



Mark Warren

Manager – Operational Excellence Group

/anaplan



3 easy steps to follow if you want to improve your model performance"

Golden Rules

Calculate once and refer many times

- Avoid repetition!
- Why calculate the same thing in multiple places when we can avoid it
- Use System modules learn how to DISCO

Calculate at lowest cell count possible

- Why calculate more than we need to?
- Calculate over just the dimension the formula applies to
- Break up formulas to calculate at the right cell count for each part

Test as you go!

- Spotting poor performance early makes it easier to address
- Test different ways of achieving the same goal
- Test and prove optimizations

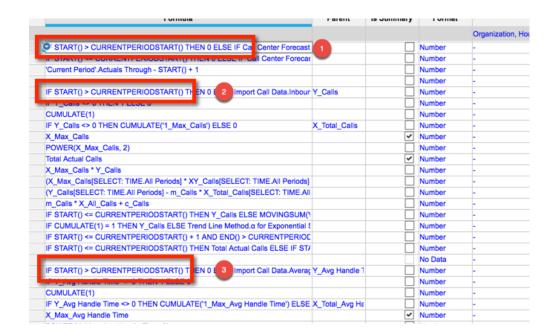
Repetition

- Where it occurs
 - Generally find it within the same module
 - Between similar modules and functional areas
 - Simple common elements like list items and dates
 - Conditional checks are a common area
- Why is it bad?
 - Because it is a calculation we can avoid
 - They add up, increasing overall calculation time
 - Can lead to more recalculation

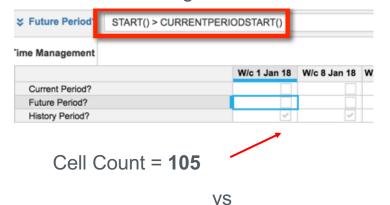
Common example of repeated functions

- ITEM(X)
- NAME(ITEM(X))
- CODE(ITEM(X))
- PARENT(ITEM(X))
- START()
- END()
- ITEM(Time) = TIME.'Current Period'
- CURRENTPERIODSTART() < START()
- Boolean checks in IF statements





Use a Time Management Module



99.9% reduction in calculated cells

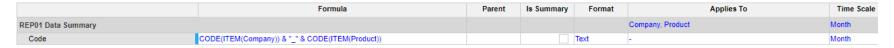
280,908 x 3 = **842,724**

	Formula
all Data Forecast	
Override Call Flag	IF Time Management.Future Period? 1 HEN 0 ELSE IF Call C
Override Avg Handle Time Flag	IF START() <= CURRENT PERIODSTART() THEN 0 ELSE IF
Distance from Actuals	'Current Period'.Actuals Through - START() + 1
-	
Total Actual Calls	IF Time Management.Future Period? HEN 0 ELSE Import C
1_Max_Calls	IF Y_Calls <> 0 THEN 1 ELSE 0
X_All_Calls	CUMULATE(1)
X_Max_Calls	IF Y_Calls <> 0 THEN CUMULATE('1_Max_Calls') ELSE 0
X_Total_Calls	X_Max_Calls
X_Sqr_Calls	POWER(X_Max_Calls, 2)
Y_Calls	Total Actual Calls
XY_Calls	X_Max_Calls * Y_Calls
m_Calls	(X_Max_Calls[SELECT: TIME.All Periods] * XY_Calls[SELEC
c_Calls	(Y_Calls[SELECT: TIME.All Periods] - m_Calls * X_Total_Call
E(Y) - Straight Line_Calls	m_Calls * X_All_Calls + c_Calls
E(Y) - Moving Average_Calls	IF START() <= CURRENTPERIODSTART() THEN Y_Calls E
E(Y) - Exponential Smoothing_Calls_Formula	IF CUMULATE(1) = 1 THEN Y_Calls ELSE Trend Line Metho
E(Y) - Exponential Smoothing_Calls	IF START() <= CURRENTPERIODSTART() + 1 AND END():
Total Inbound	IF START() <= CURRENTPERIODSTART() THEN Total Actu
Total Actual Avg Handle Time	F Time Management.Future Period? THEN 0 ELSE Import C
1_Max_Avg Handle Time	IF Y_AVg Handle Time <> 0 THEN 1 ELSE 0
X_All_Avg Handle Time	CUMULATE(1)
X_Max_Avg Handle Time	IF Y_Avg Handle Time <> 0 THEN CUMULATE('1_Max_Avg



