

USER GROUP SESSION SUMMARY

Joins vs. Unions: Mastering BI

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OVERVIEW:

This User Group session focused on the difference between joins and unions in Business Intelligence. Our presenter, Sability's Susan Finley, provided live demonstrations and shared her knowledge on BI and tips for using joins and unions.

SUMMARY:

Joins and unions are used when data from two or more queries, or from multiple sources (i.e., audit table and job table), need to be pulled together in an organized format. How the data needs to be organized will dictate using a join versus a union. Joins are the most common, with the end result combining columns (data items) to the final query from two separate queries. An example is a join of platform configuration data to employee job data. With unions, the end result will combine rows of data to the final query from two or more separate queries. An example is the monthly headcount for a full year.

TIPS FOR JOINS & UNIONS:

Joins: Inner joins include only matches between both queries. Left outer joins include all from the primary query and only matches from the secondary query.

Unions: The key to a successful union is a successful data match. Both queries must have the same number of data items, the same order for each data item, and the same type of data item. Without these, an incompatibility error will occur.



PRESENTER



SUSAN FINLEY

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USER GROUP:

If you're interested in participating in our next User Group session, join our LinkedIn Group "Sability UKG User Group" or reach us at customersuccess@sability.com