

Element Linking

Element linking within BusinessObjects reports allows a user to create a link between report elements (tables or charts) with other report elements. This functionality allows analysts to drill into large data sets similarly to input controls by selecting values in a table or graph. For example, your report may have several tables or graphs, but you can control what is displayed by selecting a value from one or more other tables.

In the example below we want to be able to look at our budget and expenditures at a summary level by Fund, then select a Fund from the 1st table and have more detail about that particular fund displayed in the other table and graph.

In this example, we have 2 tables and 1 graph:

- A table with budget and expenditures by Fund (1) – This table will act as a filter for the more detailed table (2) and graph (3)
- A table with budget and expenditures by Major CI and Functional Area (2) – This table will be filtered by our selection in the first table and will be used to filter the graph further by Major CI
- A graph that displays expenditures by Functional Area (3) – This graph will be filtered by the Fund of the first table and the Major CI of the second table to show expenditures by Functional Areas with activity for the Major CI selected in table 2.

Note: Element linking can only be utilized in one report (tab) of a document.

Table 1: Fund - Key (Not Compounded)

Fund - Key (Not Compounded)	Current Budget	YTD Actual Expense
10010000 - GENERAL FUND	68,102,878.78	19,906,879.35
10010021 - GENERAL FD - C/F	4,560,352.9	184,568
30000000 - EARMARKED FUNDS	3,767,670	
30240000 - HR-PR DEFAULT		0.17
30350001 - OP REV- INT SERV FD	35,813,187	6,640,469.48
30370000 - SPECIAL DEPOSITS	1,500,000	94,230
30438000 - CAP PROJ-CAP IMP	13,378.44	
30670000 - GENERAL SERVICES	26,831,329	8,903,268.18
30980000 - DONATIONS		
31470000 - VICTIM'S COMP FUND	8,194,726	4,020,269.83
31490000 - MAINT REP REN-NONCAP	1,000,000	-165,057.19
31490002 - MAINT REP OTHER ENTI	1,000,000	66,333.04
31490003 - MAINT & REP-CONT PRJ	1,000,000	533,487.14
31500000 - DONATIONS-DEV DIS	244,095	98,872.33
31970001 - MOTOR POOL - ISF	18,361,071	8,907,089.83
32120000 - TRAINING SESSION FEE	200,000	78,094.76
33230000 - K-12 SCHOOL TECH	450,000	-20,518.73
33290000 - K-12 SCHOOL TECH	26,000,000	10,952,370.22
34170000 - SPECIAL OPERATING	4,825,275	1,748,756.54
34170001 - Spel Op Flexibility	250,000	9,013
34870000 - FUND TO SAVE HUNLEY		3,486
34890000 - TELECOMM REV FD		45,532.96
35		
36		
36		
36		
36		
36		
36390000 - VETERAN CEMETERY	75,000	11,340
37210000 - ECON OPP PROJ SHARE	500,000	101,861.74
37600000 - FOSTER CARE MEDICAID	1,239,715	408,996.91
37640000 - MEDICAID ASST PAY	4,788,805	1,178,865.72
37740000 - ACCUM DEP-MTR VEH	8,822,940	806,610
37850000 - GAL OPERATING REV	563,957	750

Table 2: Fund - Key (Not Compounded), Functional area, Functional a, Commitmen, Commitment Items - Major CI (Text), Current Budget, YTD Actual Expense

Fund - Key (Not Compounded)	Functional area	Functional a	Commitmen	Commitment Items - Major CI (Text)	Current Budget	YTD Actual Expense
37600000 - FOSTER CARE MEDICAID	Foster Care Review Board	D500_CD00	501000	PERS SVC	567,599	185,159.04
	Foster Care Review Board	D500_CD00	502000	CONTRACTUAL SVC		7,611.91
	Foster Care Review Board	D500_CD00	503000	SUPPLY AND MATERIAL		1,543.2
	Foster Care Review Board	D500_CD00	504000	FIXED CHGS AND CONT		36,751.6
	Foster Care Review Board	D500_CD00	505000	TRAVEL		2,900.86
	Foster Care Review Board	D500_CD00	512001	OTHER OPERATING	138,141	
	Foster Care Review Board	D500_CD00	513000	EMPLOYER CONTRIB	210,000	70,216.42
	Heart Gallery	D500_CD01	501000	PERS SVC	228,429	70,586.74
	Heart Gallery	D500_CD01	502000	CONTRACTUAL SVC		3,200.08
	Heart Gallery	D500_CD01	503000	SUPPLY AND MATERIAL		37.8
	Heart Gallery	D500_CD01	504000	FIXED CHGS AND CONT		7,499.36
	Heart Gallery	D500_CD01	505000	TRAVEL		1,857.48
	Heart Gallery	D500_CD01	512001	OTHER OPERATING	27,546	
	Heart Gallery	D500_CD01	513000	EMPLOYER CONTRIB	68,000	21,623.36
37600000 - FOSTER CARE MEDICAID				Sum:	1,239,715	408,996.91
				Sum:	1,239,715	408,996.91

