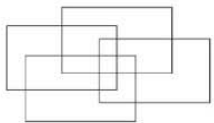


OFFICE OF FINANCE USER SYMPOSIUM 2008

Cognos Planning Tips and Techniques

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LSA Solutions
Value Beyond Software



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harmony through technology



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Introduction

Topics

- Design principles and guidelines
- Tips & Techniques – demonstrations that apply design guidelines

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Design Principles and Guidelines

- Build models to interface. Avoid data silos.
- Minimize manual updates to D-Lists
- Design D-Links to never need editing
- Make inputs simple and easy
- Develop self-defined D-Cubes
- Do complex calcs in cubes to simplify reporting
- Leverage Manager for interactive documentation

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Technique #1

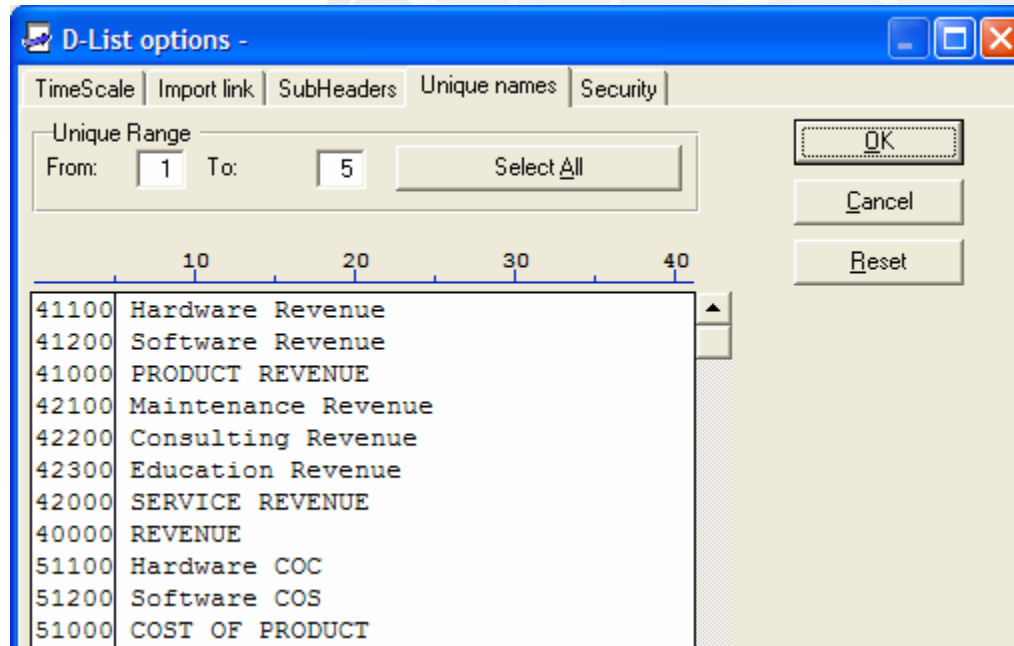
D-List Maintenance

Use Import Links and Unique Names to synchronize D-Lists with other systems

1. Import from ODBC, D-Cubes, and other sources
2. Concatenate fixed width ids/codes and the description
3. Define uniqueness with the id portion

Technique #1 (cont.)