A common example is adding text together to form a unique code

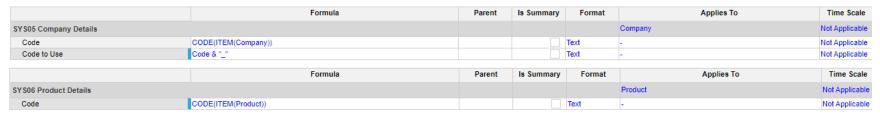
In this case we are adding a Company code to Product code with an underscore separator



There are two text additions here (two &'s) done at a combined cell count of 128,895,624

- Product has 3531 items
- Company has 1014 items

So we do one text addition at the lowest cell count possible with no timescale



Note that both are done in System modules for each list (DISCO)

The main formula is now

	Formula	Parent	Is Summary	Format	Applies To	Time Scale
REP01 Data Summary					Company, Product	Month
Code	'SYS05 Company Details'.Code to Use & 'SYS06 Product Details'.Code			Text	-	Month



We can take it a step further here...

The formula does not apply to time

Jan 14	Feb 14	Mar 14	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14
840_1274	840_1274	840_1274	840_1274	840_1274	840_1274
840_5337	840_5337	840_5337	840_5337	840_5337	840_5337
840_6990	840_6990	840_6990	840_6990	840_6990	840_6990
840_4184	840_4184	840_4184	840_4184	840_4184	840_4184
840_1501	840_1501	840_1501	840_1501	840_1501	840_1501
840_1580	840_1580	840_1580	840_1580	840_1580	840_1580
840_8034	840_8034	840_8034	840_8034	840_8034	840_8034
840_1900	840_1900	840_1900	840_1900	840_1900	840_1900

Doing the calculation without a timescale reduces cell count to 3,580,434

	Formula	Parent	Is Summary	Format	Applies To	Time Scale
REP01 Data Summary					Company, Product	Month
Code Optimised	SYS05 Company Details'.Code to Use & 'SYS06 Product Details'.Code			Text	-	Not Applicable
Code	Code Optimised			Text	-	Month

- The first example calculation took 5.68 sec
 - (two text additions at 128,895,624 cells)
- The last example took 0.52 sec
 - (one text addition at 3,580,434 cells)
- 91% reduction in duration

- 1. Identifying large formulas
- 2. How to edit large formulas
- 3. Splitting up formulas to reduce repetition and complexity
- 4. Testing the optimizations
- 5. Performance analysis



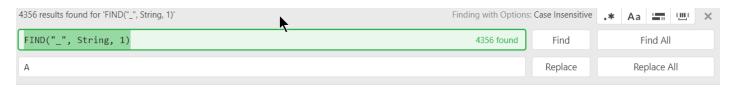
Taking a complex formula (small part shown here 3,504 characters of 273,668)

(IF ISNOTBLANK(LEFT(String, FIND(" ", String, 1) - 1)) THEN LEFT(String, FIND(" ", String, 1) - 1) ELSE String) & (IF LENGTH(MID(String, FIND(" ", String, 1) + 1, IF FIND(" ", String, 1)) < 0 THEN 1000 ELSE FIND("), String, LENGTH(LEFT(String, FIND(" ", String, 1)) > 0 THEN 1000 ELSE FIND("), String, 1)) > 0 THEN BLANK ELSE " & MID(String, FIND(" ", String, 1)) + 1, IF FIND(" ", String, 1) + 1)) - LENGTH(LEFT(String, FIND(" ", String, 1)) > 0 THEN BLANK ELSE " " & MID(String, FIND(" ", String, 1)) + 1, IF FIND(" ", String, LENGTH(LEFT(String, FIND(" ", String, 1)) + 1)) > LENGTH(LEFT(String, FIND(" ", String, 1)) + 1)) & (IF MID(String, FIND(" ", String, 1)) + 1)) & (IF MID(String, LENGTH(IF ISNOTBLANK(LEFT(String, FIND(" ", String, 1) + 1)) - LENGTH(LEFT(String, FIND(" ", String, 1)) + 1)) & (IF MID(String, FIND(" ", String, 1)) + 1)) & (IF MID(String, FIND(" ", String, 1)) + 1)) & (IF MID(String, FIND(" ", String, 1)) + 1)) & (IF MID(String, FIND(" ", String, 1)) + 1)) & (IF MID(String, FIND(" ", String, 1)) & (IF MID(", Strin

