

My Parameters panel is empty: “You have no parameters defined”

When users run a report using the [Relative Dates](#) feature (YTD, MTD, etc), they may be confused if they see that the *My parameters* panel is not asking them for an As Of Date, even though the `_as_of_date` global parameter has been [created](#) by the Administrator:

The screenshot shows the IBM Cognos Analytics interface. A red arrow points to the 'My parameters' label in the top right corner. The report content includes a 'Sales Overview' section with KPIs, a 'YTD Sales by State' bar chart, and a 'YTD Sales by Dealer' table.

Sales Overview

967 YTD	1,024 Prior YTD	-5.9 % Change
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YTD Sales by State

State	YTD Sales
Saskatchewan	263
Labrador	190
Beaufort	109
Chempain	94
Hudson	20

YTD Sales by Dealer

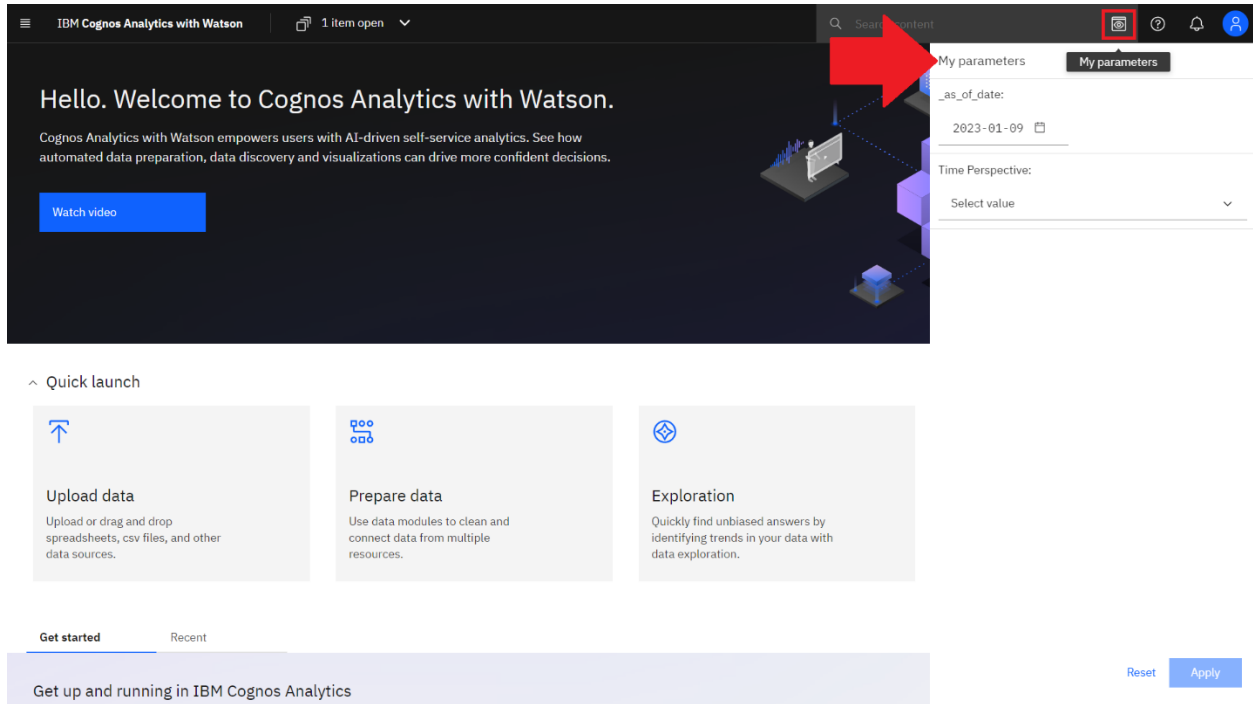
Dealer Name	State	City	Address	Zip Code	YTD (Sales)	Prior YTD (\$)
Broadway Auto	Colorado	Littleton	6300 S Broadway	80120	139	

My parameters

You have no parameters defined

Reset Apply

However, if the same users go back to the *Home* screen, they are able to set a value, and it will be used the next time they run the report:



Problem

It can be inconvenient for users if they must go back to the *Home* screen every time they want to change the reference date.