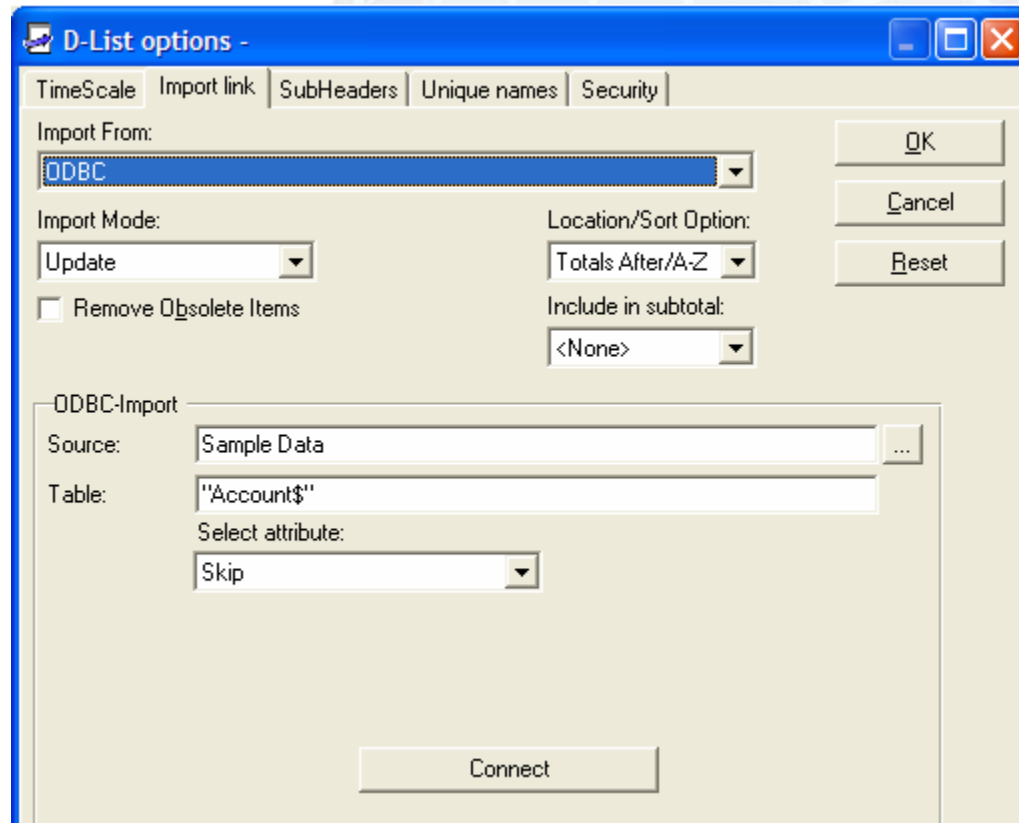
Unique Names



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Technique #1 (cont.)

Import Link



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Technique #2

Use D-Cubes to manage hierarchies and sub-lists

Create a 2-dimensional D-Cube

- D-List 1: list of leaf-level items
- D-List 2: hierarchy level items (Parent, Parent 2...) and sub-list items

Technique #2 (cont.)

D-Cube for hierarchies and sub lists

	Parent	Parent2	Revenue Sublist
41100 Hardware Revenue	PRODUCT REVENUE	REVENUE	Y
41200 Software Revenue	PRODUCT REVENUE	REVENUE	Y
42100 Maintenance Revenue	SERVICE REVENUE	REVENUE	Y
42200 Consulting Revenue	SERVICE REVENUE	REVENUE	y
42300 Education Revenue	SERVICE REVENUE	REVENUE	Y
51100 Hardware COS	COST OF PRODUCT	COST OF SALES	
51200 Software COS	COST OF PRODUCT	COST OF SALES	
52100 Maintenance COS	COST OF SERVICES	COST OF SALES	
52200 Consulting COS	COST OF SERVICES	COST OF SALES	
52300 Education COS	COST OF SERVICES	COST OF SALES	
61100 Salary/Wages Full Time	COMPENSATION EXPENSE	OPERATING EXPENSES	
61200 Salary/Wages Part Time	COMPENSATION EXPENSE	OPERATING EXPENSES	
61300 Salary/Wages Overtime	COMPENSATION EXPENSE	OPERATING EXPENSES	
62000 Vacation	COMPENSATION EXPENSE	OPERATING EXPENSES	
63010 Hire On Bonus	COMPENSATION EXPENSE	OPERATING EXPENSES	

