



SYNERGY
business intelligence

Intelligise

Business Intelligence update brought to you by Synergy

April 2009

HOT TIP #5

Submitted by Dennis Chu, Synergy BI Consultant

Cognos 8 Report Studio: How to create an optional slicer prompt.

By default, slicers require a value to be selected. This example shows how to have an optional slicer prompt. When the user does not want to select a value for the slicer, the root member will be used instead

Multi Selections

```
#promptmany('Parameter1', 'memberuniqueName', '[RootMember]', 'set(', ', ', ')')#
```

Single Selections

```
#prompt(' Parameter1', 'memberuniqueName', '[RootMember]')#
```

Slicer:

```
#prompt(' Parameter1', 'memberuniqueName', '[Ro...
```

So what is happening is that we are checking to see if the parameter is specified, if so then it will use that value (being the member unique name) otherwise if it is not satisfied then it will default to the [Root Member] member (defined in your query), this custom member/data item is defined as follows:

rootMembers(<hierarchy that you are going to be filtering on>)



The reasoning behind that is that if the parameter is unspecified and the [Root Member] is used, it will use a slicer that consists of the root members of that hierarchy ([Root Member]) which technically is everything (thus no filtering). The nice thing about using slicers in this way is that it doesn't matter what level the member you are using to slice on is at.

A last consideration is to just make sure the prompt control is set to be "Optional".

For references purposes, I have included the IBM Cognos KnowledgeBase article link as below:

http://www-01.ibm.com/support/docview.wss?rs=3528&context=SSWRXS&context=SS9S54&context=SSPMZC&context=SSPN2R&context=SSQJNV&context=SS9RTN&context=SS9S6B&context=SSNGSH&context=SS9RXT&context=SSPN2D&context=SS9S5U&context=SSQKAQ&context=SSQKCR&context=SSQJUT&context=SSQJWQ&context=SSQJVQ&context=SSQJTZ&context=SSQJXN&context=SSQJZA&context=SSQJT5&context=SSQK2W&context=SS4Q5S&context=SS4R4C&context=SS4R39&context=SS4QP2&context=SS4QZK&q1=optional+slicer&uid=swg21342988&loc=en_US&cs=utf-8&lang=en