

Craig and Steve's Tip of the Day: Day 1

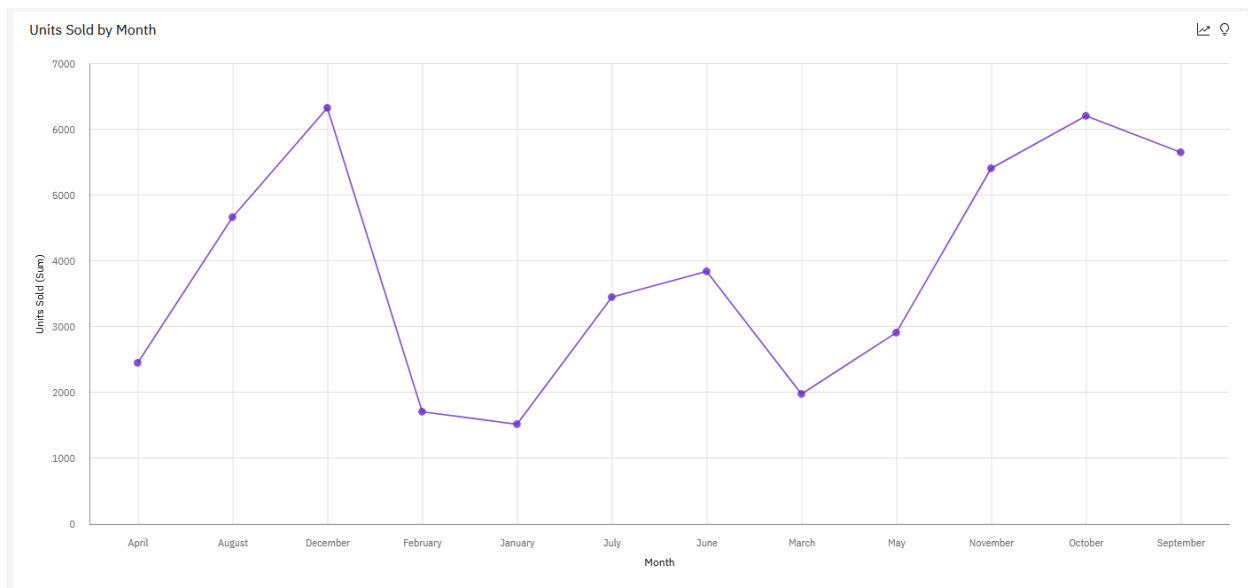
How to Sort One Column Based on Values in Another Column (11.2)

May 19, 2021

Beginner

IBM Cognos Analytics 11.2.0

In a data module, suppose you have a column for Month. If you simply drop that column onto a Line visualization on a dashboard, by default the months will be sorted alphabetically:



If you would like to display the months in chronological order, you can sort the Month column by another column (e.g. Month Number).

Step 1

In your data, ensure that you have both a *Month* column and an associated *Month Number* column:

	A	B	C	D
1	Year	Month	Month Number	Units Sold
2	2020	January	1	1509
3	2020	February	2	1698
4	2020	March	3	1967
5	2020	April	4	2451
6	2020	May	5	2909
7	2020	June	6	3844
8	2020	July	7	3447
9	2020	August	8	4665
10	2020	September	9	5652
11	2020	October	10	6196
12	2020	November	11	5409
13	2020	December	12	6324

Step 2

To display the months in their correct chronological order, open the data module, select *Month*, and open the Properties:

The screenshot shows the IBM Cognos Analytics interface. On the left, the 'Data module' pane shows a tree view with 'Month' selected, indicated by a red arrow. The main area displays a grid with columns: Row Id, Year, Month, Month Number, and Units Sold. The grid contains 12 rows of data for the year 2020, with months listed from January to December. On the right, the 'Properties' pane is open, showing the 'General' tab. The 'Members' property is set to 'Automatic', 'Sort by' is 'Month', and 'Order' is 'Ascending'. These three properties are highlighted with a red box.

Row Id	Year	Month	Month Number	Units Sold
1	2020	January	1	1509
2	2020	February	2	1698
3	2020	March	3	1967
4	2020	April	4	2451
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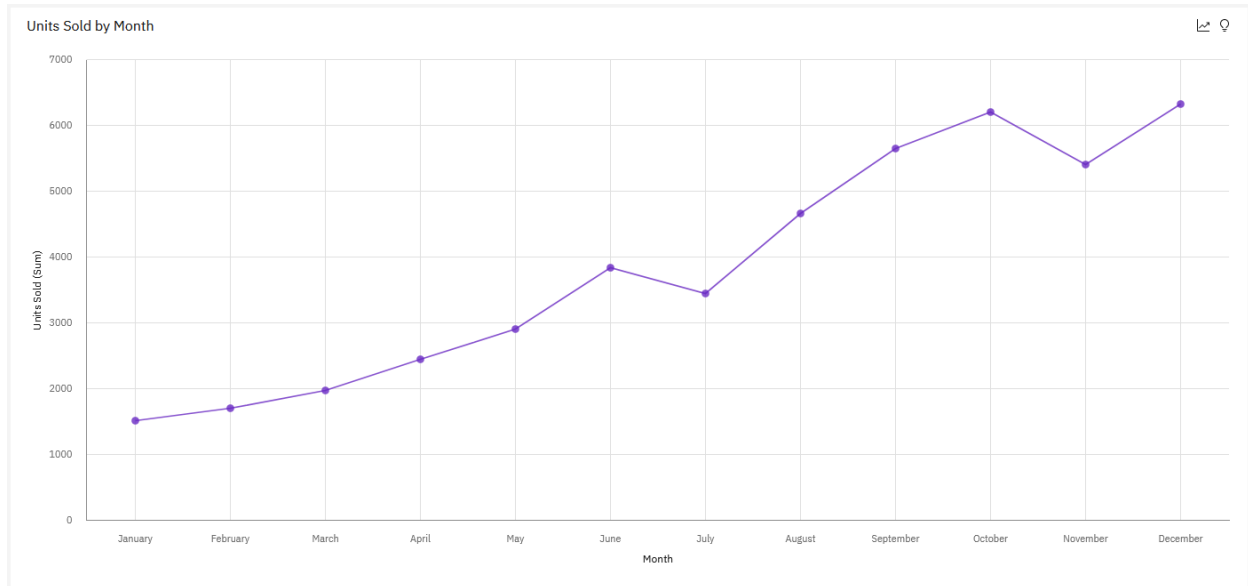
Change the *Members* property to *Enabled*. Change *Sort by* to *Month Number*:

Members	Enabled	▼
Sort by	Month Number	▼
Order	Ascending	▼

Finally, save the data module.

Step 3

Now when you create a dashboard or report, the months will be displayed in their correct chronological order because they are now being sorted in ascending order by their number:



For more information, see [Sorting](#).

Note: A similar procedure can also be used in IBM Cognos Analytics 11.1.7 and below.