Finding and highlighting repeated parts in the text editor

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(IF ISNOTBLANK(LEFT(String, FIND("_", String, 1) - 1)) THEN LEFT(String, FIND("_", String, 1) - 1) ELSE String) & (IF LE LENGTH(LEFT(String, FIND("_", String, 1) + 1))) - LENGTH(LEFT(String, FIND("_", String, 1))) < 0 THEN 1000 ELSE FIND("_", LENGTH(LEFT(String, FIND("_", String, 1))) < 0 THEN 1000 ELSE FIND("_", String, LENGTH(LEFT(String, FIND("_", String, 1))) + 1)) THEN LEFT(String, FIND("_", String, 1) + 1)) THEN LEFT(String, FIND("_", String, 1) + 1)) - LENGTH(LEFT(String, FIND("_", String, 1))) < 0 THEN LENGTH(LEFT(String, FIND("_", String, 1))) < 0 THEN 1000000 ELSE FIND("_", String, LENGTH((IF ISNOTBLANK(LEFT(String, FIND("_", String, 1) + 1))) - LENGTH(LEFT(String, FIND("_", String, 1) + 1)) THEN LEFT(String, FIND("_", String, 1) + 1))) - LENGTH(LEFT(String, FIND("_", String,
```

- Using the Find or Count function od the editor to look for part with most repetitions
- Replacing that part with a reference to a new line item named A



Repeating until all repetition is removed...

Optimised Formula	C&D&G&H&K&M	Text
Substitute Function	SUBSTITUTE(String, "_", " ")	Text
A	FIND("_", String, 1)	Number
В	FIND("_", String, LENGTH(LEFT(String, A + 1))) - LENGTH(LEFT(String, A))	Number
С	IF ISNOTBLANK(LEFT(String, A - 1)) THEN LEFT(String, A - 1) ELSE String	Text
D	IF LENGTH(MID(String, A + 1, IF B < 0 THEN 1000 ELSE B)) = 0 THEN BLANK E	Text
E	LENGTH(C & D & MID(String, A + 1, IF B < 0 THEN 1000 ELSE B - 1)) + 2	Number
F	MID(String, E, IF FIND("_", String, E) - E <= 0 THEN 1000000 ELSE FIND("_", Str	Text
G	MID(String, A + 1, IF B < 0 THEN 1000 ELSE B - 1)	Text
Н	IF F = BLANK THEN BLANK ELSE " " & F	Text
T	LENGTH(C & D & G & H) + 2	Number
J	MID(String, I, IF FIND("_", String, I) - I <= 0 THEN 1000000 ELSE FIND("_", String	Text
К	IF J = BLANK THEN BLANK ELSE " " & J	Text
L	MID(String, LENGTH(C & D & G & H & K) + 2, 10000)	Text
M	IF L = BLANK THEN BLANK ELSE " " & L	Text

- Calculation analysis comparison of calculation times before and after
- Test by comparing formulas and how long did it take before and after

Calc	Calculations by Line Item					
	Module 🗘	Line Item ÷	Total calculation time (ms) 🗢	% of total calculation time 🤄		
1	Complexity	Original Formula	1,170,317.36	96.93		
2	Complexity	В	5,580.09	0.46		
3	Complexity	F	5,160.04	0.43		
4	Complexity	String	5,079.23	0.42		
5	Complexity	A	4,738.79	0.39		
6	Complexity	G	3,483.94	0.29		
7	Complexity	D	3,392.21	0.28		
8	Complexity	Substitute Function	3,289.74	0.27		
9	Complexity	С	2,866.46	0.24		
10	Complexity	L	1,414.55	0.12		
