

Report Designer

The Report Design software is fully functional but is not fully developed—it could stand some improvement in some areas:

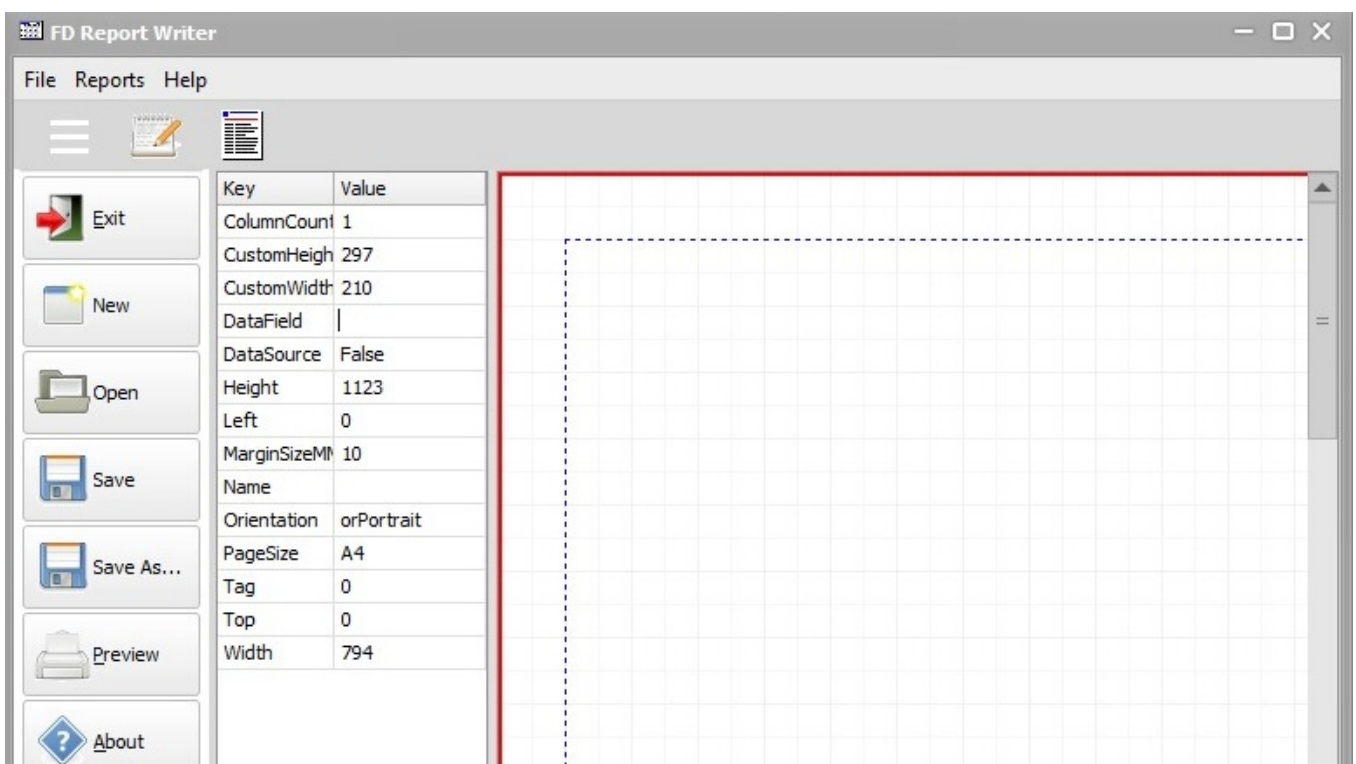
1. The means to set the data connection up is not immediately obvious and the properties settings screen is not very user friendly—an explanation is below.
2. When an component is placed on the report the properties of the previously selected component still show. It is necessary to click on the newly placed component to have its properties list show.
3. Some property changes only show at run time.
4. Any data fields placed on a band are only visible when there is a data connection. They are there and can be selected if you know where they are placed but there is no default text to show in place when there is no data. Of course we want them blank if there is no data but that is not too helpful when designing—generally we need the data when designing anyway so it is not a major issue but something to be aware of.
5. There are a number of places where some thoughtful error trapping and responses would help in resolving any problems that may arise.
6. The documentation is terrible but hopefully there is enough here to get you started and the source code will help.

There will be other areas for improvement for sure. Feel free to improve the package and please let me know of any solutions you may come up with. Also this package has been modified from my original which had some bespoke components—these have all been replaced—I HOPE!! Please contact me if what is supplied will not compile and run (Delphi 10.4).

