

Knowledge Base Article: Article 236

How to use an URL bigger than 255 characters with WebQuery and Excel

Date: June 6th, 2012

1. Description:

From the Click&DECiDE Web Portal you can copy the WebQuery URL corresponding to a Query and paste this URL inside Excel using the command Data > From Web. This is described in detail in the Click&DECiDE BAI Web Portal User Guide, page 37, that you can download from:

http://www.clickndecide.com/sites/default/files/assets/files/resources/clickndecide_bai_web_portal_user_guide_0.pdf

But the URL cannot be used if the size is bigger than 255 characters.

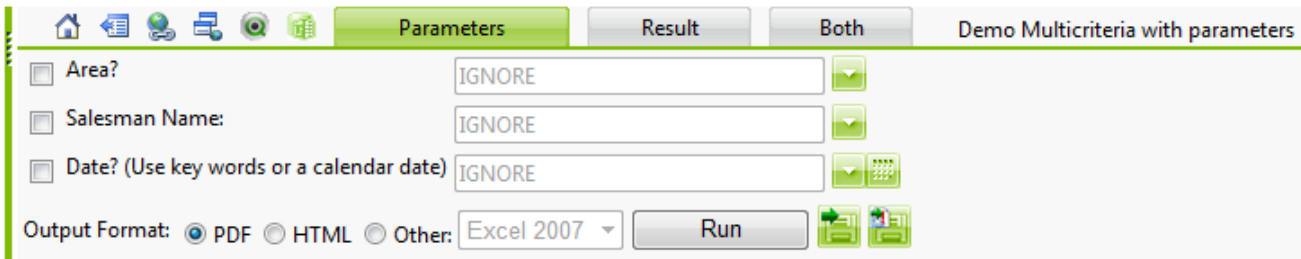
A workaround is given in this FAQ to be able to use WebQuery URL bigger than 255 characters.

This manual will give an example using the Demo_Multicriteria query given in the BAI Demonstration Menu.

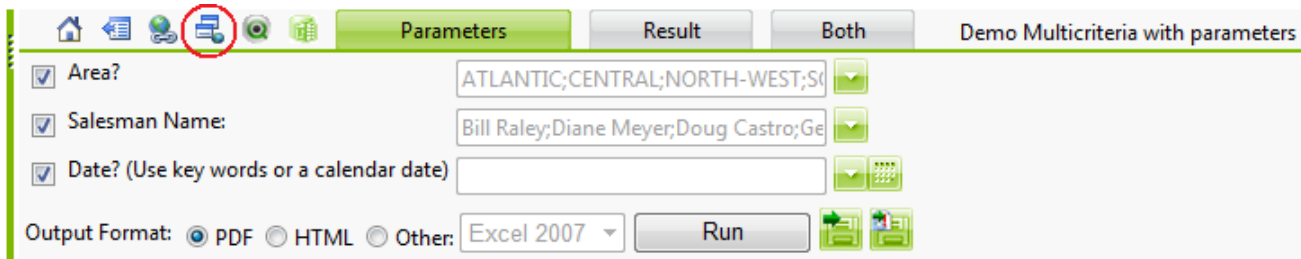
2. Select the Query to be used and copy the WebQuery URL

To generate the Web Query URL, please follow the steps below.

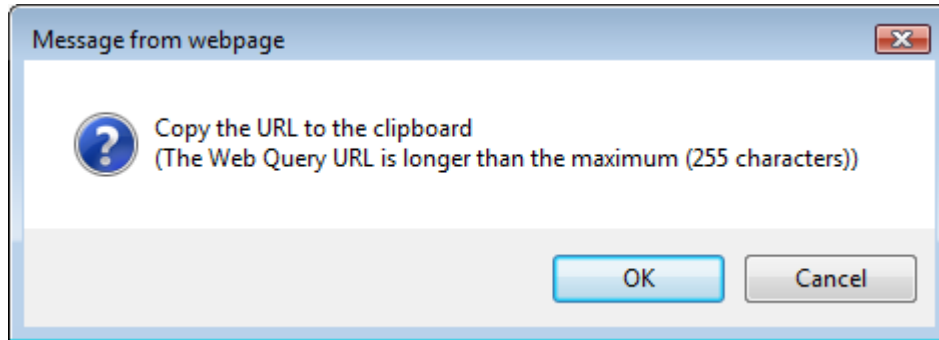
1. Click the BAI Demonstration menu in the Web Portal.
2. Select the Dynamic Queries branch.
3. Select the “Demo Multicriteria with parameters” query.