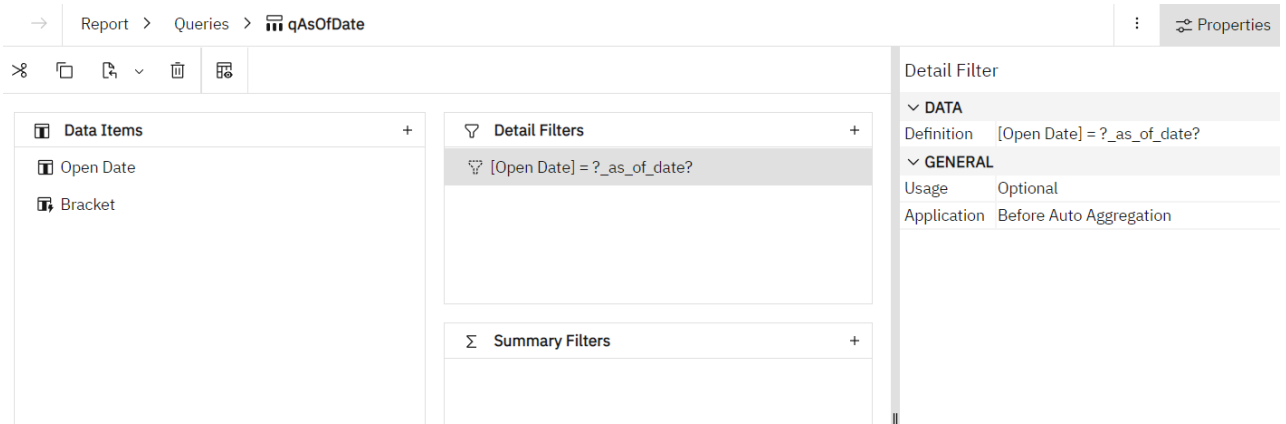
Solution

If you want your users to be able to see/set the parameters in the *My Parameters* screen **every time they run the report**, at least one query in the report itself must ask for that parameter in a filter.

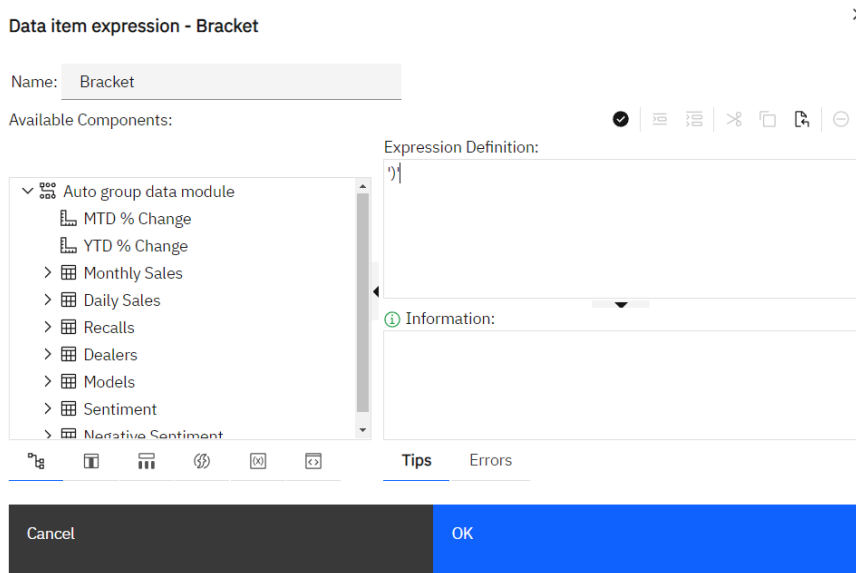
The filter should be optional or else the user will be asked to provide a value each time the report is run. The query must be associated with a data container (e.g. a Singleton) in order to be registered at run time.

For example, in the sample report named **Relative dates on a report**, we created two supplemental queries (*qAsOfDate* and *qTimePerspective*) that contain optional filters and are associated with Singletons.

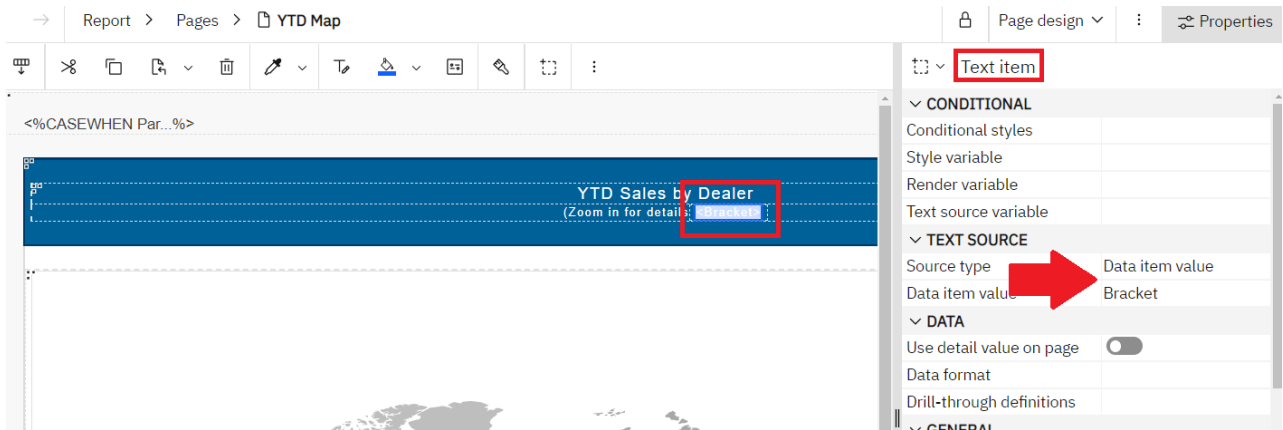
The first query, *qAsOfDate*, contains two data items and an optional Detail Filter that uses the parameter *_as_of_date*.



The data item named *Bracket* is a *Query calculation* that simply returns a text string with an end parenthesis:



On the report page named *YTD Map*, we inserted a Singleton in the visualization's title, set it to use `qAsOfDate`, and added a Text Item to bring in the value of Bracket:



As a result, any time a user runs the sample report named **Relative dates on a report**, they will be able to open the *My parameters* panel and set a value for each global parameter:

