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# Importing BrioQuery Files

If you want to work with data from more than one database, join a query and a data file, or simply add the results of one query to another, you can import files into the query workspace and query them together. BrioQuery joins rows from your heterogeneous data sources in the Results section.

Imported files appear as topics in the Query workspace, and can be joined together, or to an existing Data Model. Items placed on the Request line of a BrioQuery (.bqy) document appear as topic items in structure view when the file is imported into the master query document.

You can also import Microsoft Excel, and tab and comma delimited text files as query objects. The column headings in your imported file appear as items in the imported file "topic."

**Note** You cannot import 32-bit Microsoft Excel 5.0 files into 16-bit versions of BrioQuery..

You can add items from the imported "topic" to the Request line along with any items from an original Data Model, add limits and process your query. Once retrieved to Results, the data set behaves exactly as if your data was retrieved from a single source.

**Technical Note** Imported files are not linked in the same sense as actual joined topics, since the queries are processed sequentially. Instead, corresponding rows are joined in BrioQuery's desktop data cache, and appear in the Results display as the data set from a single query.

## To import a query object

- 1) Build each query you want to include in your final query document:
  - Verify item data types and associated data values in source documents so you will know how to join them in the master document.
  - Build the Request line, and add server and local limits, data functions and computations to the query as needed.
  - Save the query document.
- 2) Create a new query document.

You can also open an existing document or build or download a Data Model into the new document and add imported queries.
- 3) Choose DataModel > Import BrioQuery File.

The File Open dialog appears.
- 4) Navigate to the BrioQuery file you want to import and click OK.

The imported file appears in the workspace as a topic in Structure view. The items requested in the source document appear as items within the imported "topic."
- 5) Repeat the above steps for each query file you plan to import.
- 6) Join each query file manually by dragging items of like data type from one query to another.
- 7) Build a query by dragging items from imported queries to the Request line.
- 8) Click Process on the Standard toolbar to process the final query.

BrioQuery prompts you to connect to the database to process each successive query.

**Note** If your final query document includes an original Data Model, the query drawn from the Data Model is processed first, followed by the imported query files.

- 9) Enter your database user name and password at each prompt of the Open Catalog Extension dialog, and click OK.

The queries are processed and the data set is assembled in the Results section.

### Notes on Imported Query Objects

Be aware of the following restrictions and tips when importing and using BrioQuery files in your Data Model:

- Treat imported query files as separate Data Models in themselves. The easiest way to use them is to save each query you want to run, and then create a final master document. Import each query, join them together in a linear arrangement in the workspace, and process them one by one.
- You can improve performance of your final master query by viewing unused topics in icon view and removing unused Request items in query object source documents.
- Remember that limits, computations and sort conditions can be applied efficiently in the BrioQuery Results section after queries are processed and rows joined to form the Results set. Using these features after the final query is processed improves performance and reduces consumption of network and database resources.

### Connections

- Files built from different source databases run in sequence when processed and require independent connections. Be sure you have the required OCEs to process each imported query file. If any connection fails, processing is stopped, and no data is retrieved.
- To cancel any query from the master document, choose File > Logoff. This command logs off all current connections maintained by the master query document.

### Joins

- Imported query files can only be joined manually (see "Creating Joins Manually" on page 17-7).
- Make sure the topic items you use to join imported query files are of the same data type and contain corresponding values. Cartesian products of two or more large query objects can unintentionally retrieve enormous data sets. Modify items in query file source documents to verify or change data types of items that will be joined..
- When you process a master query, joined items are added to and hidden on the Request line. BrioQuery uses these items to retrieve the data which allows it to process the join. Note that this has implications when you process an imported query which is aggregated.
- If imported query files are included with a topic, meta topic, or Data Model of joined topics in the workspace, the topic, meta topic, or entire Data Model may be linked to only one query object.
- Multiple imported query files must be joined in linear fashion to form a "chain." You cannot link imported query files together, or to an original Data Model, topic or meta topic in such a way that the schema forms a "loop."
- Imported query files need not be joined. If no joins are made and items from more than one file are queried, the rows from each file will be joined by row number in the results section. For example, the thirty one rows retrieved by the first query will be joined to the first thirty-one rows of the second 100-row query, and rows 32-100 will contain null values.

### Document Handling

- When query files are imported to a document, all information used to process them is read into the new master document, including Request items, server and local limits, computed items, data functions, and saved Results data, if present. The source documents of the imported queries are not linked to and are no longer referenced by the master query document. If changes are made to the source documents, and you want these changes to be reflected in the master document, you must re-import the query file.

- If Results data is saved with a query, which is then imported to a master document, the data is read into the master document, and can be used instead of processing the imported query. However, once imported, the data set from the imported query file is not updated. If you want the imported query to retrieve a fresh data set, you must either allow the imported query to run against the database, or reprocess the source document, save with results and re-import the query..

## Aggregation

- You can apply data functions to source queries and then import them into a master document. However, although the master query may contain items from different imported query objects, you cannot aggregate across the entire master query.
- When an source query is aggregated and then imported, hidden join items on the master document's Request line (see above) can skew your Results data. This is due to the imported query being aggregated before the join is processed. Be careful how you place your joins when importing aggregated queries.

## Applying Limits

- You can apply simple limits to imported query items by dragging them to the Limit line. The resulting limits are local limits, and are applied after the imported query is processed, but before the rows are joined in the Results section. You cannot use a limit on an imported query item in compound limit equations on the Limit line (with AND and OR operators), or as a variable limit.
- Server or local limits set in the source document are applied to the imported query when it is processed in the master document.

## Restricted Features

- You can apply data functions, modify or add computed items, and set variable limits on items in the source document, but not to imported query items in the master document.
- You cannot promote an imported query file to a meta topic, or add items from an imported query file to an existing meta topic.
- If an original Data Model and imported queries are present in the same master document, the following features are applicable only to the topic(s) and items in the original Data Model: Detail and Icon topic views, Modify Topic Properties, Topic Priority, Query Size, and Process Results to Database Table. If you need to use any of these features against topics or items of an imported query file, you can apply them in the source document..
- You cannot apply sort conditions to imported query items or original topic items in the Query section. Instead, apply sort conditions in Results once the queries are joined.
- When you set a limit on an imported query item, you cannot show server values in the Limit dialog, or read limit values from a file.