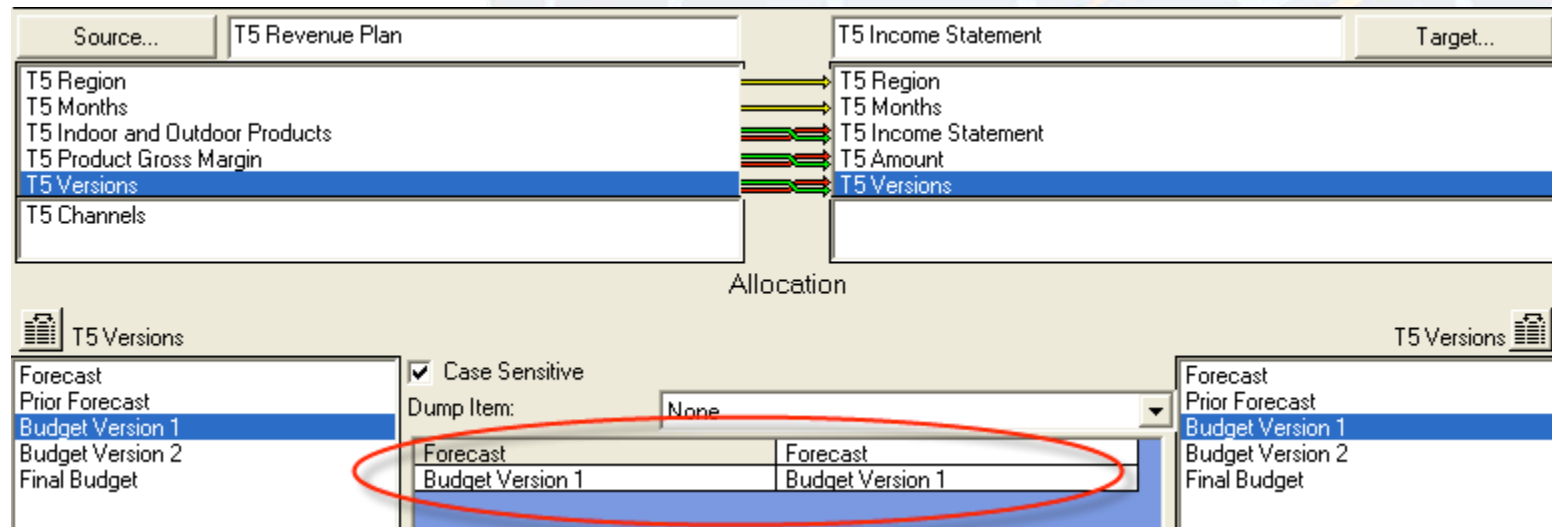
51200 Software COS

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Technique #3

Use D-Cube Data for the Allocation Mappings in D-Links to minimize maintenance

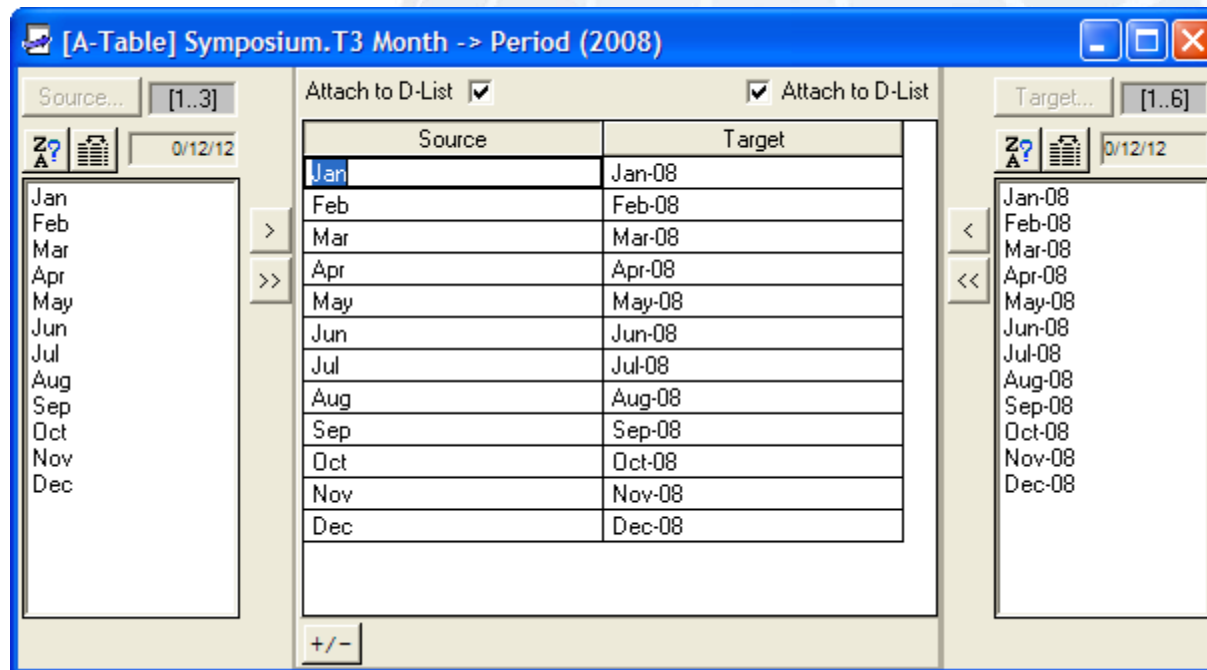
- Never hard-code mappings unless they will never change



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Technique #3 (cont.)