Chart 3: YTD Actual Expense by Functional Area

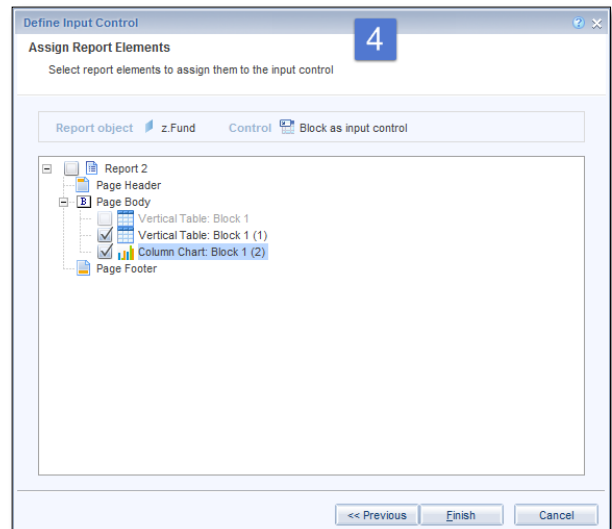
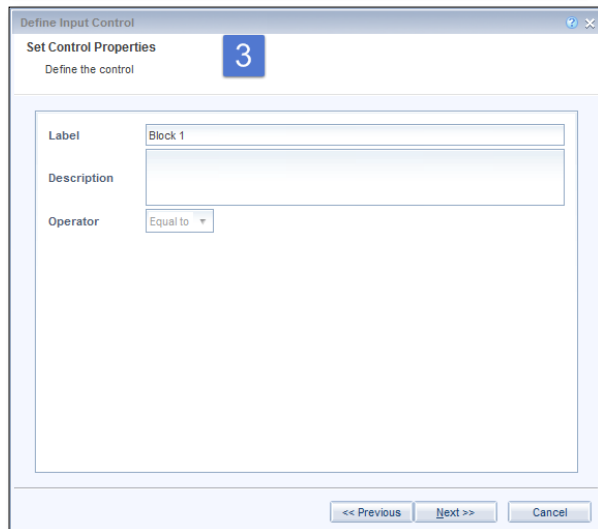
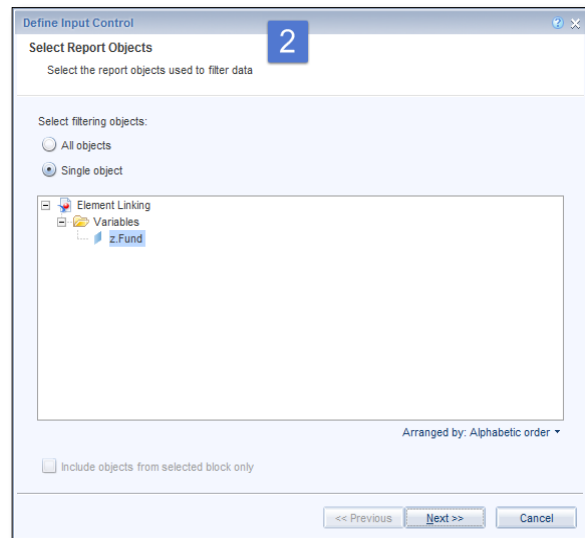
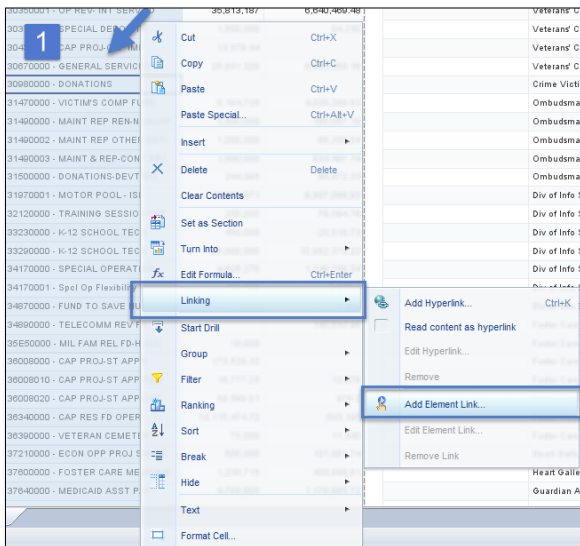
Functional area : Heart Gallery
Functional area - Key : D500_CD01
YTD Actual Expense : 3,209.08

Callouts:

- 1: You can select a value (Fund) from one table to filter the other tables and graphs in your report
- 2: You can then drill into the area of interest even more by clicking on the Commitment Item
- 3: This report element is now filtered for Fund 37600000 and Commitment Item 502000 by clicking on the Fund from the table to the left and 502000 Commitment

To add Element linking to your report:

