Subject: Macro questions: preserving columnProperty and setting date filter
Posted by Andrew0 on Fri, 05 Feb 2021 15:36:03 GMT

View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Hello Thomas,

I have a macro that has the following basic workflow:

 Open a text file Apply a template from an existing .dwar file Update some filters

I recently discovered the columnProperty field from
http://openmolecules.org/forum/index.php?t=msg&goto=765, and am making use of this to link to
source data. It seems that when I apply a template that has defined columnProperty values, they
are not carried into the new file. Is this expected behavior, or is there a way I can carry these
columnProperty values over?

Secondly, one of the filters I update at the conclusion of the macro is a date filter. Does
DataWarrior use a standard date format? In the macro the date appears as a float value, which
doesn't correspond to date formats that I'm familiar with.

Thank you for your continued development of this tool - it's a huge benefit to the community!

Andrew

Subject: Re: Macro questions: preserving columnProperty and setting date filter
Posted by thomas on Thu, 11 Feb 2021 10:37:44 GMT

View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Hi Andrew,

column properties are considered to belong to the data and not to the definition of how to display
the data.
Therefore, they are not part of the template. However, you may use the macro task 'Set Column
Properties'
to add (or replace) column properties to a column.

When DataWarrior analyses a column, then it is rather flexible concerning data formats. It
basically checks, whether it can find three different values per cell and whether they fit in the
range of what could be interpreted as data value. If cell entries are plausible dates, then these are
converted into float values representing the number of milliseconds since Jan 1st, 1970. This
value is used internally for filtering, axis assignment, etc. And it end up in the template filter
section.
(https://currentmillis.com/)

Thomas

Subject: Re: Macro questions: preserving columnProperty and setting date filter
Posted by Andrew0 on Thu, 11 Feb 2021 18:39:15 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Thomas,

Thanks very much for your reply. I have two (hopefully small) followup questions:

Using the macro editor, I was able to access "Set Column Properties" as you suggested.
However, my macro does not appear to be writing the desired values to the column properties.
Can you look at the macro below and let me know where my syntax is going wrong? I tried to
implement the example you gave in http://openmolecules.org/forum/index.php?t=msg&goto=765

<macro name="colPropsTest">
<task name="setColumnProperties">
properties=lookupCount\t1<NL>lookupName0\tWikipedia
Entry<NL>lookupURL0\thttp://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%s
replace=true
column=Compound Name
</task>
</macro>
The "\t" in the code block above represent TAB characters.

Your response to the second question also makes sense. Is there any way to access the current
time in milliseconds in DataWarrior macros? For example, if I want to update the filter to only
display the last X days of data.

Thank you,
Andrew

Subject: Re: Macro questions: preserving columnProperty and setting date filter
Posted by thomas on Fri, 12 Feb 2021 11:33:25 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

Hi Andrew,

first I must correct myself. The stored and used date value is not the milliseconds value itself. It is
the milliseconds since Jan 1st, 1970 devided by 86400000, which makes the float the number of
days since Jan 1st, 1970.

You cannot use a macro or filter to directly filter dates in relation to the current date, but you can
calculate a new column (e.g. in a macro) using an expression like 'today()-myDateColumn' and
then use a filter on that column.

Your other question related to the column properties macro: This will work if you replace the TABs
by equal signs ("\t" by "="). TABs are used as separators in the column properties section of the
file. The column properties dialog uses equal signs, because they are more user friendly. And

they are also used within the macro file format. TABs as separators in the file have been a strange decision, but now they are there to live with them.

Thomas

Subject: Re: Macro questions: preserving columnProperty and setting date filter
Posted by Andrew0 on Tue, 16 Feb 2021 17:40:12 GMT
View Forum Message <> Reply to Message

That worked perfectly, thank you Thomas!