- Use A-Tables for relatively static mappings of short lists



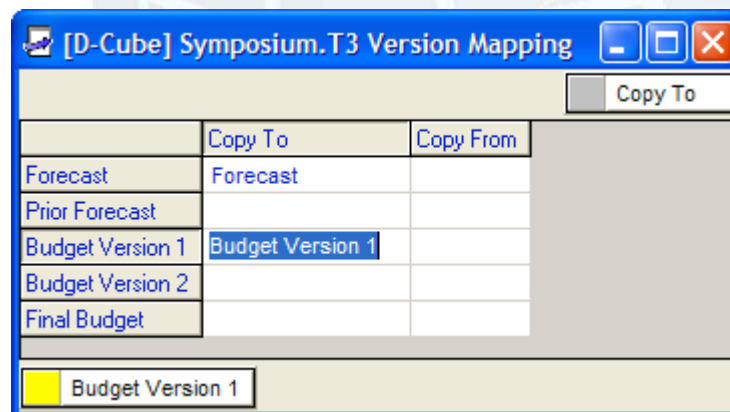
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Technique #3 (cont.)

D-Cube Data for Allocation:

Create a 2-dimensional D-Cube

- D-List 1: Either source or target D-List
- D-List 2: One or more items/columns D-List formatted.



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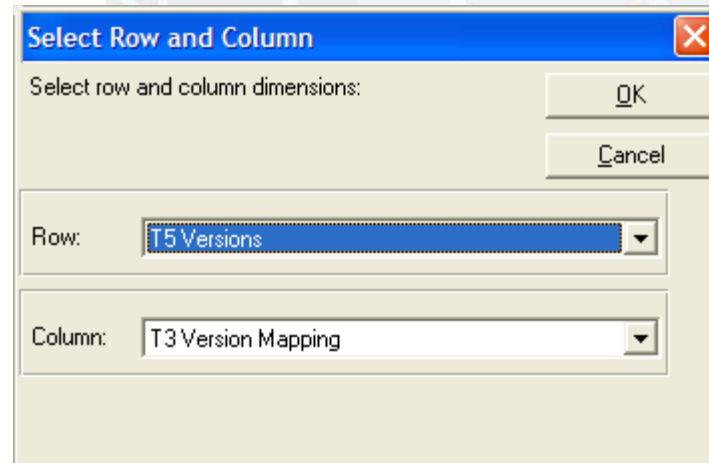
Technique #3 (cont.)

D-Cube Data for Allocation (cont.)

