InstantAtlas™ Designer

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1. Introduction

The InstantAtlas Designer is a tool for changing the design of an InstantAtlas dynamic report. You change the design of a report for the following reasons:

1) To change the visibility, layout, text, colours and configuration of existing report components (maps, tables, charts, buttons, etc)
2) To insert components that we have made invisible by default (e.g. the advanced pie chart) or insert your own buttons, text or images.

The Designer allows you to design a report that you are in the process of publishing or have already published. The design for an InstantAtlas report is saved in a configuration file called 'config.xml'.

Every report has a 'config.xml' file. This is located in the output folder for the report (along with the other files making up the report) and is in XML format. XML stands for Extensible Markup Language and is a flexible format for storing, structuring and publishing information. It is important to realise that the config.xml file is specific to a given version of a given InstantAtlas template (see Section 5 for more information).

We recommend that you follow the instructions in the InstantAtlas Getting Started document prior to reading this document. You can find this in the 'documentation' folder created during the installation of your InstantAtlas software. The default location for this is the following:

C:\Program Files\GeoWise\InstantAtlas\documentation

When designing your report you should be aware of the type of computer monitor screen that the majority of your end-users will be using. In particular, the minimum screen resolution of the monitor used by your audience is very important. Many web designers currently ensure their interfaces are readable at a minimum screen resolution of 1024 x 768 pixels. In many cases modern PC screens support much higher screen resolutions. If you are developing a report for relatively widespread usage (particularly if it is exposed to an external citizen audience) then we would recommend you set your monitor screen to 1024 x 768 pixels and then open InstantAtlas Designer to create your layout. This will ensure that the report is well laid out for the maximum number of end-users. Alternatively, create your report then change your screen resolution to 1024 x 768 to check that your report design is acceptable.
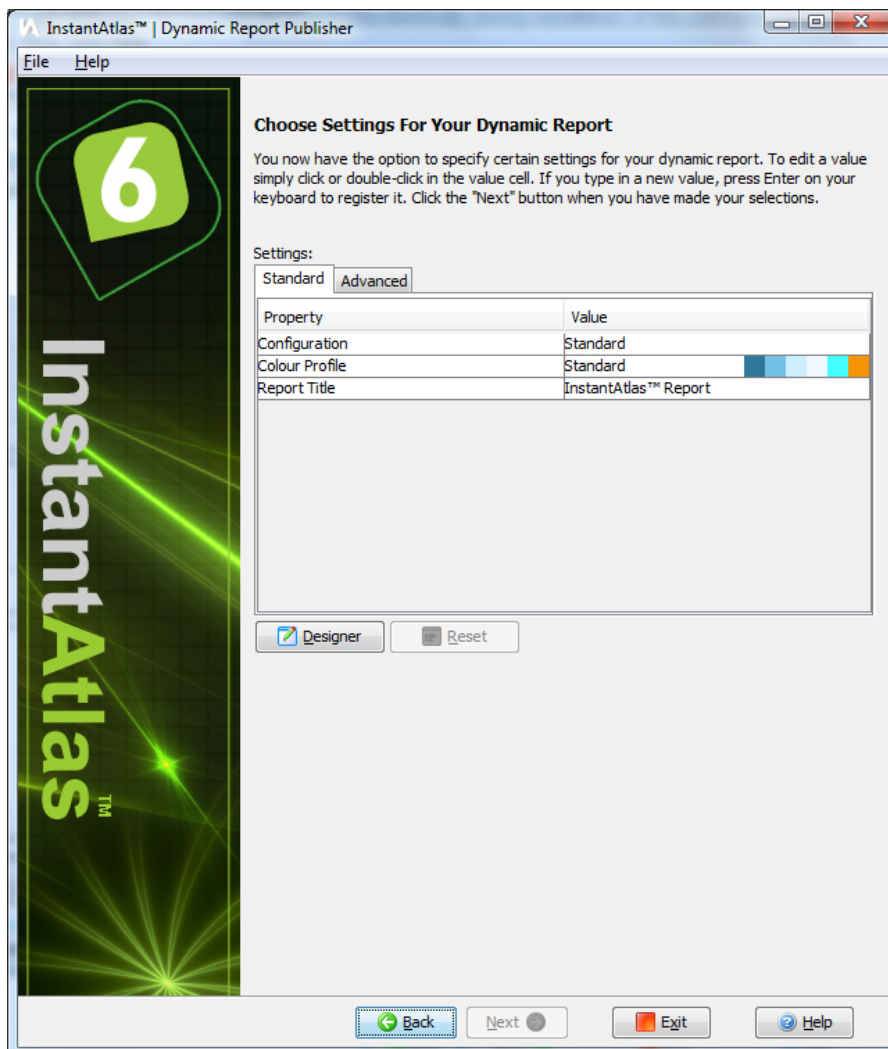
2. Starting the Designer

The Designer can be started in one of several ways. We recommend that you edit the configuration of your report after it has been published. Start the Designer by clicking 'InstantAtlas Desktop Edition, InstantAtlas Designer' in the Windows Start menu or by clicking the 'InstantAtlas Designer' icon on your desktop. If you chose not to create shortcuts during installation of the software, browse to the 'InstantAtlasDesigner.exe' file (by default this will have been installed in C:\Program Files\GeoWise\InstantAtlas) and double click it. The Designer will open with a blank canvas and you will then be able to open the configuration file of your report.

Alternatively you can browse to the output folder of a published report, right-click on the configuration file (called config.xml) and choose the Edit with InstantAtlas Designer option.

If you wish to apply a design to a report that you are in the process of publishing, the Designer can be started from the 'Choose Settings for Your Dynamic Report' screen of the Publisher. Click the 'Designer' button located below the 'Settings' table (Figure 1).

Figure 1

The Designer will open and the interface will automatically show the configuration file for the report you are in the process of publishing.
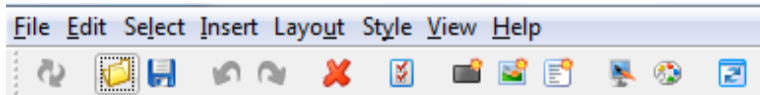
3. The Designer window

The Designer has menus, a toolbar and a canvas. The menus and toolbar give you access to the various functions, such as opening a configuration file, and the canvas allows you to view the various template components (e.g. map, data table, bar chart, bar chart title, etc.).

3.1.   Menus and toolbar

Figure 2 shows the Designer menus and toolbar.

Figure 2

The menus and toolbar give you easy access to the Designer options. You can access a menu by clicking on it or holding down Alt on your keyboard and pressing the underlined character in the menu name. For example, you can hold down Alt and press F to access the File menu. Note that these keyboard shortcuts exist for many functions in the Designer. If you hold your mouse pointer over an option in any of the drop down menus, a tooltip will appear. Similarly, if you hold your mouse pointer over an icon in the toolbar, a tooltip will appear. Note that if you open the Designer independently of the Publisher, the 'Apply' option (first icon in the toolbar) will be greyed out – this is normal as 'Apply' is only relevant if you have opened the Designer from the Publisher.
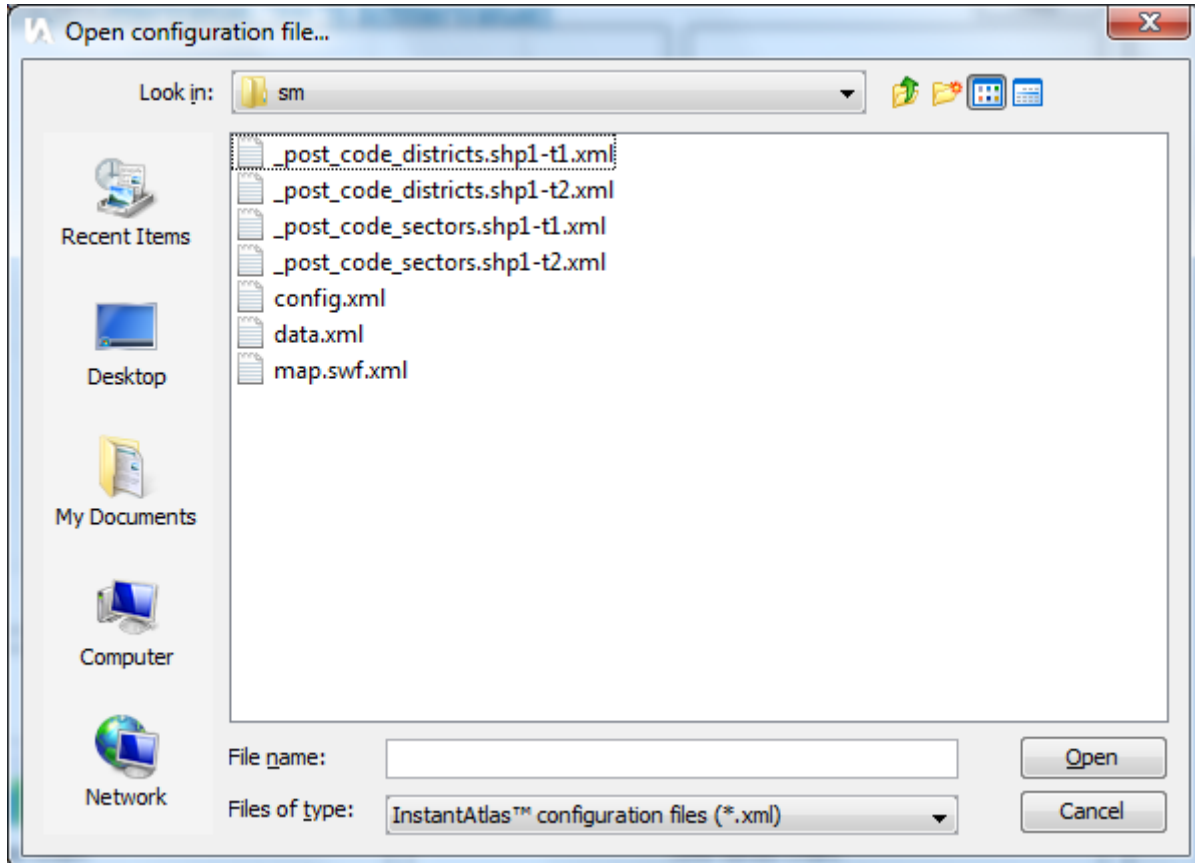
The "Refresh Internet Explorer preview panel", which can be found on the far right of Figure 2 will refresh the dynamic report image in the Preview Panel below the dynamic report canvas.

3.1.1.   File

Open

Click 'Open' and the 'Open configuration file' dialog will appear (Figure 3). Alternatively hold down Ctrl and press O on your keyboard. Choose the file (called 'config.xml') for the report you wish to change and click 'Open'.