11	Complexity	Н	616.94	0.05		
12	Complexity	Optimised Formula	462.33	0.04		

Key takeaways

- Large performance gains can be made
- Using a text editor can aid in finding repetition
- The gain in model size can be worth it for the improved performance
- Difficult to write an optimized formula testing and optimising after build is key

Where it occurs

- Multiple functions in one line item
- Nested IF statements
- Copy and pasted or Excel formula generation

Why is it bad?

- Large calculations
- Frequent recalculation
- Difficult logic to understand & maintain

User makes a cell change



Products.Purchase Price[SUM: Region] + Marketing.Total Costs[SUM: Region] / Sales.Total Sales[LOOKUP: Region] * (Currency Modifier.USD / 1000)

In this scenario all four functions will recalculate if any reference changes

Calculation Time: 30,320 ms + 29,780 ms + 21,320 ms + 4560 ms = 85,980 ms

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Functions split out to their own line items

A = Products.Purchase Price[SUM: Region]

B = Marketing.Total Costs[SUM: Region]

C = Sales.Total Sales[LOOKUP: Region]

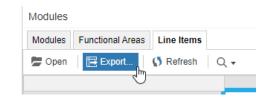
D = (Currency Modifier.USD / 1000)

If B, Marketing Costs, is the only reference affected by the changes then only this calculates A + B / C * D

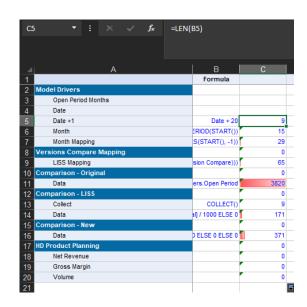
Calculation Time: 1 ms + 29,780 ms + 1 ms + 1 ms = 29,783 ms

Giving us a 65% reduction in calculation time!

Export the line items from settings



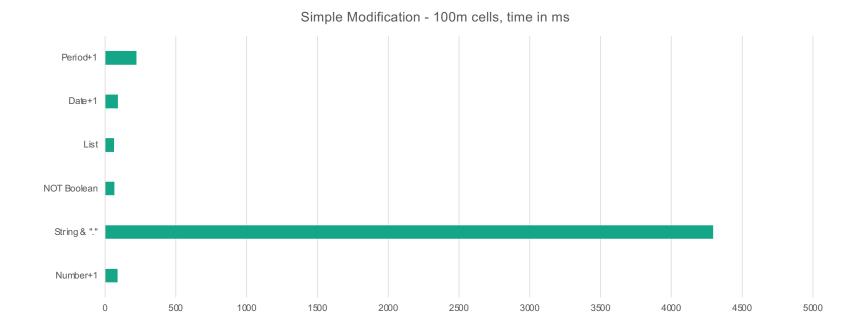
- Create a column in the export to check formula length using: =LEN(B3)
- Anything longer than 500 to 1000 characters is worth looking at
- Combine with cell count to work out which line items to focus on first





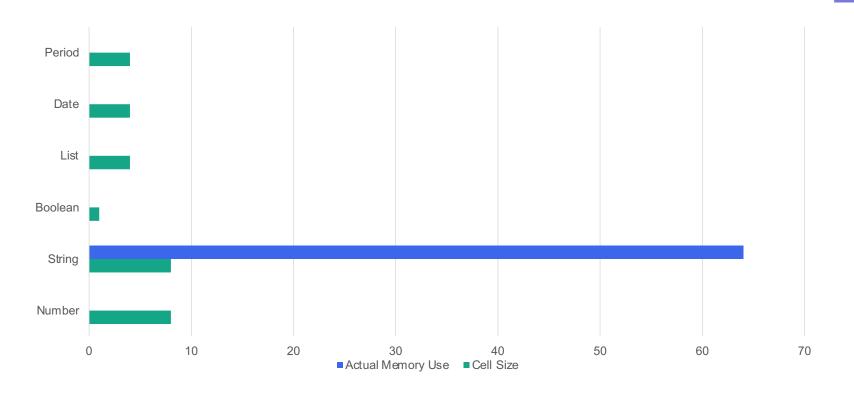
Text Concatenation

Modification Performance

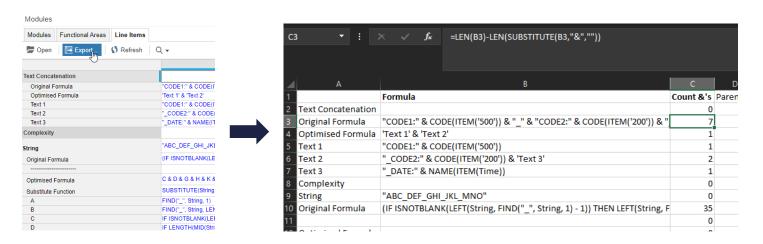


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Memory Use



Finding text concatenation



Excel formula for & count:

=LEN(B3)-LEN(SUBSTITUTE(B3,"&",""))

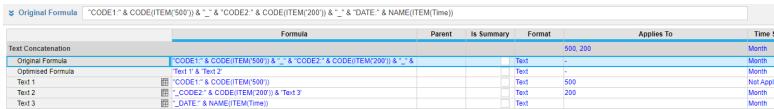
Combine with formula length and cell count to decide which line items to focus on first

- 1. Identifying text concatenation formulas
- 2. Splitting formulas to calculate at lowest cell count possible
- 3. Testing the optimization
- 4. Performance analysis



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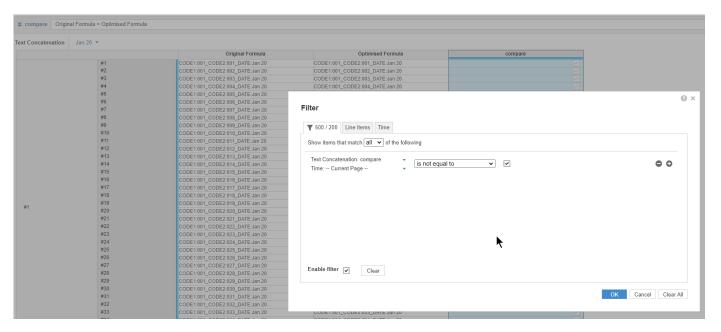
- Breaking down formula (at each applies to)
- "CODE1:" & CODE(ITEM('500')) & "_" & "CODE2:" & CODE(ITEM('200')) & "_" & "DATE:" & NAME(ITEM(Time))



New line items with lowest cell counts possible

Cell Count
2,402,912