When creating a D-Link, use

D-Link -> Allocation Table -> Use D-Cube Data

1. Click Slice to Set Orientation

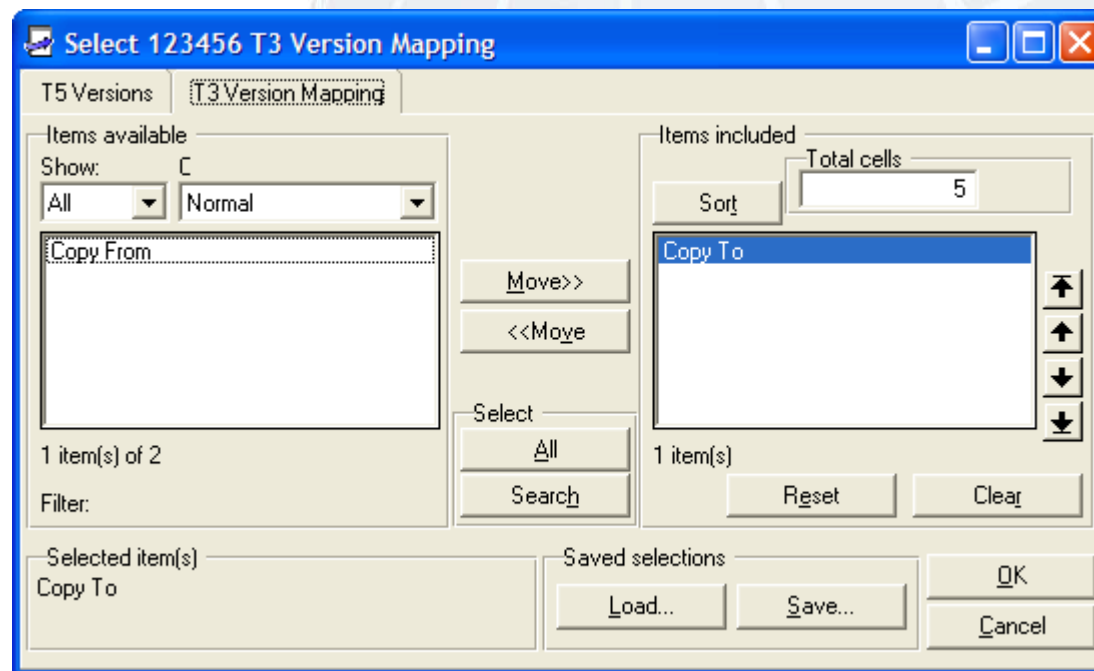


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Technique #3 (cont.)

D-Cube Data for Allocation (cont.)

2. Select the Item/Column with the mappings

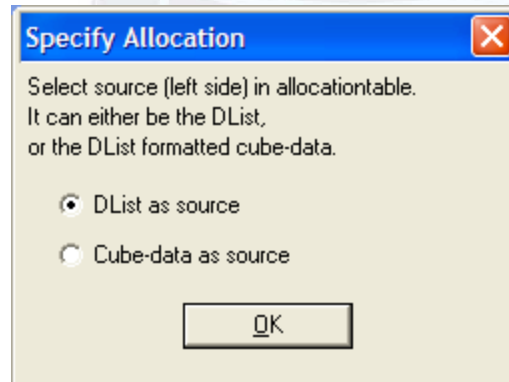


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Technique #3 (cont.)

D-Cube Data for Allocation (cont.)

3. Specify the source: D-List or D-Cube data



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Technique #4

Implementing Default Values with Override

Example: Travel model where Airfare, Lodging and Meals have default values, but users may need to override the values for any given trip

Technique #4 (cont.)

Implementing Default Values with Override (cont.)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Description	User Conference (L.A.)						
Type	Domestic						
Airfare	\$400						\$400
Lodging	\$150						\$150
Meals	\$50						\$50
TOTAL T&E	\$600						\$600
__ADJUSTMENTS__							
adj Airfare							
adj Lodging							
adj Meals							
__DEFAULTS__							
_Airfare	\$400						\$400
_Lodging	\$150						\$150
_Meals	\$50						\$50

	1	2	3	4	5	6	TOTAL
Description	User Conference (L.A.)						
Type	Domestic						
Airfare	\$250						\$250
Lodging	\$150						\$150
Meals	\$50						\$50
TOTAL T&E	\$450						\$450
__ADJUSTMENTS__							
adj Airfare	(\$150)						(\$150)
adj Lodging							
adj Meals							
__DEFAULTS__							
_Airfare	\$400						\$400
_Lodging	\$150						\$150
_Meals	\$50						\$50

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Technique #4 (cont.)

Implementing Default Values with Override (cont.)

- Use a lookup D-Link to import defaults
- For each item use a subtotal of the default item and an adjustment item
- In Contributor, the default will read-only because it is linked, so there will be a 'Hold'
- Override the subtotal amount. The adjustment amount updates via breakback.

Technique #5

Dimension to Publish

- Use a D-List with a static list of measures .
- If such a D-List does not exist in the cube, add a D-List with a single item, such as 'Amount'.

If the dimension to publish is not a static list, then the table structure and Framework Manager model will change when items are added.

Technique #5 (cont.)

Example 1: Version as the Dimension For Publish
The fact table will contain a column for each version.