Figure 3

Save

Click 'Save' to save changes to the configuration file you are changing. Alternatively hold down Ctrl and press S on your keyboard. When restarted, the dynamic report will reflect any changes that you have made to its configuration file.

Save As

Click 'Save As' if you wish to save your changes to a new configuration file. Alternatively hold down Ctrl and Shift and press S on your keyboard, the 'Save configuration file as' dialog will open (Figure 4). Browse to the folder in which you wish to save your new configuration file, type a name in the 'File Name' box and click 'Save'.

Figure 4

This option is useful if you wish to save different designs for a report. Simply save the different configuration files to the report's folder with names such as 'config1.xml', 'config2.xml', 'config3.xml', etc. Once you have saved these files, you simply choose which one is active by renaming it 'config.xml'. This is because by default an InstantAtlas report looks for a configuration file in its folder called 'config.xml' and will ignore any others.

Revert

Click 'Revert, To Template' if you wish to return to the original design, thereby reversing any changes you have made. Click 'Revert, To File' if you wish to return to the design as it was when you last clicked 'Save'.

Apply

This option is only available if you opened the Designer from the Publisher. Click 'Apply' when you have made all of your design changes. The changes will be applied to the configuration file of the report you are publishing and the Designer will close.

Recent Files

Click 'Recent File' to access a list of recently opened files.

Close

Click 'Close' to close the Designer. If you have not saved your changes, you will be prompted to do so.

3.1.2.   Edit

Undo

Click 'Undo' to undo changes that you make to your design. Alternatively hold down Ctrl and press Z on your keyboard. Most changes can be undone in this way. You can click 'Undo' multiple times in a row to undo a series of changes. This option will be greyed out if there are no changes to undo.

Redo

Click 'Redo' to reapply any changes that you have undone by clicking 'Undo'. Alternatively hold down Ctrl and press Y on your keyboard. You can click 'Redo' multiple times in a row to reapply a series of changes. This option will be greyed out if there are no changes to reapply.

Delete

All of the components (e.g. charts, chart titles, buttons, etc) can be deleted. To delete a component, click on it to select it in the interface and then click 'Delete'. Alternatively you can press 'Delete' on your keyboard. The component will disappear.

General Properties

Click 'General Properties' to access the general properties for the dynamic report. Alternatively hold down Ctrl and Shift and press P on your keyboard. This will show the general properties in the pane located on the right side of your designer window. See the section below for more instructions on changing properties.

3.1.3.   Select

The Select menu allows you to easily select components in your report. This is useful if you want to change properties of a component that is hidden behind another component e.g. the data explorer that might be hidden behind the map.

3.1.4.   Insert

Button

Click 'Button' to insert a new hyperlink button that will be displayed in your report and can be made to link to a resource of your choice (e.g. a webpage or a PDF document saved on your computer). The 'Button Properties' dialog will open. Refer to the Properties section below for instructions on changing the properties for your new button.

Image

Click 'Image' to insert any static image of your choice into your report. This might be the logo of your organisation or a corporate banner for example. JPEG, PNG, GIF and SWF image formats are all supported. We recommend where possible inserting an image in SWF format to ensure the highest visual quality of the inserted graphics. For instructions on how to make changes please refer to the section below.

Text

Click 'Text' to insert any static text of your choice into your report. The text is static in that in it never changes in the report (unlike the report title for example that changes whenever you select a different Theme, Indicator or Time Period in your report). For instructions on how to make changes please refer to the section below.

Deleted Components
You can reinsert any components that you previously deleted by clicking their name in this menu.
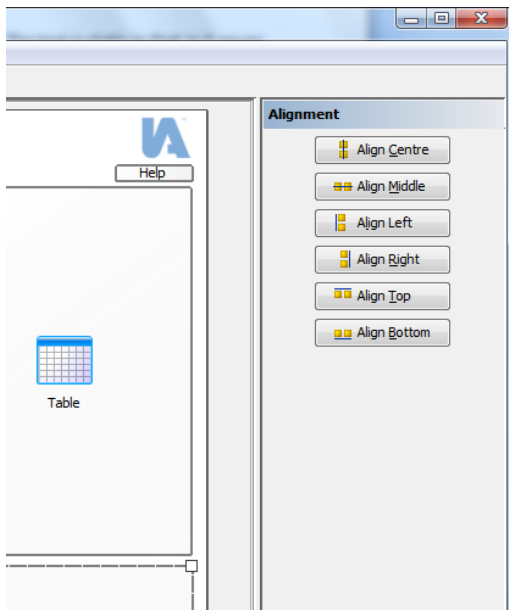
3.1.5.   Layout

The Layout options allow you to rapidly align multiple objects. You must first select multiple components to align – you can do this by holding down the Shift button on your keyboard while clicking components in the canvas.

Note that it is possible to move selected components as a group simply by clicking and dragging any of the selected components.

Once you have selected two or more components, the layout options become active. These are available from the menu but also from the properties pane on the right (Figure 5).

Figure 5

Simply click the option for the alignment you wish to achieve.

3.1.6.   Style

Edit Styles

Click 'Edit Styles' to open the InstantAtlas Style Editor. This tool lists all the styles used by the report. Note that most of these can be edited via the Designer (see below). It is therefore unlikely you will need to use the Style Editor unless you are making advanced style changes (e.g. adding new styles or making global style changes).

Palettes

Click 'Palettes' if you wish to edit the palettes or colour schemes used to shade the maps in your dynamic reports. The 'Map Palettes & Colour Schemes' dialog will open. For instructions on how to make changes please refer to the section below.

3.1.7.   View

Zoom

Hold your mouse pointer over 'Zoom' and a list of zoom options will appear. Choose a new zoom level to zoom into or out of the canvas. Alternatively, choose 'Fit' to make the canvas fit the Designer window. There are keyboard shortcuts for each zoom level (shown to the right of the zoom percentage).

Refresh Preview

By clicking this you will refresh the preview of the dynamic report in the preview pane which is located below the canvas section of the IA Designer.

3.1.8.   Help

Help on the Designer

Click 'Help on the Designer' to access the help pages for the Designer.

About
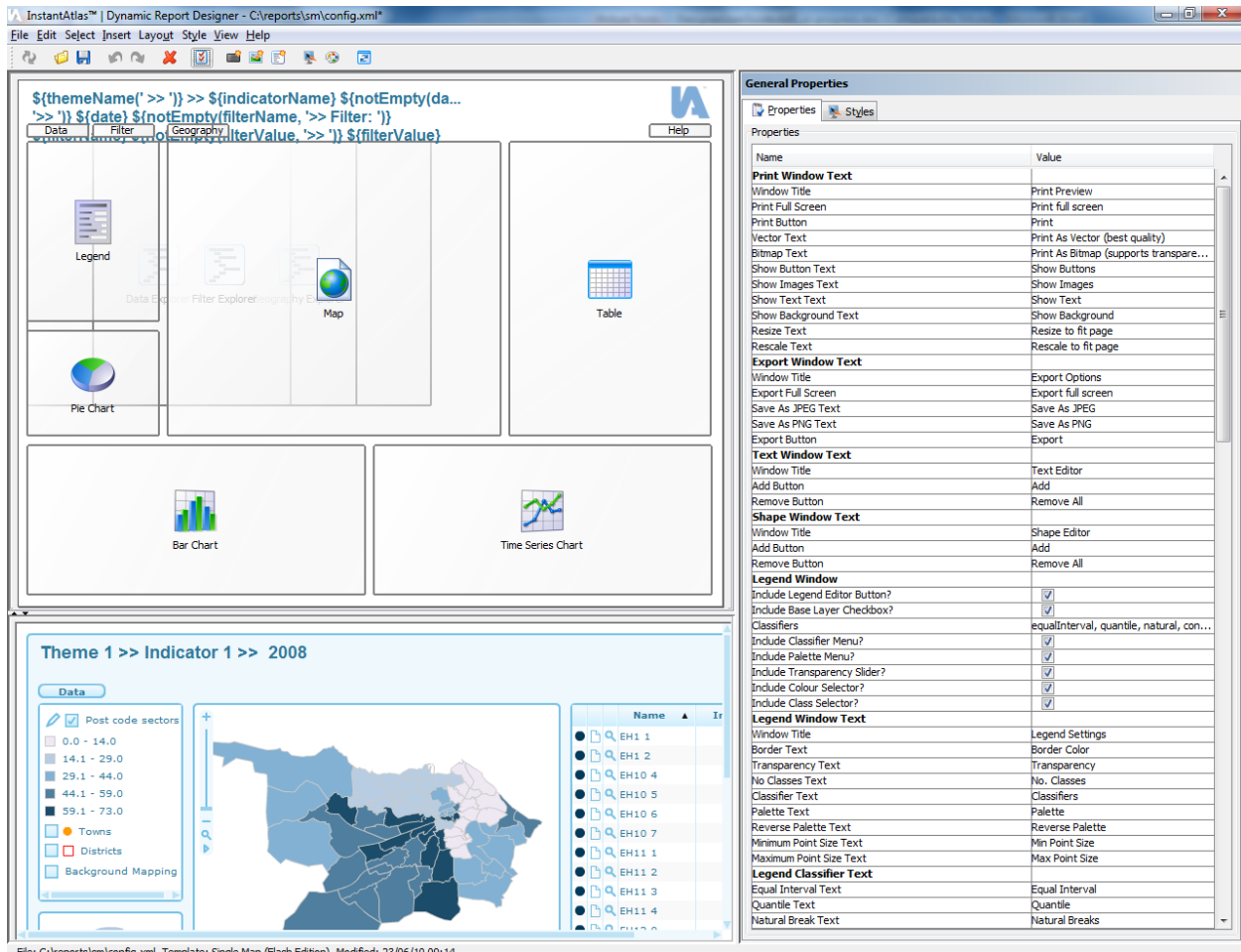
Click 'About' to open the 'About' dialog for your installation of InstantAtlas Desktop Edition.

3.2.   The Designer canvas

Figure 6 shows an example of the Designer canvas, the Properties Pane, and the Preview Pane.

Figure 6

The size and position of the components in your report are shown in the canvas. You can click any component to select it, in which case it gains a dashed outline and selection handles appear (except in the case of text components). The components properties will show in the Preview Pane on the right side of the Designer window.

The canvas allows you to change the position and dimensions of components by clicking and dragging. Simply click on a component to select it and drag it to a new location. If the component has selection handles, you can click and drag these to change the dimensions of the component.

You can click on an empty part of the canvas to deselect a selected component view the general properties for the report.