To get a very long URL we are going to define several values for the Area parameter and the Salesman Name parameter, such as this example: all areas are selected and all salesmen are selected. Only the Date parameter remains selected but empty:



4. Now click the icon to copy the WebQuery URL (in the red circle)
5. You should get a message saying that the URL is too long:

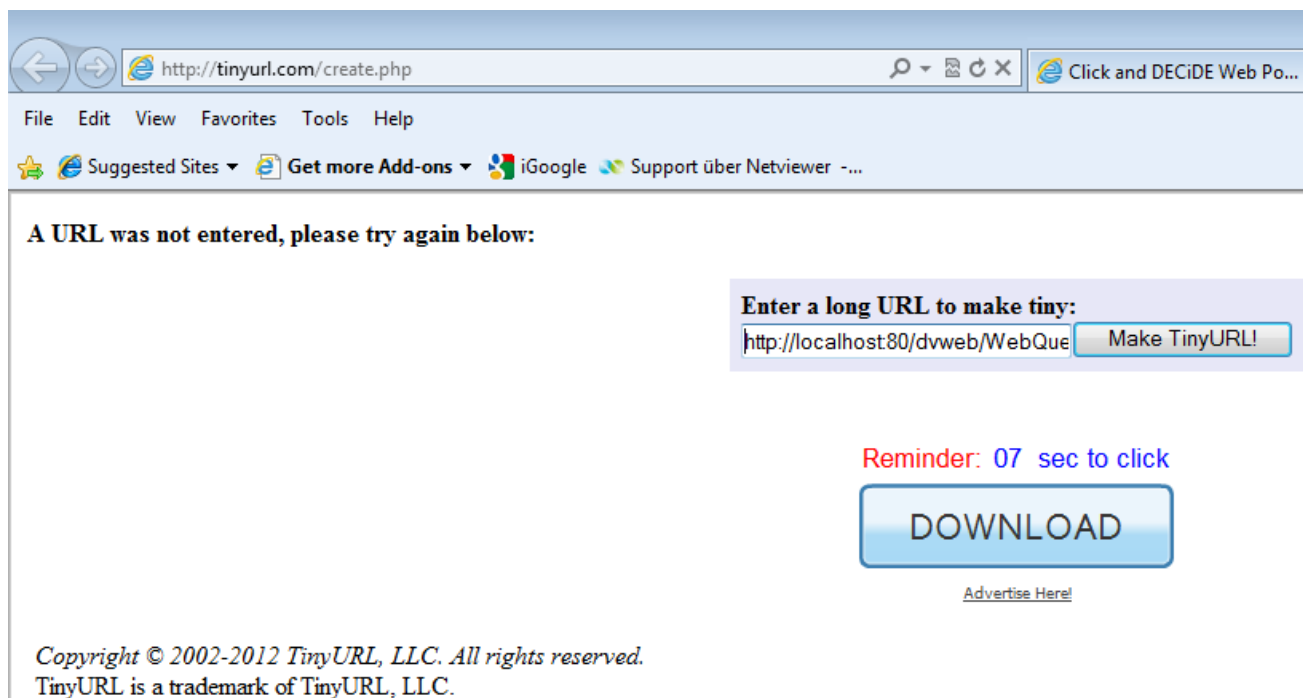


6. Click OK to validate
7. Optional: you can copy this URL into an editor to check the length: this one is 407 characters!

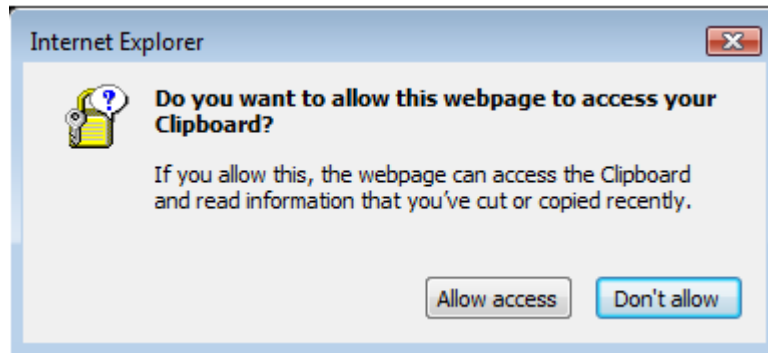
`http://localhost:80/dvweb/WebQuery.ashx?__ma=BAI+Demonstration&__mi=2274&AREA_PARAM=ATLANTIC%3bCENTRAL%3bNORTH-WEST%3bSOUTH%3bWEST&SALNAME_PARAM=Bill+Raley%3bDiane+Meyer%3bDoug+Castro%3bGeorges+Dunel%3bJames+Smith%3bJean+Martin%3bJim+Baxter%3bJohn+Brown%3bJon+Kramer%3bKaren+Walker%3bKim+Johnson%3bRic+Smith%3bRobert+Salta%3bSanders+Wanda%3bSandra+Davis%3bTim+Rosenberg&P_DATE=[\"P_DATE\", \"P_DATE\"]&__lg=en-US`

