“How can I use the CUBESET function in Excel to retrieve data from an OLAP cube?”

Authored by

stats writer

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The CUBESET function in Excel is a powerful tool that allows users to retrieve data from an Online Analytical Processing (OLAP) cube. OLAP cubes are databases designed for multidimensional data analysis and provide a fast and efficient way to store and analyze large amounts of data. By using the CUBESET function, users can specify which data they want to retrieve from the OLAP cube and in what format, allowing for customized and detailed analysis. This function is particularly useful for businesses and organizations that deal with complex data sets and require in-depth analysis for decision making. By understanding how to use the CUBESET function, users can unlock the full potential of OLAP cubes and make more informed and strategic decisions.

This article describes the formula syntax and usage of the **CUBESET** function in Microsoft Excel.

Description

Defines a calculated set of members or tuples by sending a set expression to the cube on the server, which creates the set, and then returns that set to Microsoft Excel.

Syntax

CUBESET(connection, set_expression, , ,)

The CUBESET function syntax has the following arguments:

Connection Required. A text string of the name of the connection to the cube.

Set_expression Required. A text string of a set expression that results in a set of members or tuples. Set_expression can also be a cell reference to an Excel range that contains one or more members, tuples, or sets included in the set.

Caption Optional. A text string that is displayed in the cell instead of the caption, if one is defined, from the cube.

Sort_order Optional. The type of sort, if any, to perform and can be one of the following:

Integer	Enumerated constant	Description	Sort_by argument
0	SortNone	Leaves the set in existing order.	Ignored
1	SortAscending	Sorts set in ascending order by sort_by.	Required
2	SortDescending	Sorts set in descending order by sort_by.	Required
3	SortAlphaAscending	Sorts set in alpha ascending order.	Ignored
4	Sort_Alpha_Descending	Sorts set in alpha descending order.	Ignored

Integer	Enumerated constant	Description	Sort_by argument
5	Sort_Natural_Ascending	Sorts set in natural ascending order.	Ignored
6	Sort_Natural_Descending	Sorts set in natural descending order.	Ignored

The default value is 0. An alpha sort for a set of tuples sorts on the last element in each tuple. For more information on these different sort orders, see the Microsoft Office SQL Analysis Services help system.

Sort_by Optional. A text string of the value by which to sort. For example, to get the city with the highest sales, set_expression would be a set of cities, and sort_by would be the sales measure. Or, to get the city with the highest population, set_expression would be a set of cities, and sort_by would be the population measure. If sort_order requires sort_by, and sort_by is omitted, CUBESET returns the #VALUE! error message.

Remarks

When the CUBESET function evaluates, it temporarily displays a "#GETTING_DATA..." message in the cell before all of the data is retrieved.

If the connection name is not a valid workbook connection stored in the workbook, CUBESET returns a #NAME? error value. If the Online Analytical Processing (OLAP) server is not running, not available, or returns an error message, CUBESET returns a #NAME? error value.

If the set_expression syntax is incorrect or the set contains at least one member with a different dimension than the other members, CUBESET returns a #N/A error value.

If set_expression is longer than 255 characters, which is the limit for an argument to a function, CUBESET returns a #VALUE! error value. To use text strings longer than 255 characters, enter the text string in a cell (for which the limit is 32,767 characters), and then use a cell reference as the argument.

CUBESET may return a #N/A error value if you reference a session-based object, such as a calculated member or named set, in a PivotTable when sharing a connection, and that PivotTable is deleted or you convert the PivotTable to formulas. (On the **Options** tab, in the **Tools** group, click **OLAP Tools**, and then click **Convert to Formulas**.)