4. Creating a new design

4.1. Moving and resizing components

The canvas allows you to change the position and dimensions of components by clicking and dragging. Simply click on a component to select it and drag it to a new location. If the component has selection handles, you can click and drag these to change the dimensions of the component.
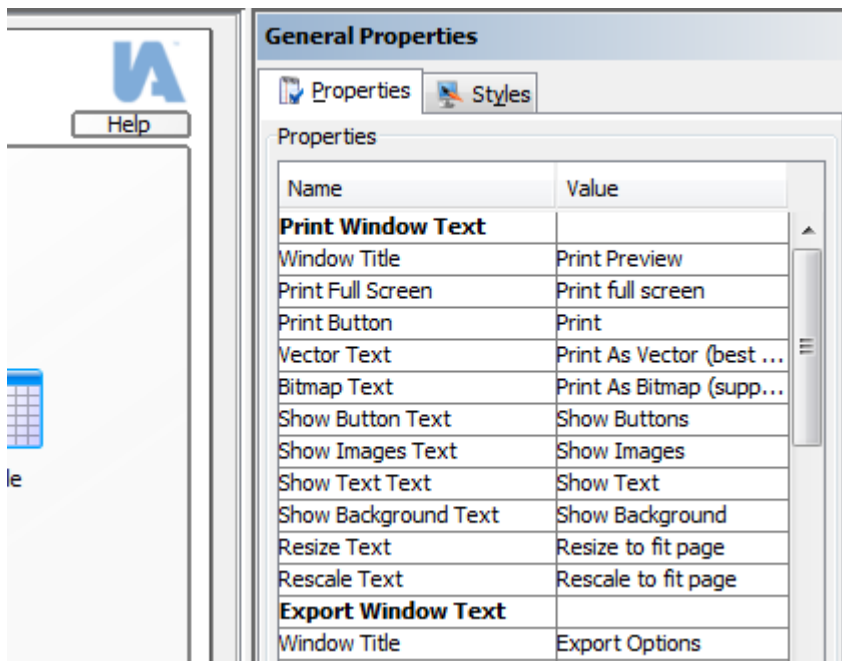
4.2. General properties

4.2.1. Introduction

The properties in the configuration file are template specific. So the list of properties for a report published using the Flash Single Map template may be different to that for a report published using the Flash Double Map template.

You can view a description for any property by holding you mouse pointer over its name. If you require further information regarding a property please contact your support provider.

To access the general properties for the report, ensure that no components are selected in the interface (simply click on an empty part of the canvas to deselect a selected component). The general properties of the dynamic report will show in the properties pane in the right side of the window (Figure 7).

Figure 7

You can click and drag the dividing line between the two columns to change column width. Hold your mouse pointer over each cell in the Name column to view a longer description of the property.

To change a value that can be True or False, simply click the checkbox in the Value column. Some values are chosen from a pick list – click in the cell and select your value from the pick list. To change a numerical value, click in the cell containing the value. Up/down arrows will appear and you can use these to change the value. Alternatively, you can type a new number into the cell but you must then press Enter on your keyboard to register the new value. To change a free text value, double click in the cell containing the value and type a new value.
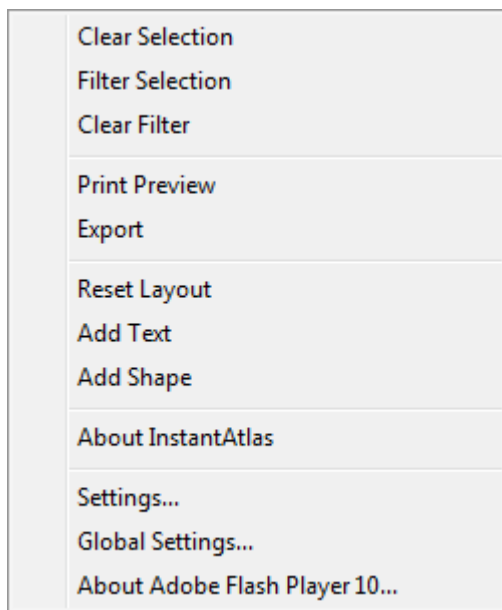
4.2.2.   Configuring text

Much of the text that appears in an InstantAtlas report can be configured using general properties. All static tooltips, for example, appear in the list of general properties and can be edited. The labels for the legend types that are displayed in the legend dialog and all of the text you see in the Context Menu can be changed as well. This is important to ensure that the InstantAtlas templates can be made multilingual – it must be possible for the person designing the report to change all visible text. Note that not all text is configurable via the Designer though. Theme and indicator names, for example, are read from the XML data files and must be changed there.

4.2.3.   Configuring the contextual menu (right mouse button click)

When you right-click on any place in the report you will get a contextual menu with different options. Figure 8 is the context menu and is how it looks like by default.

Figure 8

In the general properties of the Designer you can adjust which of these options the end-user should see in the context menu. The three bottom ones 'Settings...', 'Global Settings...' and 'About Adobe Flash Player [version number]...' cannot be removed since these are provided by the Flash player itself.

Context Menu: Clear Selection? – Allows the user to clear all selected features with one click. We suggest that you always leave this in the context menu.

Context Menu: Clear Comparison Selection? – This option is not included by default in the context menu but if your report contains comparison areas and you enabled the comparison table you may like to have this option in the context menu so that the end-user can clear the selection he or she has made in the comparison table. Otherwise one comparison area will always stay selected.

Context Menu: Filter Selection? – Allows the user to create a filter out of the current selection. When this option is included in the context menu you should also enable the 'Context Menu: Clear Filter' option.

Context Menu: Clear Filter? – This option should be enabled when you have filters defined in your xml file and when you allow the end-user to create a filter out of the current selection ('Context Menu: Filter Selection?' option ticked)

Context Menu: Reset Layout? – In version 6 of InstantAtlas the user has the possibility to change the size and location of the components in the browser window. Components can also be deleted to create the desired layout for printing or exporting. If you enable the reset layout option in the context menu the user can restore the layout of the report without needing to refresh the browser window (refreshing the browser window would include loading all of the data again).

Context Menu: Print? – Allows the user to open the print preview dialog. If you do not wish for your report or single components to be printable then you should not include this option in the context menu.

Context Menu: Export? – Allows the user to open the export dialog. If you do not wish for your report or single components to be exportable then you should not include this option in the context menu.

Context Menu: Add Text? – This option opens up a window that allows the end-user to insert custom text in the report.

Context Menu: Add Shape? – This option opens up a window that allows the end-user to insert custom shapes in the report.
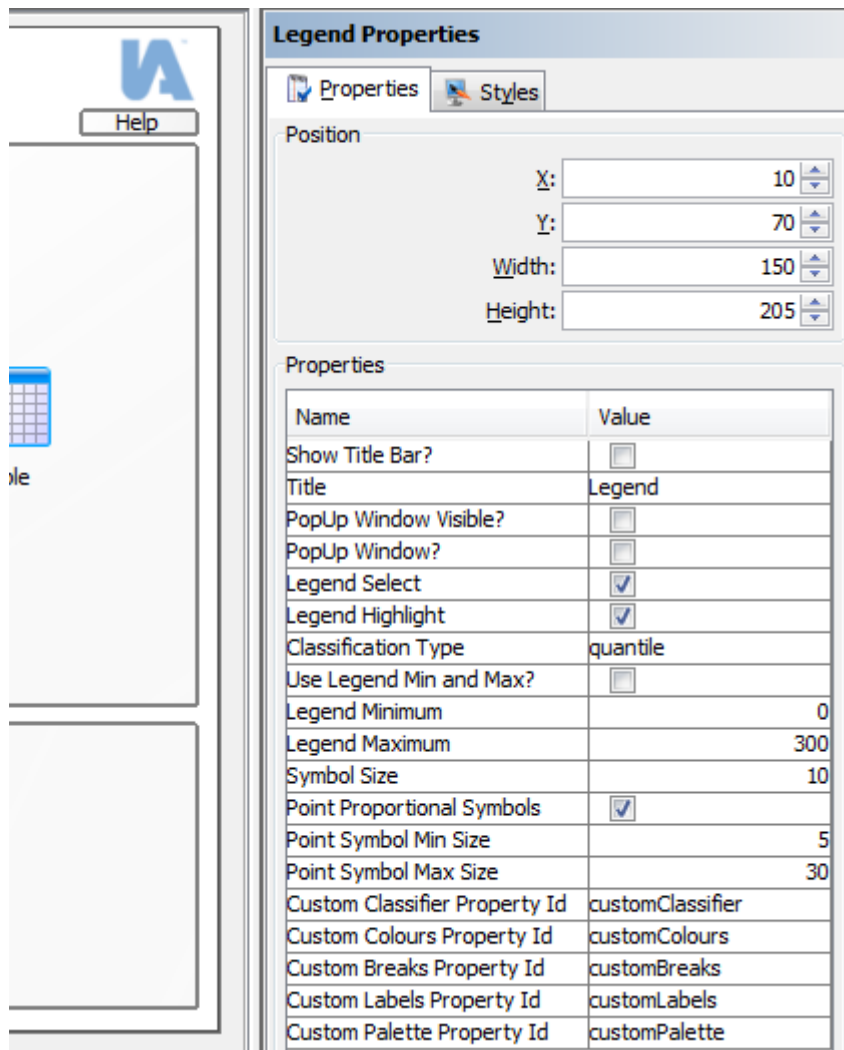
Context Menu: About? – This option opens up a window showing the version number of the InstantAtlas template that was used to create the report. It also includes a link to the InstantAtlas website. We recommend that you leave this option in the context menu so that you can refer to the version number if you contact the InstantAtlas support team about this report.

4.3.   Component properties

4.3.1.   Introduction

To access the properties for a component, ensure that it is selected in the canvas (Figure 9).
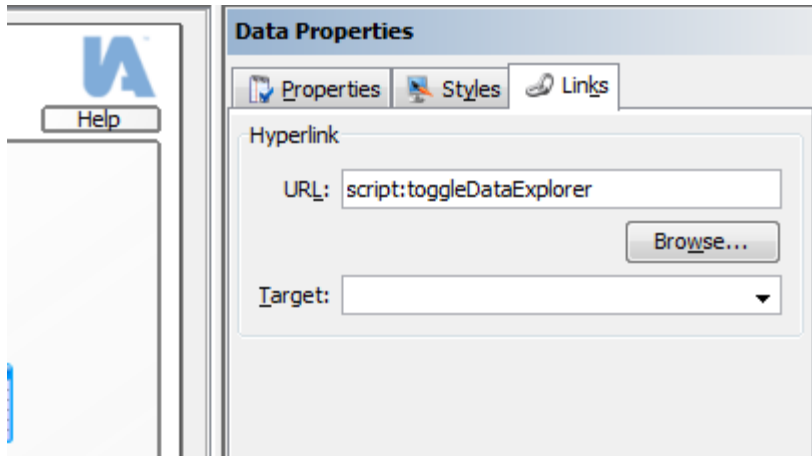
Figure 9

Change the values in the same way as that described for the general properties of the report.

