

## Manipulating Dates

When working with dates in the Results section, often times you may want to create dynamic queries like:

1. Select all the sales records for the current month; or
2. Select all the sales records for last year.

To do this dynamically, I typically create a couple of computed columns, vs. having to specifically set the month or year each time the query is run.,. The following is an example of the Result section for Query 1 referenced above. I created 2 computed columns, **Cur Month Number** and **Select Month**.

Limit	Drag Report Columns here to create Limits								
	Store Name	State Province	Amount Sales	Date	Year	Quarter	Month Number	Cur Month Number	Select Month
1	Super BMV Westwoo	California	\$15,368	01/10/99	1999	Q1	1	1	SelectedMonth
2	Super BMV Westwoo	California	\$9,971	01/10/99	1999	Q1	1	1	SelectedMonth
3	Super BMV Vancouve	British Colum	\$5,072	01/10/99	1999	Q1	1	1	SelectedMonth
4	www.downtownbmvi	Texas	\$49,275	01/10/99	1999	Q1	1	1	SelectedMonth
5	Super BMV Vancouve	British Colum	\$12,650	01/10/99	1999	Q1	1	1	SelectedMonth
6	Super BMV Westwoo	California	\$10,999	01/10/99	1999	Q1	1	1	SelectedMonth

o create a computed item, **select any column (or white space) > Right Click for Speed Menu > select Add a Computed Item** Fill it out using the diagram below.

The first computed Column **Cur Month Number** is filled out as follows:

Name = **Cur Month Number**

Definition = **Substr ( ToChar ( Sysdate(), "mm/dd/yyyy"), 1, 2 )**

Notice:

- **sysdate()** is a local Brio Function that returns the current date.
- **ToChar ( Sysdate(), "mm/dd/yyyy")** changes the date into a string with the format as defined in the double quotes.

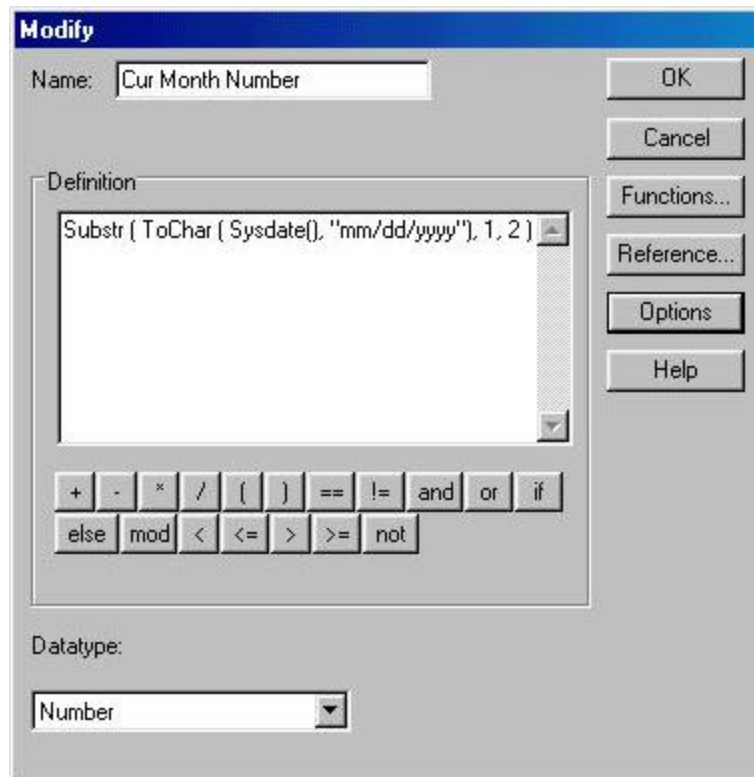
- **Substr ( ToChar ( Sysdate(), "mm/dd/yyyy"), 1, 2 )** takes a sub-string of the date. In this case, just the month. If you wanted just the year, you would use **7,4** instead of **1,2**.
- These functions can be found under the **Functions** button on the **Modify** Panel. Remember the spelling and capitalization does matter.

The second computed Column **Select Month** is filled out as follows:

Name = **Select Month**

Definition = **if (Month\_Number== Cur\_Month\_Number ){"SelectedMonth" }**

After **Select Month** is created, it can be used to limit creating a dynamic report of current month only.



To create a similar report showing only last year's data, you can create 2 similar computed items.

The first Computed Column **Last Year** is filled out as follows:

Name = **Last Year**

Definition = **Substr ( ToChar ( Sysdate(), "mm/dd/yyyy"), 7,4 ) - 1** (Notice: the -1, subtracts a year from the current year giving last year)

The second Computed Column **Selected Year** is filled out as follows:

Name = **Selected Year**

Definition = **if (Year == Last\_Year ) {"Selected Year" }**

This newscast demonstrates a general way of manipulating dates that may be used for any dates. I have found that working with dates can be very difficult. It seems the way dates are stored is different than I expect, consequently, I get unpredictable results. The manipulating of the dates in this way has made it easier to do comparison logic with dates.

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