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Development of an offline autofilter-mechanism as add-on for browser-supported OLAP-reports

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1. Introduction

1.1 Motivation

Databases and generated reports are used by almost everyone, regardless to their topics or specialties. In most of the cases, some kind of a spreadsheet application is available *(for example: Microsoft Office or Open Office)* that can help us to process data, but sometimes we have to work with website generated OLAP reports or tables. For processing these tables of data, it would be very good, if we could do the filtering and arranging right in the web browser without using any spreadsheet applications. That would give us the possibility to ignore the conversion problems. It would be even better, if this application did not require any special parameter or controlling variables.

1.2 Aims

The author would like to solve the problems iterated at the previous paragraph with the help of an application which can be integrated into OLAP services as an output capsule, or it can be used stand-alone. For the use of this application, nothing else than a web browser will be needed. It will be able to filter and arrange data tables row or column-wise. All of this will be available offline, and thus independently from the OLAP – service.

The freeware best practice solutions found on the web has a very short and limited list about the abilities in the topic of table - manipulation. The development is meant to extend these abilities, and make the application integrated straight ahead into the OLAP.

1.3 Targets

In a nutshell: everyone. To be more specific, any people or group who has to work with tables like OLAP, and do not have non-stop internet-connection or a spreadsheet application on their computer.

1.4 Possible options of usage

Thanks to the simple design and the offline availability, users are able to manage, arrange, or filter their tables with ease, even if they are non-programmers. Usefulness can be traced back to saving time through making the use of spreadsheet applications and the need for conversions unnecessary, and through the possibility of user friendly manipulations instead of detailed OLAP – parameterization.