3. Transform this URL using TinyURL

1. Open a new window in your browser and copy this URL: <http://tinyurl.com/create.php>



2. Copy the WebQuery URL in the “Enter a long URL to make tiny” box and click the **Make TinyURL!** Button
3. You may get a warning security message such as:



4. Click Allow access to continue
5. You will get the result as follow:

TinyURL.com

Making over a billion long URLs usable! Serving billions of redirects per month.

- [Home](#)
- [Example](#)
- [Make Toolbar Button](#)
- [Redirection](#)
- [Hide URLs](#)
- [Preview Feature^{cool!}](#)
- [Link to Us!](#)
- [Terms of use](#)
- [Contact Us!](#)

TinyURL was created!

The following URL:

```
http://localhost:80/dvweb/WebQuery.ashx?
__ma=BAI+Demonstration&__mi=2274&AREA_PA
RAM=ATLANTIC%3bCENTRAL%3bNORTH-WEST%3bSO
UTH%3bWEST&SALNAME_PARAM=Bill+Raley%3bDi
ane+Meyer%3bDoug+Castro%3bGeorges+Dunel%
3bJames+Smith%3bJean+Martin%3bJim+Baxter
%3bJohn+Brown%3bJon+Kramer%3bKaren+Walke
r%3bKim+Johnson%3bRic+Smith%3bRobert+Sal
ta%3bSanders+Wanda%3bSandra+Davis%3bTim+
Rosenberg&P_DATE=["P_DATE","P_DATE"]&_I
g=en-US
```

has a length of 407 characters and resulted in the following TinyURL which has a length of 26 characters:

```
http://tinyurl.com/catyguc
\[Open in new window\]
```

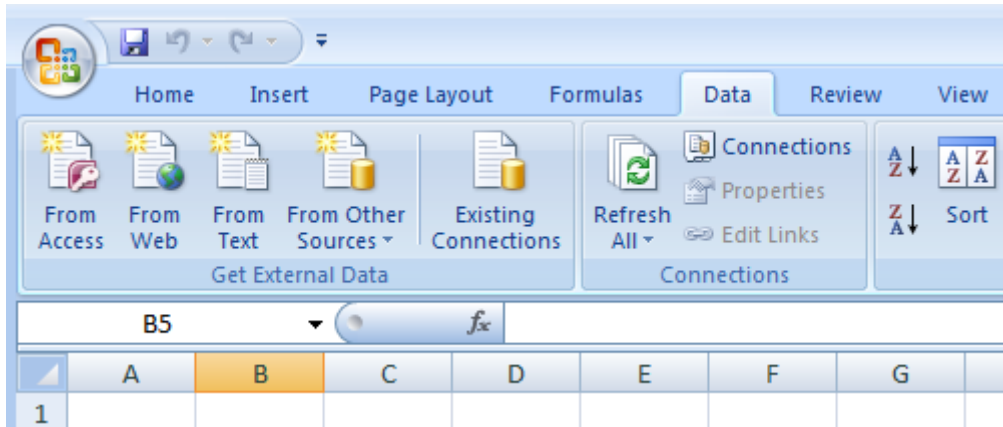
Note that the short URL has been copied to your clipboard automatically. If you lost it, or if you did not click Allow access to the previous message, you can manually copy again the above dynamic URL such as

<http://tinyurl.com/catyguc>

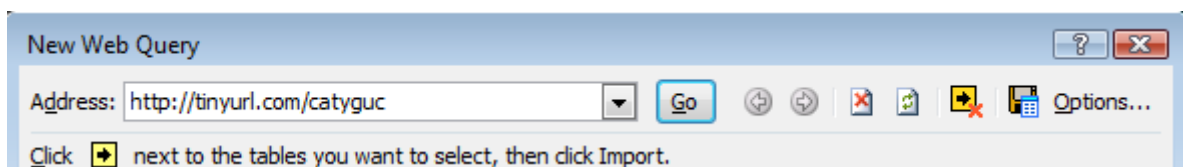
4. Use the TinyURL in Excel to import the WebQuery:

To build an Excel page, please follow the steps below.