4.3.2.   Button properties

If you view the properties for a button component (e.g. the Data button), you will get a tab called Links (Figure 10).

Figure 10

For most buttons, the value in the URL box will start 'script', followed by the name of a script function.

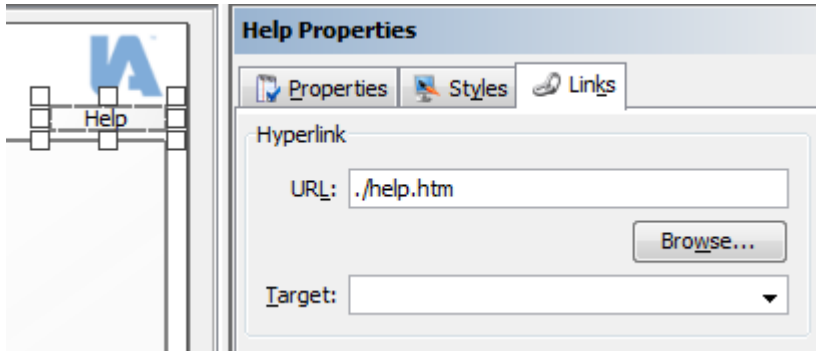Available ActionScript functions that can be used for buttons are:

script:toggleMap	Toggles map visibility
script:toggleTimeSeries	Toggles time series chart visibility
script:toggleDiscreteTimeSeries	Toggles discrete time series chart visibility
script:toggleFlippedTimeSeries	Toggles flipped time series chart visibility
script:toggleBarChart	Toggles bar chart visibility
script:toggleFlippedBarChart	Toggles flipped bar chart visibility
script:toggleboxAndWhisker	Toggles box and whisker chart visibility
script:togglePieChart	Toggles pie chart visibility
script:toggleAdvancedPieChart	Toggles advanced pie chart visibility
script:toggleMetadata	Toggles metadata visibility
script:toggleTable	Toggles table visibility
script:toggleComparisonTable	Toggles comparison table visibility
script:toggleLegend	Toggles legend visibility
script:toggleGeogExplorer	Toggles geography explorer visibility
script:toggleDataExplorer	Toggles data explorer visibility
script:toggleFilterExplorer	Toggles filter explorer visibility
script:toggleTimeAnimation	Toggles time animation visibility
script:toggleScatterPlot	Toggles scatter plot visibility
script:toggleSpineChart	Toggles spine chart visibility
script:toggleBubblePlot	Toggles bubble plot visibility
script:toggleMap2	Toggles map 2 visibility
script:toggleTimeSeries2	Toggles time series chart 2 visibility
script:toggleBarChart2	Toggles bar chart 2 visibility
script:togglePieChart2	Toggles pie chart 2 visibility
script:toggleMetadata2	Toggles metadata 2 visibility
script:toggleTable2	Toggles table 2 visibility
script:toggleComparisonTable2	Toggles comparison table 2 visibility
script:toggleLegend2	Toggles legend 2 visibility
script:toggleDataExplorer2	Toggles data explorer 2 visibility
script:toggleDataExplorer3	Toggles data explorer 3 visibility
script:toggleDataExplorer4	Toggles data explorer 4 visibility
script:toggleFilterExplorer2	Toggles filter explorer 2 visibility
script:openPrintWin	Opens print window
script:openExportWin	Opens export window, Flash Player 10 required
script:openAboutWin	Opens about window
script:openNotesPage	Opens a notes page
script:clearSelection	Clears current selection
script:clearComparisonSelection	Clears comparison selection
script:clearFilter	Clears current filter
script:resetlayout	Resets report layout
script:toggleLegendWindow	Opens legend settings window
script:toggleLegendWindow2	Opens legend settings window 2

You can also call multiple ActionScript functions using a semicolon delimited list.
Example: script:toggleDataExplorer;toggleFilterExplorer"

The exception is the default link for the 'Help' button in a report (Figure 11). If you wish to edit the link for the 'Help' button, simply replace './help.htm' with a new link. So your new entry in the 'URL' box might read 'http://www.instantatlas.com' to link to the InstantAtlas website homepage for example.

Figure 11

Note that if you intend to move the report folder at a later stage, we recommend you put all the files you are linking to into the report folder and use relative pathnames to link to them. The relative pathname for any file located in the report folder is './'. So if you wanted your button to link to a PDF called my_file.pdf located in the report folder, you would type './my_file.pdf' into the URL box.
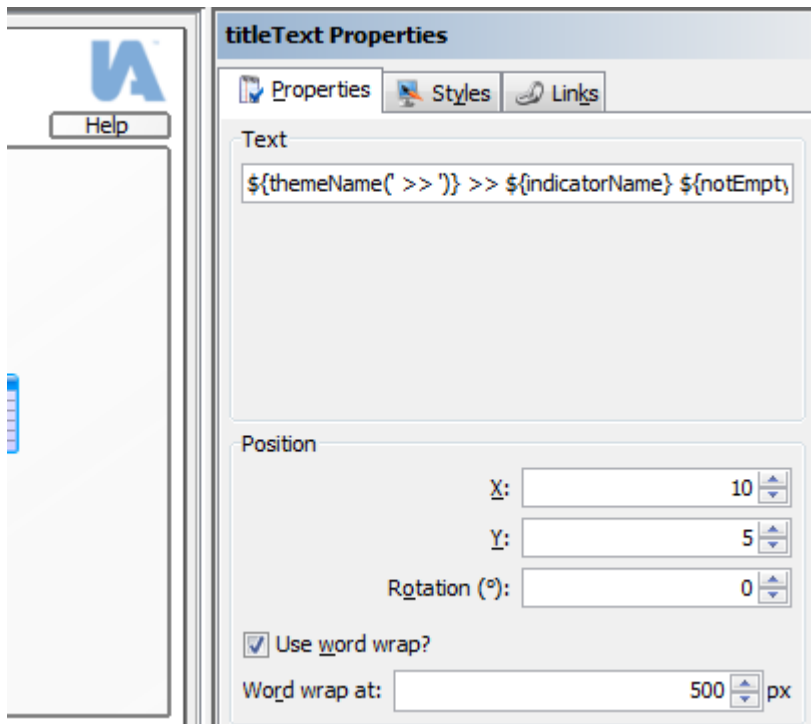
The Target value can be selected from the picklist by clicking the down arrow. This determines how the file being linked to will open.

Target Value	File being linked to opens in...
_blank	A new window
_self	The same window as the report (replaces the report)
_parent	For use in a framed environment. Will open in the parent frame
_top	For use in a framed environment. Will open in the top frame

4.3.3.   Text properties

If you view the properties for a text component (e.g. the report title), you will see that you can specify a rotation value in degrees for display of the text in the report (Figure 12).   You will also see a 'Use word wrap?' checkbox and 'Word wrap at' box. If you select the 'Use word wrap?' checkbox you will then be able to enter a value into the 'Word wrap at' box. This determines how far to the right text will run before wrapping onto a new line.

Figure 12

You will notice that some text components contain dynamic variables enclosed with ${}. Any text that is not enclosed in ${} is static. Dynamic variables (along with the logic tests discussed below) do bring a lot of flexibility to the look and feel of reports.

The image below shows the properties for the Title component in a Single Map template. Clearly, the title will not be displayed in the report as ${themeName} >> ${indicatorName} ${notEmpty(date, '>> ')} ${date} ${notEmpty(filterName, '>> Filter: ')} ${filterName} ${notEmpty(filterValue, '>> ')} ${filterValue}.
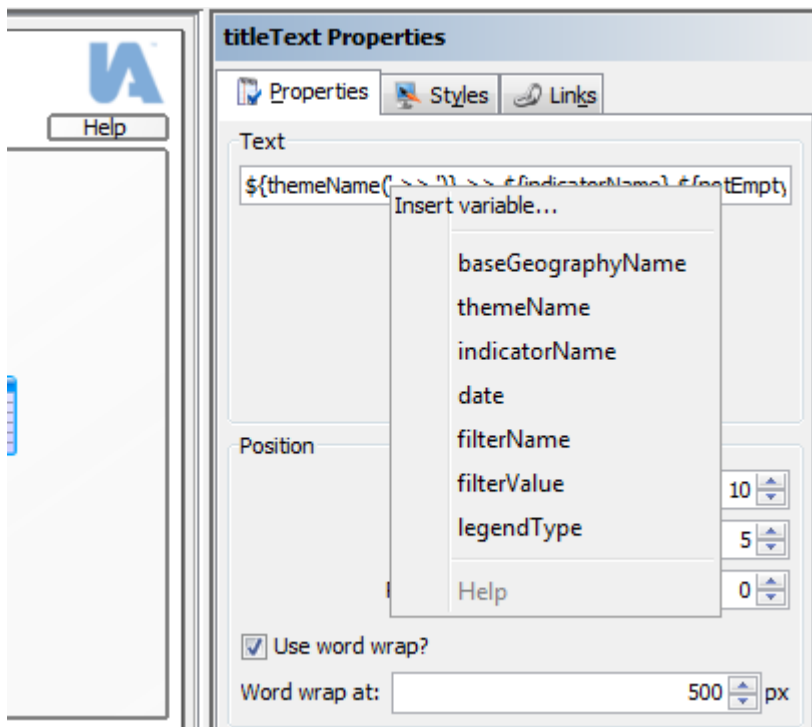
Rather, it might be displayed as shown in Figure 13.

Figure 13

You can see that in this case, themeName resolves as 'Social deprivation', indicatorName as '% of population unemployed', date as '2005' filterName as 'Zones' and filterValue as 'Edinburgh South'.

You can edit the static text and can also add and delete dynamic variables. Right click in the 'Text' box of the dialog to view the list of dynamic variables available (Figure 14).

Figure 14

Hold your mouse pointer over each of the variable names to view a description. Click on a variable to insert it into the 'Text' box.