1. Create a report with all the report elements (tables and graphs) that you will need.
 - A. In this example, there is:
 - i. A table with Fund (using a variable that combines Fund Key and Fund Name), Current Budget and YTD Actual Expense
 - ii. A table with the Fund Variable, Functional Area (Key and Text), Major Commitment Item (Key and Text), Budget and YTD Actual Expense
 - iii. A bar chart with Functional Area and Commitment Items
 - B. All elements will show agency-wide data until we link them the other elements to filter them
2. We'll now create a link between the Fund in table 1 to filter table two and the graph
 - A. Click in field to be passed to the other table (Fund variable) and choose "Linking" then "Add Element Link"
 - B. Then choose the value to pass and click "Next"
 - C. When the "Define Input Control" box appears, you have the option to rename the input control
 - D. Choose the elements that will be affected by the drill (Block 1 (1) – Table 2 and Block 1 (2) – Bar Chart)

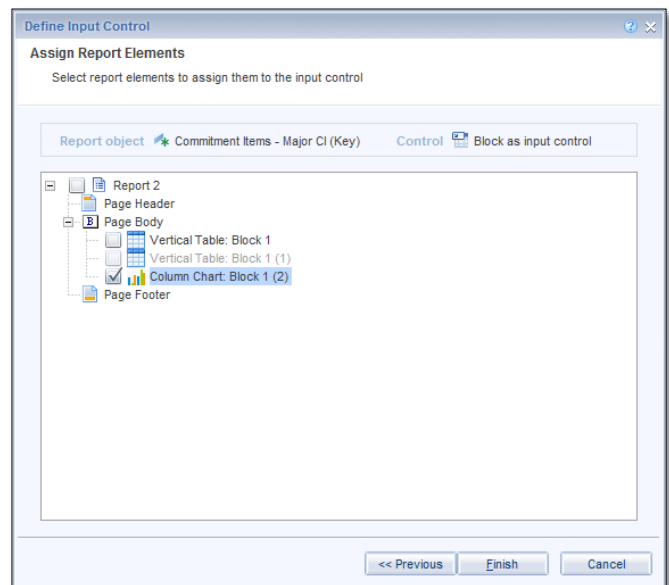
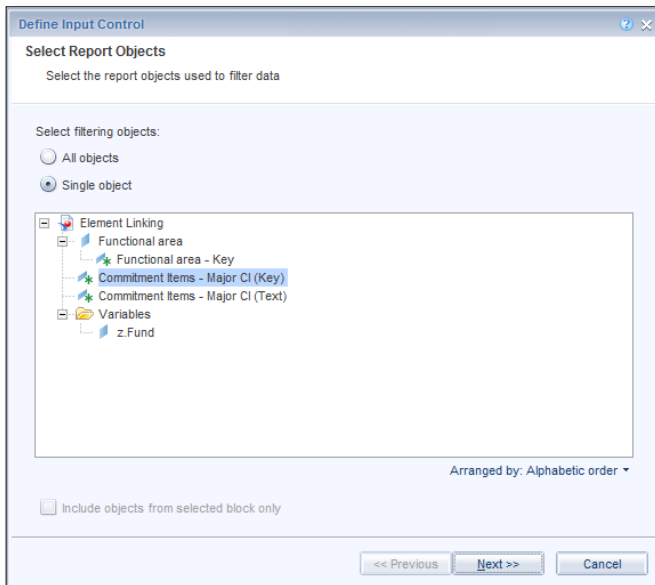


Once you complete these steps, you can now click on a value in table 1 and it will be passed to the other table and graph to filter those results.

Fund - Key (Not Compounded)	Current Budget	YTD Actual Expense	Fund - Key (Not Compounded)	Functional area	Functional a	Commitmen	Commitment Items - Major CI (Text)	Current Budget	YTD Actual Expense
10010000 - GENERAL FUND	68,102,878.78	19,906,879.35	30240000 - HR-PR DEFAULT	DUMMY	HRPAY	513000	EMPLOYER CONTRIB		0.17
10010021 - GENERAL FD - C/F	4,560,352.9		30240000 - HR-PR DEFAULT				Sum:		0.17
30000000 - EARMARKED FUNDS	3,797.87						Sum:		0.17
30240000 - HR-PR DEFAULT		0.17							
30350001 - OP REV- INT SERV FD	35,813,187	6,640,469.48							
30370000 - SPECIAL DEPOSITS	1,500,000	94,230							
30438000 - CAP PROJ-CAP IMP	13,378.44								

You can then place any other element links in your report. To take it a step further, you can link the Commitment Item from the second table to the graph.

1. To create a link between the Commitment Item in table 2 to filter the graph:
 - A. Right-click in the field to be passed to the other table (Commitment Item) and choose "Linking" then "Add Element Link"
 - B. Then choose the value to pass and click "Next"
 - C. When the "Define Input Control" box appears, you have the option to rename the input control
 - D. Choose the elements that will be affected by the drill (Block 1 (2) – Bar Chart)



You can now select the Fund from table 1 and have table 2 and the graph filtered for that Fund, then click on the Commitment Item of the second table to display graphically the expenditures for the Fund of interest by Functional Area for the Major Commitment Item that you selected.

This is just an example of how element linking works, but the possibilities are literally endless...