

Data Tables: how does data get assigned to and displayed in reporting periods?

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First, the system looks at the Date column that you defined in your data table indicator's mapping. (This is part of why we require the date column in data tables!)

Based on that date, the system checks the start and end dates for reporting periods in your system:

- If it only finds a single reporting period that the data fits in, it puts it there.
- If it finds multiple reporting periods that the data fits in, it will check the overall *length* of the reporting periods and put the data in the *shortest* reporting period.

If that doesn't make sense, let's consider a couple examples:

Sample Data

Let's say that I have a really simple data table set up to track people I've trained:

Sample Data

First Name	Last Name	Sex	Training Date	Location	Training Type
Bob	Partner	Male	15 January 2015	Client Site A	Administrator
Bob	Partner	Male	22 January 2015	Client Site A	Trainer
Ophelia	Williams	Female	15 April 2015	Client Site B	Administrator
Bernard	Doe	Male	15 April 2015	Client Site B	Administrator
Jane	Doe	Female	1 July 2015	Client Site C	Trainer
John	Doe	Male	1 July 2015	Client Site C	Trainer

I have one data table indicator set up that is doing a **Count Unique** against the combination of First Name + Last Name: *# of people trained in DevResults*.

Why count unique? Because if I trained the same person twice in different training types (such as Bob Partner), **I don't want to double-count that person** .

Example 1: Consecutive Reporting Periods

First, let's suppose that I have these reporting periods:

Example Reporting Periods #1

Title	Start Date	End Date
2015 Semi-Annual 1	1 January 2015	30 June 2015
2015 Semi-Annual 2	1 July 2015	31 December 2015

Notice that these reporting periods have no overlap in dates; they are consecutive: where one ends, the next begins.

In this scenario, since there's no overlap in reporting period dates, there's really no question about where my data goes:

- **2015 Semi-Annual 1:** 3 people trained
- **2015 Semi-Annual 2:** 2 people trained

Example 2: Overlapping Reporting Periods

Now, let's assume the exact same data table rows and indicator, but these reporting periods:

Example Reporting Periods #2

Title	Start Date	End Date
2015 Q1	1 January 2015	31 March 2015
2015 Q2	1 April 2015	30 June 2015
2015 Q3	1 July 2015	30 September 2015
2015 Q4	1 October 2015	31 December 2015
2015 Semi-Annual 1	1 January 2015	30 June 2015
2015 Semi-Annual 2	1 July 2015	31 December 2015

Note that there are overlaps in the dates here: 2015 Semi-Annual 1 dates **include** dates for 2015 Q1 and 2015 Q2.

In this scenario, since the reporting periods have overlapping dates, the system looks at overall length. Here, my quarterly reporting periods are the shortest, and so my data will be displayed there:

- **2015 Q1:** 1 person trained
- **2015 Q2:** 2 people trained

- **2015 Q3:** 2 people trained

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