
2. Click the **Design** tab.
3. Click **File**, then **New**.
4. In the New Items dialog box, select **ACS Report Templates**.
5. Click the tab that corresponds with the category the template is saved in.
6. Select the template and then click **OK**.

Importing and Exporting Designed Reports

Report Designer lets you import reports created by another user. When you import the report, all settings, including the associated data export settings, also import. Once the file is imported, you can open it in Report Designer for use or modification.

> **Note**
>
> You can only import reports that have been successfully exported from Report Designer.
>
> If you try to import a report file that hasn't been exported, a message displays indicating that the report file (.rtm) does not contain a valid version number.

To import a report

1. Under **Searches and Reports**, click the **Reports** tab.
2. In the drop-down list, select **Report Designer** and click **Go**.
3. In the upper sidebar, select **Create a New Report**.
4. In the lower sidebar, click **Customize**.
5. On the **Report Options** tab, under **Design the Report**, click **Import Report**.
6. Navigate to the report and click **Open**.
7. A message displays indicating the last time the exported data was refreshed and gives an option to limit the number of records exported. Do one of the following:
   - To export all data and refresh it, click **Yes**.
   - To limit the number of records exported, enter the maximum number of records to export and click **Yes**.
   - To refresh the data or limit the number of records exported, click **No**.

To export a report

1. Under **Searches and Reports**, click the **Reports** tab.
2. In the drop-down list, select **Report Designer** and click **Go**.
3. In the upper sidebar, select the report.
4. In the lower sidebar, click **Customize**.
5. On the **Report Options** tab, under **Design the Report**, click **Export Report**.
6. Navigate to the location where you want to save the report.
7. Click **Save**.

The report is exported to the selected location.