For the Title component in a Single Map template there are also some logic tests involved. The first logic test is:

${notEmpty(date, '>> ')}

In plain English this translates as the following:

"If, and only if, the value for date is not null and is not an empty bit of text, then write out the following text…"

So, the rule for this type of dynamic text entry is:

${test(condition, textIfConditionIsTrue)}

Another example involving the same logic test is the Scatterplot Text component in a Double Map template:

"${notEmpty(scatterplotCorrelation, 'Correlation coefficient (r) = ' + scatterplotCorrelation + ' >> r-squared = ' + scatterplotRSquare + ', Regression Equation: y = ' + scatterplotGradient + 'x + ' + scatterplotIntercept)}"

Note that the textIfConditionIsTrue part is "raw" (i.e. it's the JavaScript code that will be evaluated if the condition is true). So, in this case, you need to parcel up the dynamic variables scatterplotCorrelation, scatterplotRSquare, scatterplotGradient and scatterplotIntercept using the + operator and put static text in quotes.
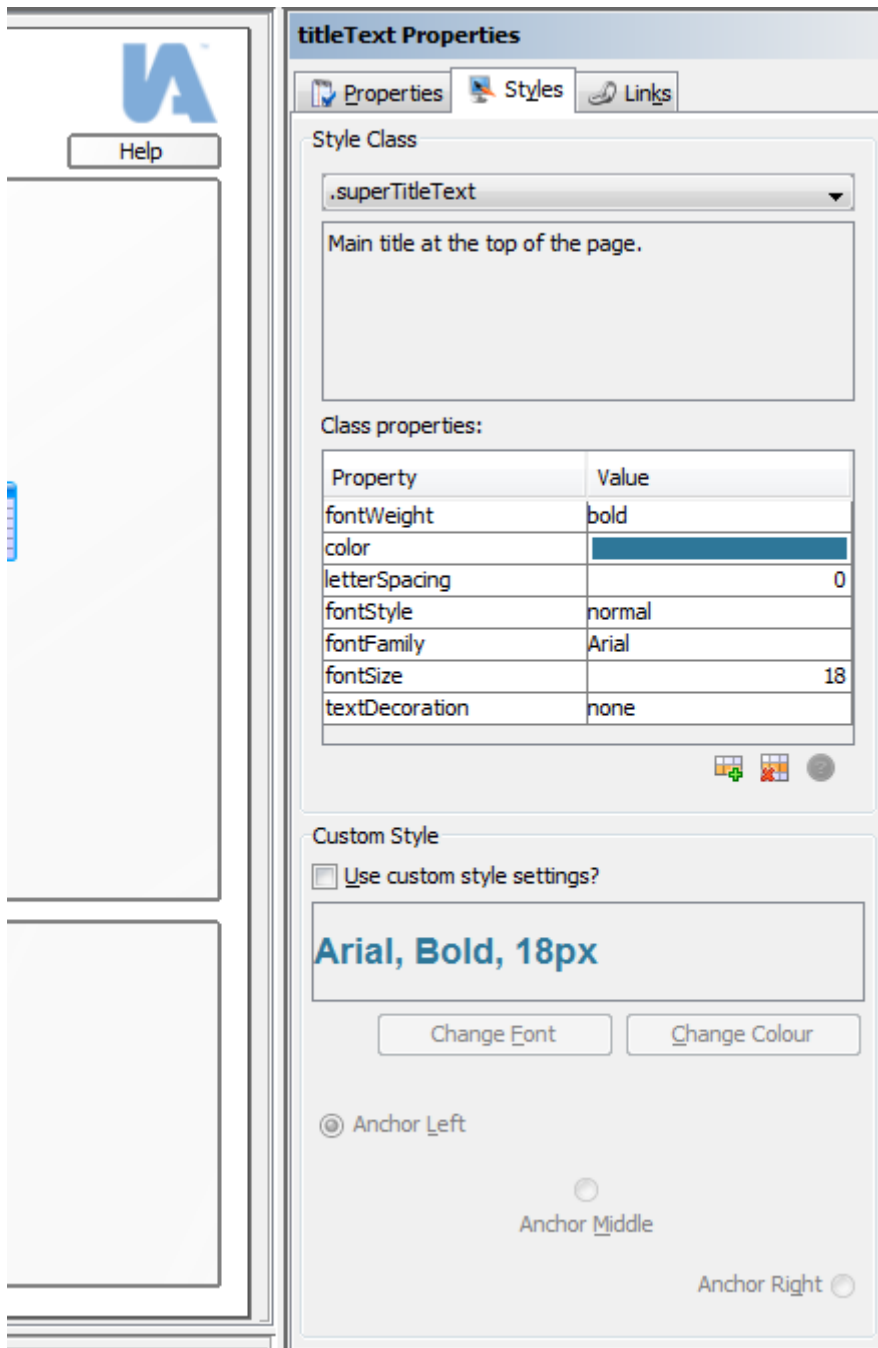
The available logic tests are:

- empty - ${empty(variable, textIfEmpty)}
- notEmpty - ${notEmpty(variable, textIfNotEmpty)}

- equals - ${equals(variable, 'test text', textIfEqual)}
- notEquals - ${notEquals(variable, 'test text', textIfNotEqual)}

If you click the 'Styles' tab for a text component, the name of any pre-defined style class controlling the appearance of the text will be listed in the 'Style Class' box (Figure 15).
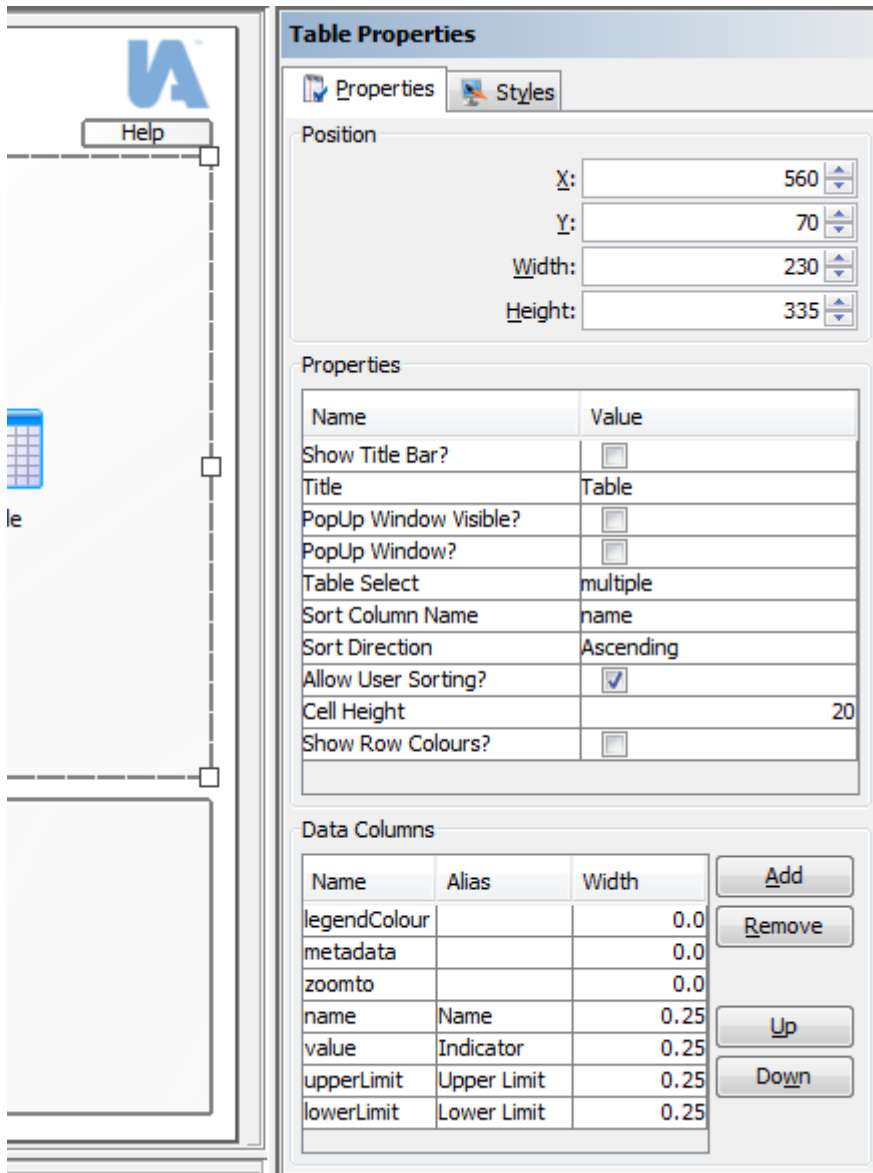
Figure 15

You will also see the option to use a custom style. If you select the 'Use custom style settings?' checkbox, the 'Style Class' box will become greyed out. You can click the 'Change Font' and 'Change Colour' buttons to apply a custom style and change the anchor position for the text component (Figure 15).

4.3.4.   Table properties

If you view the properties for a table component, you will see a 'Data Columns' section (Figure 16). This enables you to add or remove columns from the data table in your report. You can add a column by clicking the 'Add' button and remove a column by clicking it in the list to highlight it and clicking the 'Remove' button.

Figure 16

The columns that are displayed in the Data Table by default are the three symbol columns with the legend colour, the notes icon (metadata) and the magnifying glass (zoom to) as well as the columns for the name of the base geography feature and the indicator value. You may remove any of these. If you want to add these columns back in again, however, make sure that the column names are written exactly as in Figure 16.

Extra columns are typically added in order to display any associate values that you have added to the XML data files for your report (refer to the Excel Data Manager user guide for more information on associates). If you have no associate values in the data files for your report, there is no point in

adding new columns to the table as there will be nothing to display in these columns. If you do have associate values in your data files, you can add columns to your table to display them. The name value for a column should exactly match the name for the associate values in the data XML file(s) for the report (expect for confidence intervals – see below).

For example, Figure 17 shows an Excel workbook with a two sets of associate values for Indicator 1, the names of which are given in cells D5 and E5. If you add these columns to the data table in order to display these associate values, the name values in the Designer for the columns would have to be 'count' and 'rank' (i.e. exactly match the contents of cells D5 and E5). The alias value is displayed as the column heading in the report data table – you can enter any text you like for the alias.

