

QRG 13: Improving DSS Performance

Running DSS requires significant PC processing power and random access memory (RAM). If you experience unusual symptoms while working with the DSS, such as not being able to save a report, or having a PC “crash,” you may need to try some or all of the steps listed below to run DSS more efficiently.

Work “defensively”

If you do crash or experience other memory-related problems, you will need to re-boot your PC and you will lose any unsaved work. So, before you experience problems, get in the habit of working “defensively.” As with “defensive driving” in your car, work so that the damage is minimal when bad things happen. Save your work every few minutes, or after making significant changes to a report that you do not want to re-create.

Keep reports “lean”

Limit the number of dimension categories in a Reporter Mode report by deleting unnecessary rows, columns, and layers. As a general rule, keep your reports as “lean” as possible, with only the categories you really need.

Reboot

Even if you haven't crashed, rebooting can free up system resources. One symptom of low memory – and an approaching PC crash – is that some menu selections, such as “File / Save As,” stop working.

Do not use the “DSS Desktop”

Open your report or cube directly using Cognos PowerPlay. The DSS Desktop uses extra memory. If you don't know the report and cube file names associated with the standard report you need, see QRG 7: DSS Standard Reports.

Do not run other applications while using Cognos PowerPlay

Even when minimized, other applications such as Excel, Word, or a mainframe terminal session, use system resources. Open other applications only when needed.

Be sure that you have plenty of room on your C: drive

Windows is often configured to use space on C: drive to manage your PC's memory operations. If your C: drive is getting full, Windows cannot manage memory well. If data files on C: are no longer needed, delete them. If the files are still needed, move them to a LAN drive or to a backup medium such as tape or CD.

Empty your Windows Recycle Bin regularly

Copy the cube you need to your C: drive

Working from the C: drive of your PC avoids the network traffic and computing resources needed to work with a cube located on your LAN server. Remember that a cube on your C: drive will not be updated. To get the latest data, just copy the latest version of the cube you need from the LAN server to your C: drive.

Reduce the number of Undo levels

From the File menu, select Preferences / Options, then set “Maximum number of Undo actions” to 5. (The default is 25.)

Turn off Zero Suppression while working in Cognos PowerPlay

If you need to use Zero Suppression for a printed report, turn it on just before printing, then turn it off again after printing.