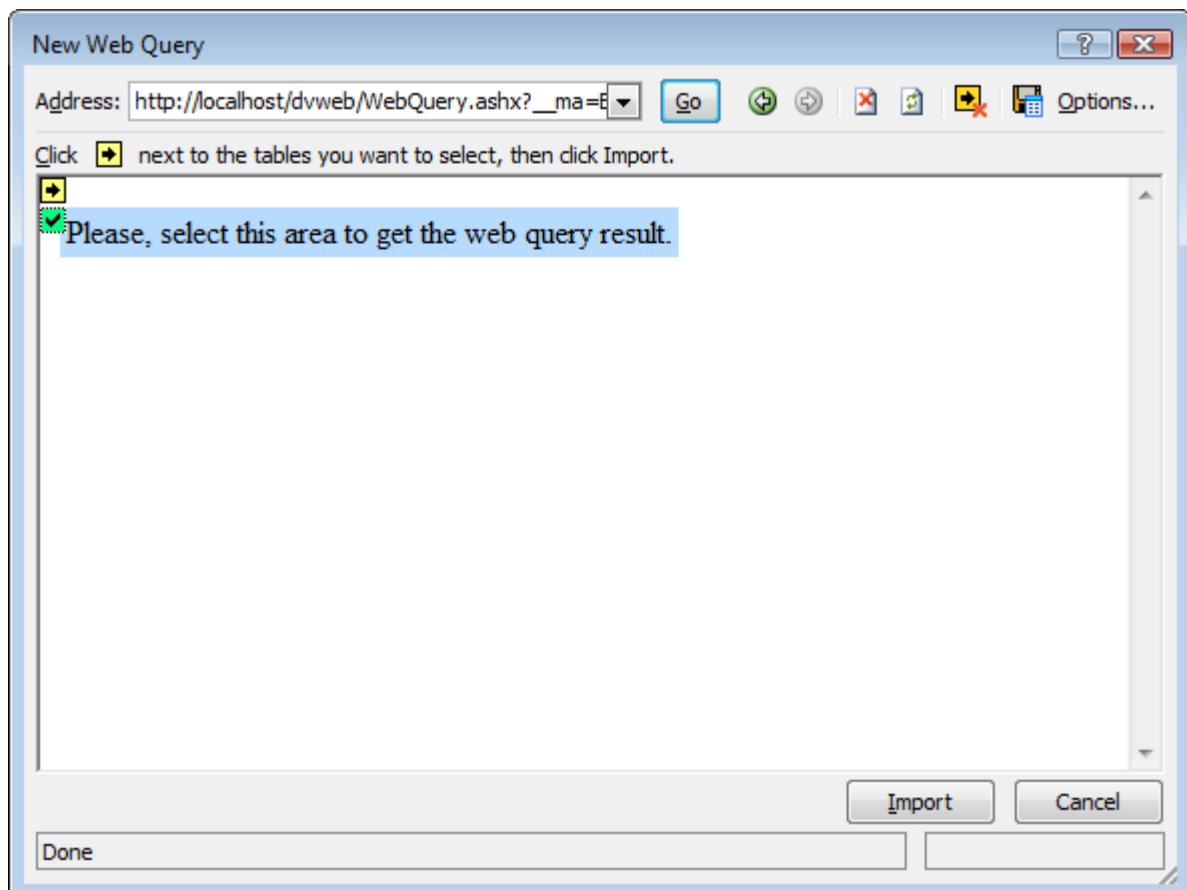
1. Open Excel.
2. Create a new document.
3. Go to the cell **B5** for example.
4. Select the **Data** tab.
5. Click the **From Web** button.



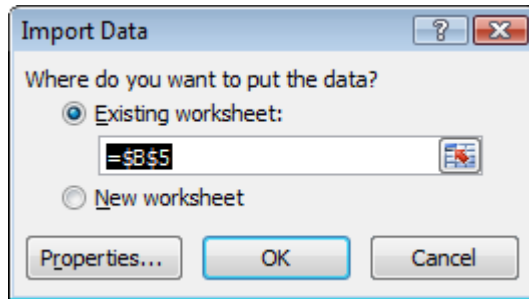
- Paste your **TinyURL** into the Address field in the **New Web Query** dialog box.