Figure 17

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1			Theme 1			
2			Indicator 1			
3			notes.htm			
4			numeric			
5	Codes	Names	2001	count	rank	
6	S1	Area 1	64.88	670417	40	
7	S10	Area 2	67.04	1132966	39	
8	S100	Area 3	68.03	724760	38	
9	S101	Area 4	68.73	854965	37	
10	S102	Area 5	72.48	829085	36	
11	S103	Area 6	73.68	869232	35	
12	S104	Area 7	74.63	841827	34	

Publisher / Geography and Filters \ IADatasheet /

Ready   NUM

Confidence intervals are a special case. These are called 'll' and 'ul' in ther data XML files for dynamic reports. In the Designer, however, these columns must be given name values of 'lowerLimit' and 'upperLimit' as shown in Figure 16.
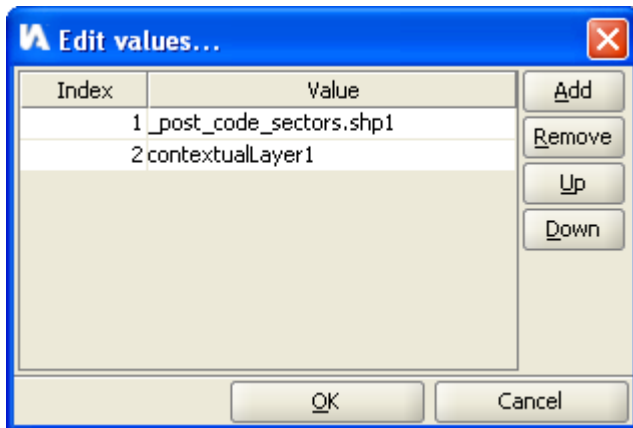
4.3.5.   Map properties

If you wish to show permanent labels in the map for the base or contextual layers you should edit the 'List of Layers Displaying Labels' property. When you click the 'Value' column for this property a popup window will appear. This is a list of the IDs of the layers you wish to display labels permanently in the map. You can find the IDs listed in the map.swf.xml file in the output folder of your dynamic report. This file can be viewed using a text editor such as Notepad or Textpad. For example, in the snippet of code below taken from a map.swf.xml file you can see that the ID for the base geography is '_post_code_sectors.shp1' and the ID for the only contextual layer is 'contextualLayer1'.

```
<base-layer        xmlns="http://swf.instantatlas.com/supplement"        id="_post_code_sectors.shp1"
name="post_code_sectors.shp" geometry="polygon" src="map1.swf">
</base-layer>
<contextual-layer        xmlns="http://swf.instantatlas.com/supplement"        id="contextualLayer1"
name="post_code_districts.shp" geometry="polygon" src="contextualLayer1.swf">
```
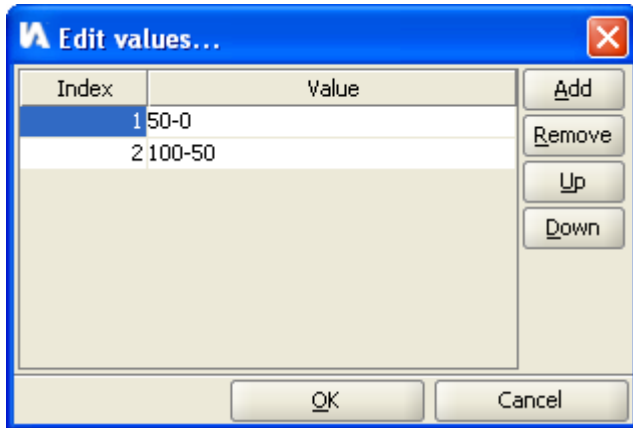
If you wish both of these layers to show labels, the list in the popup window should look like that shown below (Figure 18).

Figure 18

You can control the extent ranges for which the labels will show by editing the 'List of Display Ranges For Labelled Layers' property. The ranges should be entered as percentages of the full map extent and should be in the format [upper limit]-[lower limit]. Following on from the last example, if you wanted the base layer to show labels in the 50-0% extent range of the map and the contextual layer to show labels in the 100-50% range your popup window would look like that shown below (Figure 19).

Figure 19

The same principle is used for making contextual layers visible by default in your report but this time you should edit the 'Visible Contextual Layers List' property. The vector contextual layers in a report have IDs of contextualLayer1.swf, contextualLayer2.swf, contextualLayer3.swf and so on. If you wish the lowermost layer in the vertical stack (i.e. contextualLayer1.swf) to be visible by default you enter the value 'contextualLayer1' for the 'Visible Contextual Layers List' property. If you want the lowermost two layers to be visible by default you enter the value 'contextualLayer1,contextualLayer2' and so on. Note that you must also have the 'Pre-load contextual layers?' property of the map ticked (set to True).

You can also make background mapping layers visible by default by ticking the box of the 'Show Background Mapping' property.

If you want the map to show the values of an associate column instead of the indicator value by default you can define this in the property called 'Base Layer Data'. Make sure that the name you type in here is identical to the associate column name in the data.xml file.

If you use Map data which requires a copyright reference, please do not forget to write this in the 'Map Copyright' property.

4.3.6.   Bar Chart Properties

Similar to the map component you can also set the bar chart to display values from a column other than the indicator column. To do this, type in the name of the associate column into the property 'Y-Axis Data' in the Bar Chart Properties. To sort the bars according to the new data source you can set the properties 'Chart Sort Data' and 'Chart Sort Direction' in the General Properties in the Property group 'Data Formatting'.

If you wish to show labels along the X and Y-Axis you can also define this in the Bar Chart Properties. To show or hide the error bars on the bar chart (assuming the data.xml file is inclusive of these values) tick or untick the check box of the 'Show Limits?' property.

4.3.7.   Time Series Chart Properties

Similar to the map and the bar chart components you can also set the bar chart to display values from a column other than the indicator column. To do this type in the name of the associate column into the property 'Y-Axis Data' of the Time Series Chart Properties. If you wish to show labels along the X and Y-Axis you can also define this in the Time Series Chart Properties.

By default the Time Series Chart will show not more than ten time series trend lines at the same time. You can adjust this maximum number in the 'Max No Series' property. Please be aware, however, that allowing a large number of time series lines to show simultaneously in the Time Series Chart could have a negative effect on the performance of your dynamic report.

4.3.8.   Advanced Pie Chart Properties

The Advanced Pie Chart is not visible by default – you must first insert this using the Insert menu (3.1.4). Once you have inserted it, you can select it to display the properties (Figure 20).

Figure 20

The properties that require explanation are described below.

Data Source

This can be either 'indicator' or 'associate'. If 'indicator' is selected, the pie chart(s) will show data for all the indicators in the active theme. So if you view an indicator called 'Male Population' in your report and this belongs to a theme called 'Demographics' then the pie chart will display a slice for each of the indicators in the 'Demographics' theme.

If 'associate' is selected, the pie chart(s) will show data for the associates of the active indicator. So if you view an indicator called Male Population in your report then the pie chart will display a slice for each of the associates of this indicator that are listed in the 'List of Associates to Use' property below.

List of Associates To Use

This should be a list of the associates you wish the pie chart to show slices for. You only need to edit this property if the 'Data Source' property described above has been set to 'associate'. The values you enter must exactly match the names of the associates that have been entered into the data XML file(s) for the report.

List of Associate Labels

This should be a list of the labels you wish to display in the pie chart legend for the associates listed in the 'List of Associates to Use' property. This allows you to provide user-friendly labels for the associates in the report data XML file(s).
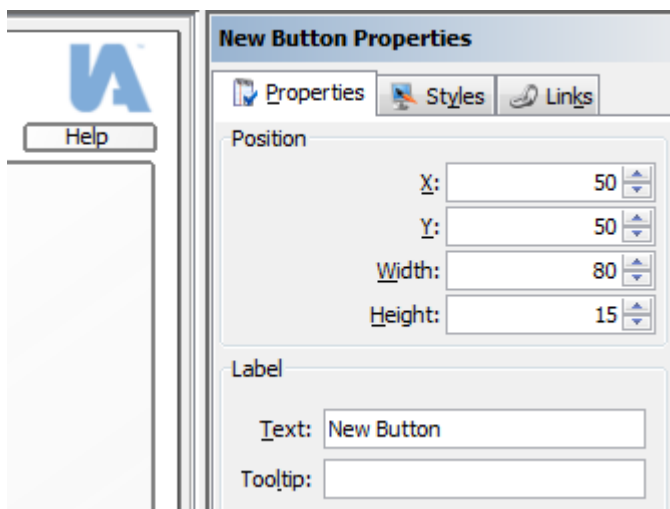
4.4.   Adding new components

You can add new buttons (to link to external files), static text or images to a report. The process is described in the sections below.

4.4.1.   Inserting a new button

Click 'Button' to insert a new hyperlink button that will be displayed in your report and can be made to link to a resource of your choice (e.g. a webpage or a PDF document saved on your computer). The 'Button Properties' dialog will open (Figure 21). The instructions for editing the properties in this dialog are given in section 4.3.2. You can also use the new button to toggle components or access functionality from the context (right click) menu. To do that you can use the ActionScript functions listed in section 4.3.2.
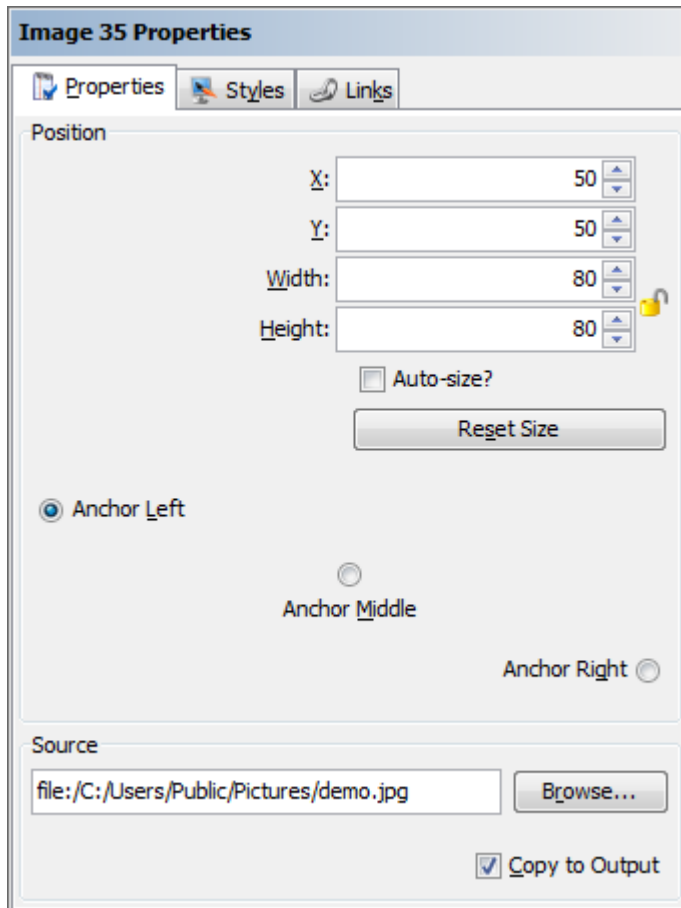
Figure 21

Click the new button in the canvas to select it and drag it to the desired location. If necessary, you can resize it by dragging the selection handles.

4.4.2.   Inserting a new static image

Click 'Image' to insert a static image of your choice into your report. JPEG, PNG and GIF formats are all supported. Furthermore, you can insert a SWF file into a report published using a Flash template. The 'Image Properties' dialog will open (Figure 22).

