

DataNet Quality Systems Knowledgebase

How can I get a chart for just the data I collected for a specific time frame?

There are times when you do not want to see all the data, but just a small time frame sampling of the data. This can be done a few different ways by using queries and/or data sets. The following are some of the most common ways to filter your data for specific time frames.

Variable query

The following is a quick and easy way to query just one variable.


Log in to WinSPC as the Admin user or a user that has Administration permissions. Locate and right-click on the Variable that has the data that you would like query for a specific time range, and select Query. This will bring up the Variable Analyzer window (see Figure 1). In the Variable Analyzer window, click on the funnel icon labeled Edit data filtering options. This will bring up the Data Filtering Options properties page (see Figure 2). On the Data Filtering Options properties page select the Date Range Type from the Date Range tab. The following selections are available on the Date Range Type dropdown box:

- Unrestricted • Last Year
- Today • N Days Ending
- Yesterday • N Weeks Ending
- This Week • N Months Ending
- Last Week • Older Than N Days
- This Month • Older Than N Weeks
- Last Month • Older Than N Months
- This Year • Explicit WinSPC can prompt for a date range if the Prompt for this parameter checkbox is checked . Click the OK button to return to the Variable Analyzer window. To view the chart, click on the Chart tab in the Variable Analyzer. (see Figure 1) To preview a report, click on the magnifying glass icon labeled Preview located on the toolbar. Select a report type to preview. (see Figure 1) If Prompt for Date Range was checked, select the Date Range from the dropdown box then click the OK button. The report can be printed from the preview by clicking on File in the toolbar and select Print in the Report Preview window. Alternately you can click on the printer icon in the toolbar. Click the red X in the upper right hand screen to exit the current window(s)

Collection Plan query

Log in to WinSPC as the Admin user or a user that has Administration permissions. Locate and right-click on the Collection Plan that has the data that you would like to query for a specific time range, and select Query. This will bring up the Data Set Builder window. (See Figure 3) By clicking on the Part icon or Variable icon in the toolbar, the views will change to show the Parts or Variables respectively. In the top window of the Data Set Builder window, click on the green plus sign + labeled click to add variable list filter. This will bring up the Variable Filter window (see Figure 4). In the Variable Filter windows set the following fields:


- Filter Type to Data Collected
- Constraint Type to At Least
- Number of Subgroups to 1
- Data Range Type to {choose time range} If you would like WinSPC to prompt you for a date range, select the Prompting Options tab and put a check mark in the Prompted checkbox for Date Range. Click on the OK button to return to the Data Set Builder window. Click the funnel icon in the toolbar labeled Data filtering options to bring up the Data Filtering Options properties window. Select the date range from the Date Range Type: dropdown box. If you would like WinSPC to prompt you for a Date Range, place a check mark in the Prompt for this parameter checkbox. (see Figure 2) Click the OK button to return to the Data Set Builder window. If you would like to save this query as a Data Set, click on the diskette icon labeled Save or Save As.

To preview the report click on the magnifying glass icon labeled Preview located on the toolbar, and select a report type you would like to preview. If Prompt for Date Range was checked, select the Date Range from the dropdown box then click the OK button. Note: If you do not see the Date Range Type: dropdown box, click on the triangle symbol  in front of the Date Range to open up that part of the screen, making it available for selection. (See Figure 5) It will now generate the report and bring up the preview window. WinSPC will now generate the report and bring up the preview window. If you would like to print the report, click on File in the toolbar and select Print. Alternately you can click on the printer icon in the toolbar.

Before we move on to describing the next queries, I would like to discuss a concept that is confusing for people the first time through the Data Set Builder. The most common question in Data Set Builder is "Why do I need to set the time range twice?" This is being done because Data Set Builder will first sort by Parts/Variables that meet the specified criteria set in the "list filter", and then it will sort the data that meets the second criteria set in the "data filter" from within the Parts/Variables listed from the first sort. The first sort will return the Parts/Variables that meet the sort criteria and ALL collected data attached to those Parts/Variables. The second sort will only return the data that meets the criteria from the Parts/Variables that matched the first sort. In other words; "Show me a list of Parts/Variables that meet my time range, and now only show me the data in the Parts/Variables that meet my time range". For more information, see Knowledgebase article What is the difference between a Data Set List Filter and a Data Set Data Filter?

Data Set query

A data set allows you to generate a filtered list of parts or variables that meet certain criteria.

Log in to WinSPC as the Admin user or a user that has Administration permissions. Expand the Queries/Reports tree by clicking on the plus sign [+] in front of Queries/Reports. To create a Data Set use one of the following methods: Right-click on the Data Sets and select New - Data Set. Name the data set. Click on the New Data Set icon in the toolbar. On the Administrator screen select from the toolbar File - New - Data Set To bring up the Data Set Builder use one of the following methods: Double click on the newly created Data Set. Right-click on the newly created data set and then select Query. When you bring up the Data Set Builder for a data set for the first time it will list all the parts in the WinSPC database. By clicking on the Part icon or Variable icon in the toolbar, the views will change to show the Parts or Variables respectively. (See Figure 3) In the top window of the Data Set Builder window, click on the green plus sign + labeled click to add variable list filter. This will bring up the Variable Filter window. (see Figure 4) In the Variable Filter windows set the following fields: Filter Type: to Data Collected Constraint Type to At Least Number of Subgroups to 1 Date Range Type: to {choose time range} If you would like WinSPC to prompt you for a date range, go to the Prompting Options tab and put a check mark in the Prompted checkbox for Date Range. Click on the OK button to return to the Data Set Builder window. Click the funnel icon in the toolbar labeled Data filtering options to bring up the Data Filtering Options properties window. Select the date range from the Date Range Type: dropdown box. If you would like WinSPC to prompt you for a date range, put a check mark in the Prompt for this parameter checkbox. (see Figure 2) Click the OK button to return to the Data Set Builder window. If you would like to save this query as a Data Set, click on the diskette icon labeled Save or Save As. To preview the report click on the magnifying glass icon labeled Preview located on the toolbar, and select the report type you would like to preview. If Prompt for Date Range was checked, select the Date Range from the dropdown box then click the OK button. Note: If you do not see the Date Range Type: dropdown box, click on the triangle symbol  in front of the Date Range to open up that part of the screen, making it available for selection. (See Figure 5) It will now generate the report and bring up the preview window. If you would like to print the report, click on File in the toolbar and select Print. Alternately you can click on the printer icon in the toolbar.

Report Book with Data Set and Report Templates

A report book is a simple way to print/preview reports by using a predefined data filter and predefined report type. This procedure assumes that you have already set up a data set from the previous section.

Log in to WinSPC as the Admin user or a user that has Administration permissions. Expand the Queries/Reports tree by clicking on the plus sign (+) in front of Queries/Reports. Right-click on the Report Books and select New - Report Book. Name the report book. Alternately you can create a data set by clicking on the New Report Book icon in the toolbar. Double-click on the newly created Report Book to bring up the Report Book Setup window. (see Figure 6) To set a Report Template, click the browse button and select a Report Template from the available report templates listed. Next Click the OK button to return to the Report Book Setup. To set a Data Set, click the browse button and select a Data Set that will filter the data for the report. Click the OK button to return to the Report Book Setup. Click the OK button on the Report Book Setup to save the settings. To print or preview the report click on the Print Reports icon in the toolbar. Select the created Report Book and click on the appropriate Print or Preview button. Alternately you can select File - Print Reports and select the Report Book and click on the Print or Preview button.

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