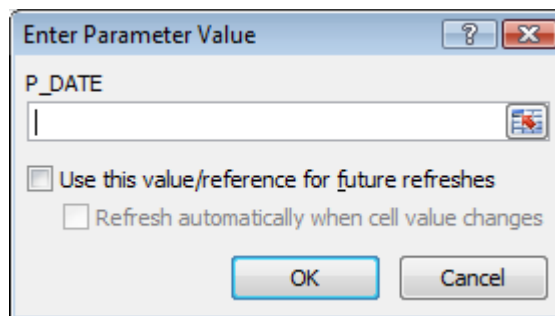
- Click **Go**, then select the yellow arrow before the text **“Please, select this area to get the web query result”**. The arrow becomes green:



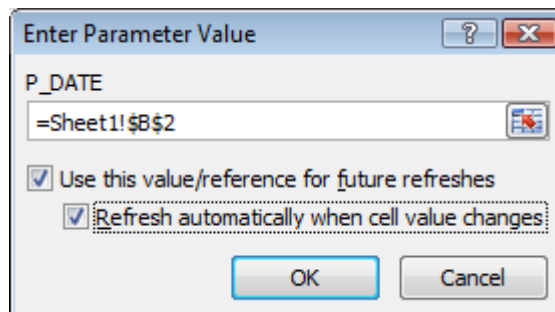
8. Click **Import**.
9. Select the target top left corner for the data result, example cell B5:



10. Click OK to confirm the starting cell.
11. As the Date is an empty not defined parameter, you will get this dialog:



12. Click the cell B2 to define the location for the Date parameter value.
13. Validate and check on the 2 options:



14. Click OK.
15. The result will appear from cell B5 on the rows below and right columns

| | A | B | C | D | E | F |
|----|--------|------------|------|---------------|-------------------|---------|
| 1 | | | | | | |
| 2 | Period | Q4 2011 | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | |
| 5 | | Area | Code | Salesman name | Date | Amount |
| 6 | | ATLANTIC | 4 | Diane Meyer | 13/10/11 12:00 AM | 67712 |
| 7 | | ATLANTIC | 18 | Tim Rosenberg | 13/10/11 12:00 AM | 78634 |
| 8 | | NORTH-WEST | 1 | Bill Raley | 21/10/11 12:00 AM | 66975 |
| 9 | | NORTH-WEST | 1 | Bill Raley | 21/10/11 12:00 AM | 56640 |
| 10 | | NORTH-WEST | 11 | Jon Kramer | 8/10/11 12:00 AM | 137082 |
| 11 | | NORTH-WEST | 11 | Jon Kramer | 8/10/11 12:00 AM | 150589 |
| 12 | | NORTH-WEST | 11 | Jon Kramer | 13/11/11 12:00 AM | 58545 |
| 13 | | NORTH-WEST | 11 | Jon Kramer | 13/11/11 12:00 AM | 69924,5 |
| 14 | | SOUTH | 16 | Kim Johnson | 16/11/11 12:00 AM | 50289,5 |
| 15 | | SOUTH | 16 | Kim Johnson | 16/11/11 12:00 AM | 40065 |
| 16 | | WEST | 14 | Doug Castro | 27/10/11 12:00 AM | 130982 |
| 17 | | WEST | 14 | Doug Castro | 27/10/11 12:00 AM | 144184 |
| 18 | | WEST | 14 | Doug Castro | 4/11/11 12:00 AM | 142364 |

16. Any date value, or date keyword, entered in cell B2 will refresh the data

| | A | B | C | D | E | F |
|----|--------|------------|------|---------------|------------------|---------|
| 1 | | | | | | |
| 2 | Period | January | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | |
| 5 | | Area | Code | Salesman name | Date | Amount |
| 6 | | CENTRAL | 9 | John Brown | 10/1/12 12:00 AM | 223333 |
| 7 | | CENTRAL | 9 | John Brown | 26/1/12 12:00 AM | 212550 |
| 8 | | CENTRAL | 9 | John Brown | 26/1/12 12:00 AM | 230236 |
| 9 | | CENTRAL | 17 | Sanders Wanda | 10/1/12 12:00 AM | 208749 |
| 10 | | NORTH-WEST | 11 | Jon Kramer | 24/1/12 12:00 AM | 320677 |
| 11 | | WEST | 14 | Doug Castro | 28/1/12 12:00 AM | 254394 |
| 12 | | WEST | 14 | Doug Castro | 29/1/12 12:00 AM | 240069 |
| 13 | | WEST | 7 | Georges Dunel | 24/1/12 12:00 AM | 245322 |
| 14 | | WEST | 15 | Ric Smith | 24/1/12 12:00 AM | 37275 |
| 15 | | WEST | 15 | Ric Smith | 25/1/12 12:00 AM | 47499,5 |
| 16 | | WEST | 2 | Sandra Davis | 8/1/12 12:00 AM | 67523,2 |
| 17 | | WEST | 2 | Sandra Davis | 9/1/12 12:00 AM | 77115,6 |
| 18 | | WEST | 2 | Sandra Davis | 26/1/12 12:00 AM | 229858 |