Figure 22

This dialog features a 'Reset Size' button and 'Copy to Output' checkbox. Click the 'Reset Size' button to set the width and height values to the width and height in pixels of the original image. Click the 'Copy to Output' checkbox if you wish the image you are inserting to be copied into the report folder. You should do this if you intend to move the report folder at a later stage.

If the 'Auto-size?' option is ticked, the image will rescale together with the browser window. With images, however, this may cause a loss of quality. We therefore recommend inserting SWF files as these will rescale without loss of quality. If you would like to keep the image in its set size you should disable the auto-size option.

Using 'Anchor Left', 'Anchor Middle' and 'Anchor Right', you can define where the image is anchored in the report. For example, if you want your image to be positioned on the right hand border and unaffected by the browser window size, you would choose the 'Anchor Right' option.
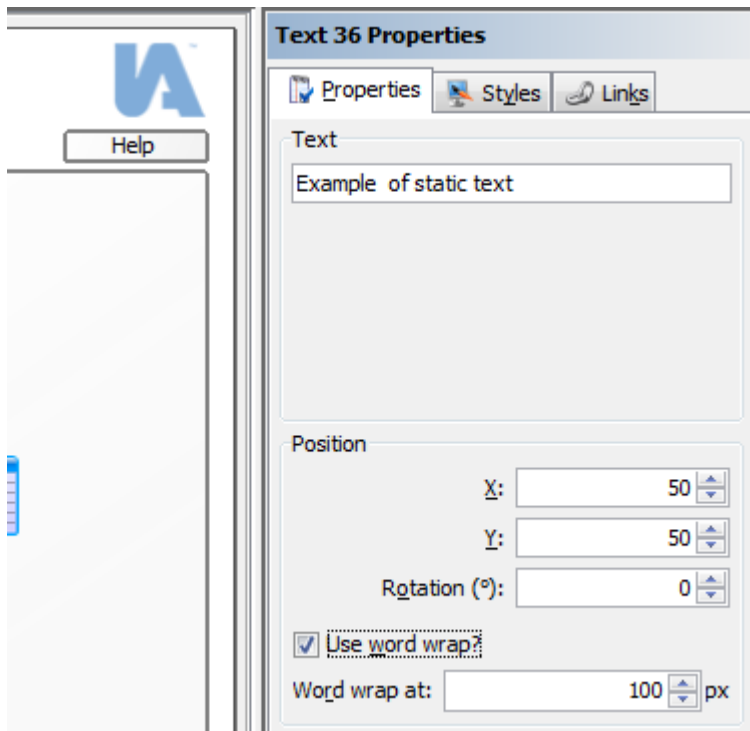
Click the new image in the canvas to select it and drag it to the desired location. If necessary, you can resize it by dragging the selection handles.

The little padlock icon next to the width and height fields allows you to lock to aspect ratio of your image so that it keeps its width and height relative to one another when you change the image size.

4.4.3.   Inserting new static text

Click 'Text' to insert any static text of your choice into your report. The 'Text Properties' dialog will open (Figure 23).
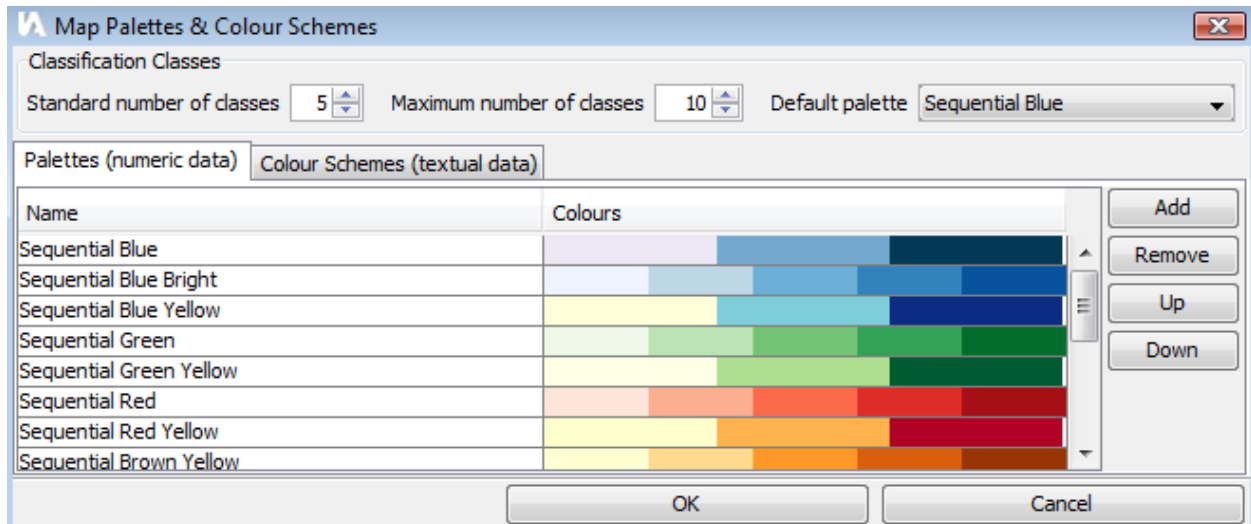
Figure 23

Click the new text in the canvas to select in and drag it to the desired location.

4.5.   Editing map palettes

Click 'Palettes' if you wish to edit the palettes or colour schemes used to shade the maps in your dynamic reports. The 'Map Palettes & Colour Schemes' dialog will open (Figure 24).
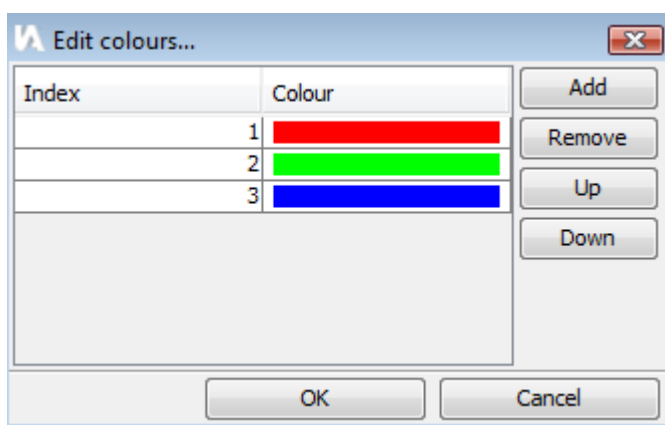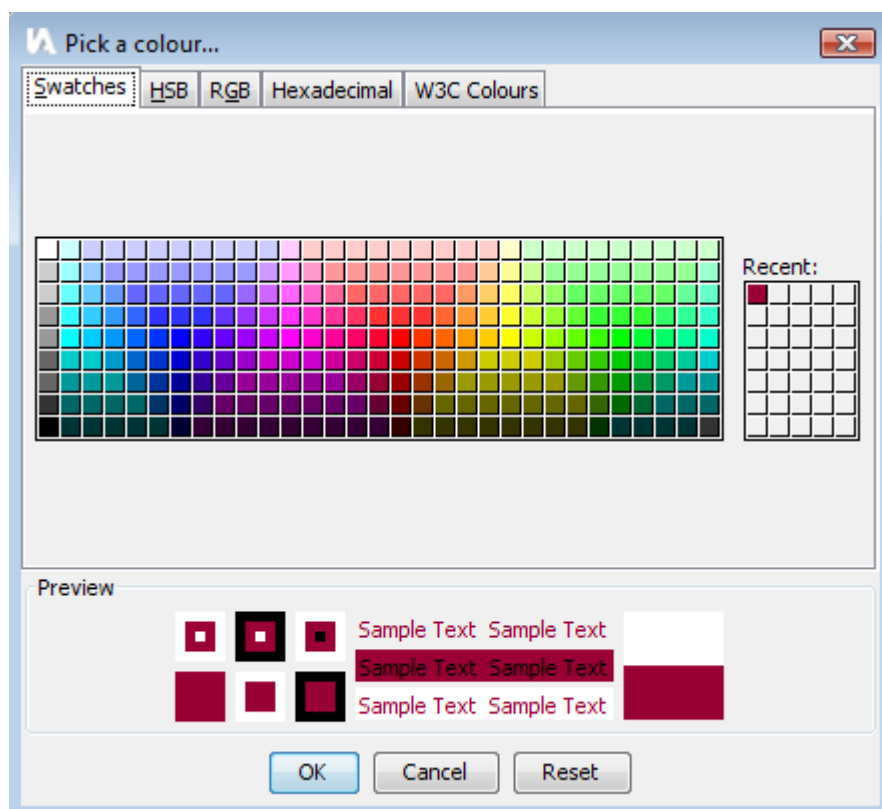
Figure 24

The 'Standard number of classes' box defines the number of classes shown in the Quantile, Equal Interval and Natural Breaks legends when your report opens. Similarly, the 'Maximum number of classes' box determines the maximum number of classes that can be displayed. Below these settings you will see that there are two tabs: 'Palettes' and 'Colour Schemes'. The Palettes are used for numerical data and the Colour Schemes are used for categorical data.

To add a palette, click the 'Add' button. To remove a palette, click its name in the Name column to highlight it and click the 'Remove' button. To move a palette up or down, click its name in the Name column to highlight it and click the 'Up' or 'Down' button. To edit the colours for a palette, simply click on the colour array in the 'Colours' column. The 'Edit colours' dialog will open (Figure 25).
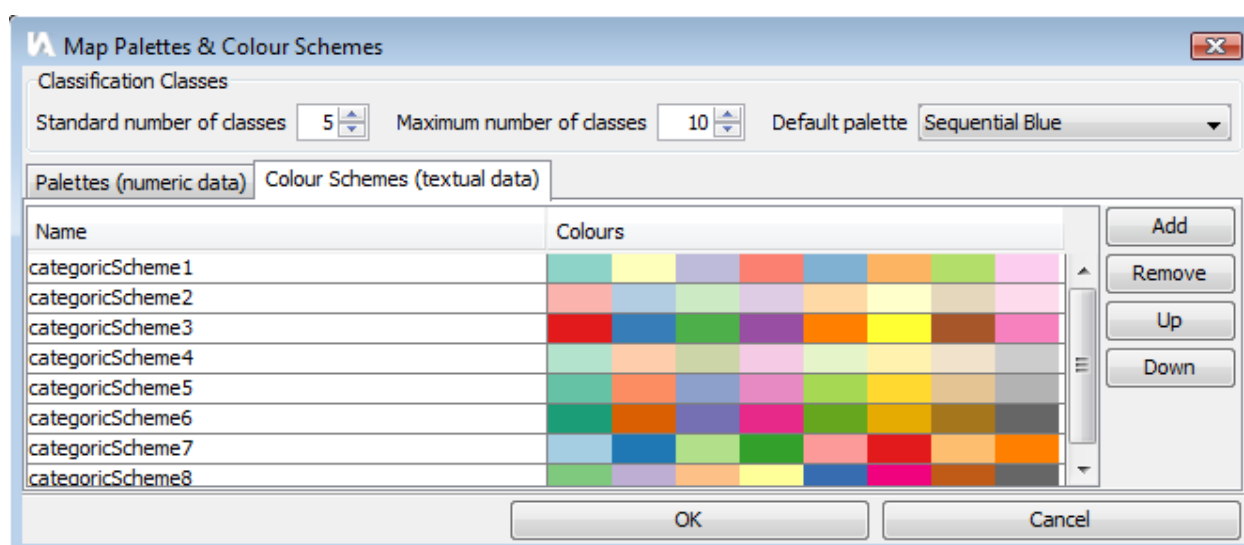
Figure 25

Click the 'Add' button to add a colour. To remove a colour, click its cell in the Index column to highlight it and click the 'Remove' button. To move a colour up or down in the order, click its cell in the Index column to highlight it and then click the 'Up' or 'Down' button.   If you add a colour, or click an existing colour, the 'Pick a colour' dialog will appear (Figure 26). You can use the options under any of the tabs to choose your colour.