1,200,000
1,200,000
500
2,400
12

- Test optimisation compare original and optimised
- Filter out any items that don't match should be none



Performance analysis

Ca	Calculations by Line Item						
	Module ÷	Line Item ÷	Total calculation time (ms) 🗢	% of total calculation time 🗦			
1	Text Concatenation	Original Formula	22,253.84	90.29			
2	Text Concatenation	Optimised Formula	2,170.20	8.81			
3	Text Concatenation	Text 3	120.56	0.49			
4	Text Concatenation	Text 1	56.31	0.23			
5	Text Concatenation	Text 2	45.60	0.19			

Key takeaways

- Text formula performance is poor
- Combine as many text parts as possible
- Split apart by each 'applies to'
- Use System modules where possible



Session takeaway

- Following the golden rules will lead to improvements
- Use Excel to analyse blueprints
- Learn to use the text editor to break down formulas

Key factors in reducing formula complexity

- Calculate once and refer many times
- Calculate at lowest cell count possible

Don't forget

Test as you go!

Further reading

- https://community.anaplan.com/t5/Best-Practices/Reduce-Calculations-for-Better-Performance/ta-p/33667
- https://community.anaplan.com/t5/Best-Practices/Formula-Optimization-in-Anaplan/tap/41663
- https://community.anaplan.com/t5/Best-Practices/Formula-Structure-for-Performance/tap/33177
- **PLANS** https://community.anaplan.com/t5/Best-Practices/PLANS-This-Is-How-We-Model/ta-p/33530
- **DISCO** https://community.anaplan.com/t5/Best-Practices/Best-Practices-for-Module-Design/ta-p/35993
- Planual https://community.anaplan.com/t5/Best-Practices/The-Planual/ta-p/49773
- My text editor https://atom.io/

Exercise 1

- An empty model with the complex formula
- Try to recreate the demo by finding repeated elements in a text editor and populating the model
- Remember to add in a line item to compare the results

	Formula	Parent	Is Summary	Format	
Complexity					1000, 500
String	"ABC_DEF_GHI_JKL_MNO"			Text	-
Original Formula	(IF ISNOTBLANK(LEFT(String, FIND("_", String, 1) - 1)) THEN LEFT(String, FIND			Text	-
				No Data	-
Optimised Formula				Text	-
A				Number	-
В				Number	-
С				Text	-
D				Text	-
E				Number	-
F				Text	-
G				Text	-
Н				Text	-
T.				Number	-
J				Text	-
K				Text	-
L				Text	-
M				Text	-

Exercise 2

- Add the line items needed to separate out the text concatenation
- Remember to change dimensions to get lowest cell counts
- Use a line item to compare the two formulas

	Formula	Parent	Is Summary	Format	Applies To
Text Concatenation					500, 200
Original Formula	"CODE1:" & CODE(ITEM('500')) & "_" & "CODE2:" & CODE(ITEM('200')) & "_" &			Text	-
Optimised Formula				Text	-