Name	Column name
T6 Income Statement	t6_income_statemen
T5 Region	elist
T5 Months	t5_months
Forecast	forecast
Prior Forecast	prior_forecast
Budget Version 1	budget_version_1
Budget Version 2	budget_version_2
Final Budget	final_budget

Close

dim...	elist	dime...	Forecast	Prior_Forecast	Budget_Version_1	Budget_Version_2	Final_Budget
2	61	1	103311497.169...	99709475.9228...	99709475.9228...	103311497.169...	0
2	61	2	131419467.312...	126751559.321...	126751559.321...	131419467.312...	0
2	61	3	204981511.792...	195375671.709...	195375671.709...	204981511.792...	0
2	61	4	253660155.605...	242370782.900...	242370782.900...	253660155.605...	0
2	61	5	184666840.97615	178366350.733...	178366350.733...	184666840.97615	0
2	61	6	269914808.685...	257301709.397...	257301709.397...	269914808.685...	0

Technique #5 (cont.)

Example 2: Amount as the Dimension For Publish

The fact table will contain a single column containing all of the data in the cube.

Name	Column name
T6 Income Statement	t6_income_statemen
T5 Region	elist
T5 Months	t5_months
T5 Versions	t5_versions
Amount	amount

dimension_t6_i...	elist	dimension_t5_...	dimension_t5_v...	Amount
2	61	1	5	103311497.169701
2	61	1	6	99709475.9228032
2	61	1	2	99709475.9228032
2	61	1	3	103311497.169701
2	61	2	5	131419467.312486
2	61	2	6	126751559.321793
2	61	2	2	126751559.321793

Technique #6

QTD and YTD Measures can simplify reporting
There is no Quarter-to-Date BiF. Here is a work
around approach.

- Timescale D-List with four fiscal years
- Use YTD BiF for the QTD calculation
- Use Cumul BiF for the YTD calculation

Technique #6 (cont.)

QTD and YTD Measures (cont.)

- Timescale D-List with four fiscal years

	From	To	Period
Jan	1/1/2008	1/31/2008	01.01.08 to 31.01.08
Feb	2/1/2008	2/29/2008	01.02.08 to 29.02.08
Mar	3/1/2008	3/31/2008	01.03.08 to 31.03.08
Q1			
Apr	4/1/2009	4/30/2009	01.04.09 to 30.04.09
May	5/1/2009	5/31/2009	01.05.09 to 31.05.09
Jun	6/1/2009	6/30/2009	01.06.09 to 30.06.09
Q2			
Jul	7/1/2010	7/31/2010	01.07.10 to 31.07.10
Aug	8/1/2010	8/31/2010	01.08.10 to 31.08.10
Sep	9/1/2010	9/30/2010	01.09.10 to 30.09.10
Q3			
Oct	10/1/2011	10/31/2011	01.10.11 to 31.10.11
Nov	11/1/2011	11/30/2011	01.11.11 to 30.11.11
Dec	12/1/2011	12/31/2011	01.12.11 to 31.12.11
Q4			
Total Year			

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Technique #6 (cont.)

QTD and YTD Measures (cont.)

- Calculations

The screenshot shows a software window titled "[D-List] Symposium.T7 P-Q-Y To Date". It contains a table with the following data:

	Item name	Format	Calculation	Calc. Option
1	PTD			
2	QTD		BiF	Last period
3	YTD		BiF	Last period

Below the table is a "Close attribute form" button. The configuration panel below that includes:

- Attribute: Calculation (dropdown)
- Calculation: @Ytd(PTD) (text area)
- Buttons: Apply, Reset, Clear, BiF, Paste
- Priority: Medium (dropdown)
- Buttons: Prev., Next, Assign

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Technique #6 (cont.)

QTD and YTD Measures (cont.)

[D-Cube] Symposium.T7 P-Q-Y To Date


2008

Jan

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Q1	Apr	May	Jun	Q2	Jul	Aug	Sep	Q3	Oct	Nov	Dec	Q4	Total Year
PTD	100	100	100	300	100	100	100	300	100	100	100	300	100	100	100	300	1,200
QTD	100	200	300	300	100	200	300	300	100	200	300	300	100	200	300	300	300
YTD	100	200	300	300	400	500	600	600	700	800	900	900	1,000	1,100	1,200	1,200	1,200

PTD

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Thank you.
Any questions?



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