Figure 26

Click 'OK' when you are satisfied with your choice. Click 'Cancel' if you wish to discard you changes and close the dialog or 'Reset' if you wish to return to the original colour.

InstantAtlas reports will shade the map by interpolating between the first and last colours in the active palette if the number of classes displayed in the report exceeds the number of colours in the palette colour array.
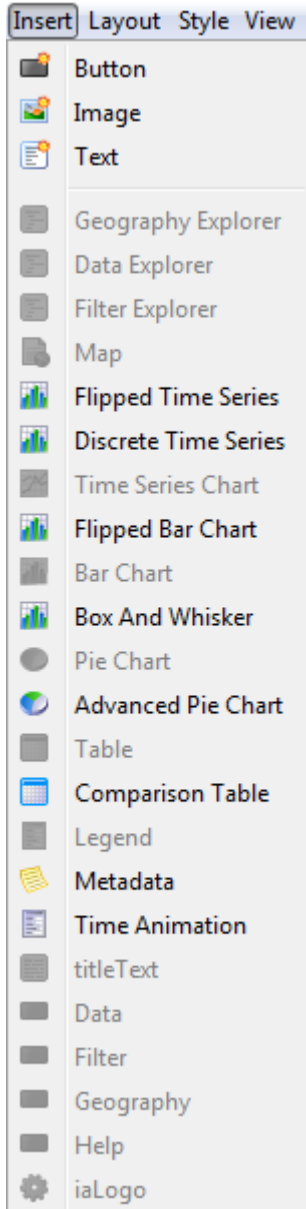
Click the 'Colour Schemes' tab to view the existing colour schemes (Figure 27). You can add and remove colour schemes and colours in exactly the same way as for Palettes.

Figure 27

4.6.   Inserting components that are not shown by default

You have the option of inserting various components that are not shown by default in your InstantAtlas reports. Click on the 'Insert' menu (Figure 28).

Figure 28

The metadata text box (or boxes in the case of a report published using the Double Map template) will display any "metatext" that has been entered into the XML data files for the report. See the Excel Data Manager user guide for more information.

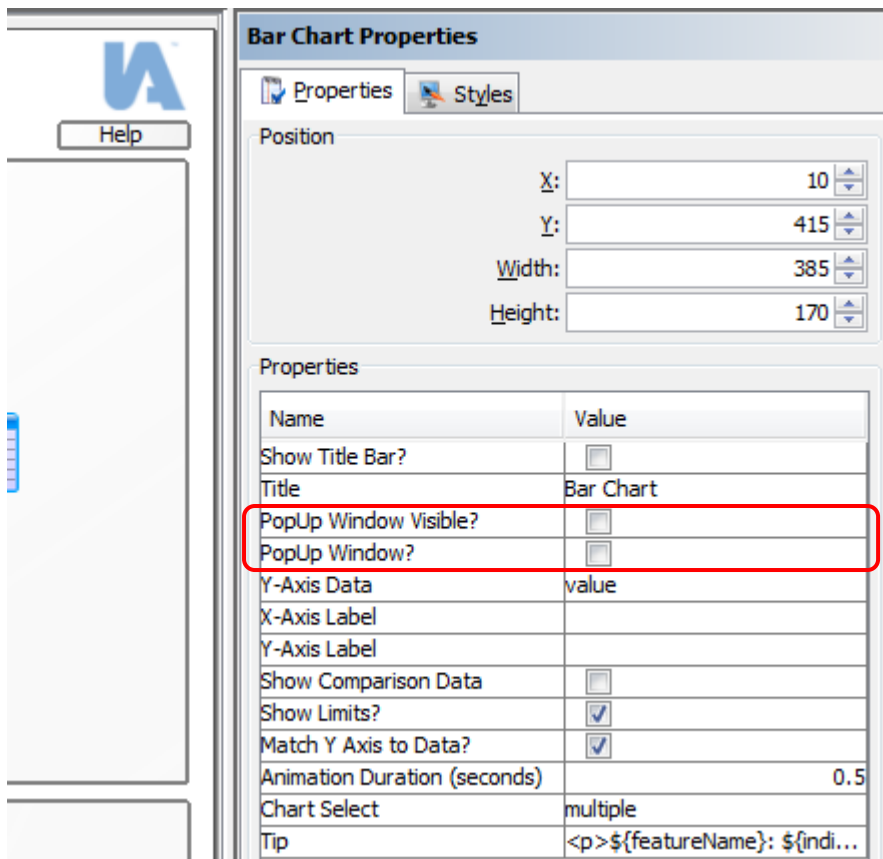## 4.7.   Making a component a pop-up window

All components in the report can either be permanently visible or work as a pop-up window which can be toggled on and off using a button. This section will describe the steps to modify a component to be a pop-up window. The bar chart will be used as an example.

Click to select the bar chart component in the canvas and the Bar Chart Properties will be displayed in the right hand panel. As with every other component, the bar chart has the two properties:

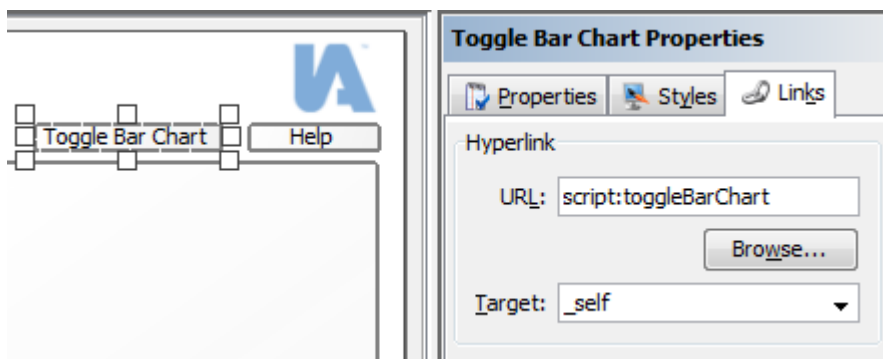PopUp Window Visible?
PopUp Window?

Tick the 'PopUp Window?' checkbox to make the bar chart a pop-up. Use the 'PopUp Window Visible?' property to define whether the component should be visible or hidden when opening the report (Figure 29).
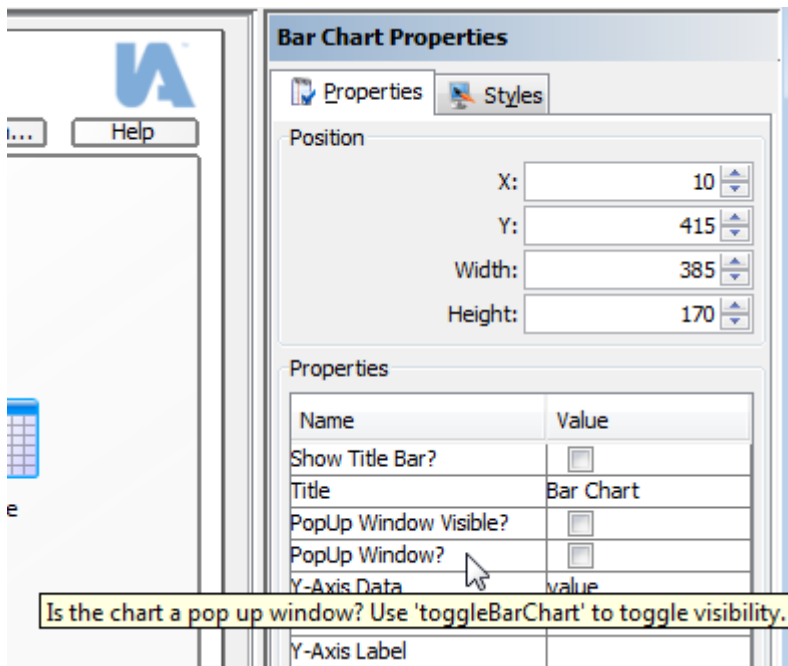
Figure 29

You should then insert a new button into your report. Select Insert, Button from the menu bar, give the button a label and tooltip of your choice and select the "Links" tab in the Properties Panel. Type 'script:toggleBarChart' into the URL field (Figure 30).

Figure 30

You can find out which script you need to use by hovering over the 'PopUp Window Visible?' or 'PopUp Window?' properties. The tooltips that appear include the ActionScript function (Figure 31).

Figure 31

You can find a full list of ActionScript functions in section 4.3.2.

5. Applying a design to other dynamic reports

It is simple to apply a custom design to a series of InstantAtlas reports that you have published, even if the map and indicator data in each report is different. All you need to do is replace the existing config.xml file of the dynamic report you want to change with the config.xml file you have customised using the Designer.

However, it is very important to realise that the configuration file is template-specific. You can only apply the same config.xml file to multiple dynamic reports if they were published using the same template.

For example, a series of dynamic reports published using the Single Map Flash Edition v6.1.0 template can share the same config.xml file. But applying this config.xml file to a dynamic report published using, for example, a Double Map v6.1.0 template is not supported and will almost certainly cause the report to malfunction. Similarly, applying a config.xml file from a v5.x report to a v6.x report will cause it to malfunction.

6. InstantAtlas support

You can find InstantAtlas support resources at www.instantatlas.com/support.xhtml. InstantAtlas customers can login to their My InstantAtlas account and download a wide range of support resources and access a searchable knowledgebase. If these resources do not provide a solution, please contact your support provider.