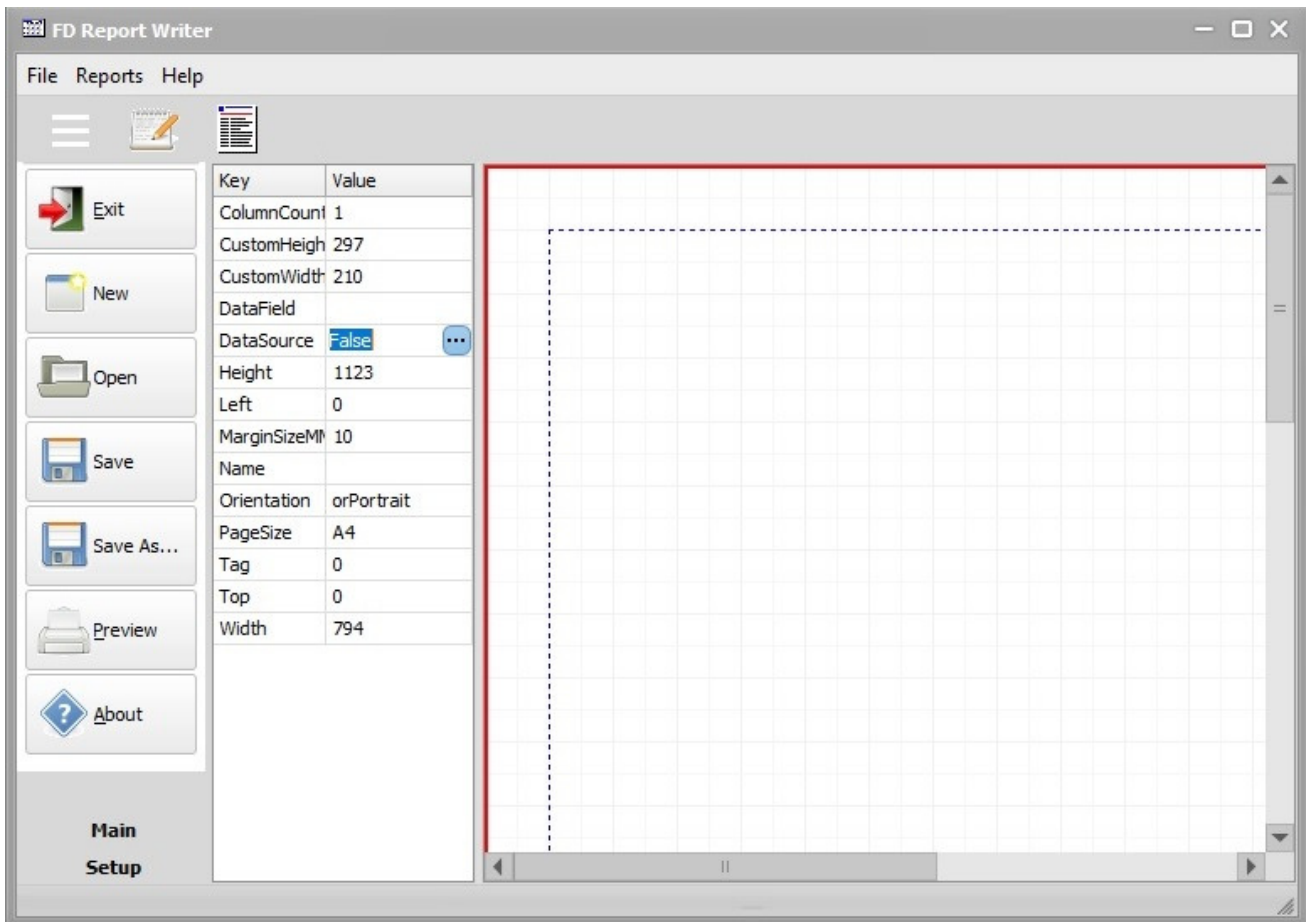
SETTINGS: The application has a settings file MMReportSettings.xml which should be created when the program first runs. It is created by the TClientDataSet named SettingsDataSet in the MMReportData module. If you have trouble with this there is a copy of the xml file included to update the TClientDataSet or just view the xml file and hard code the settings into MMReportData module to get started. Also note there is a <Mode> button on the settings page which is pressed to enable editing.

Connecting to the Data Source

Firstly click on the main report page. As shown in the graphic below the border will turn red and the properties list will show.



Next click on the DataSource property i.e. select the word False. The ellipse with three dots should appear.

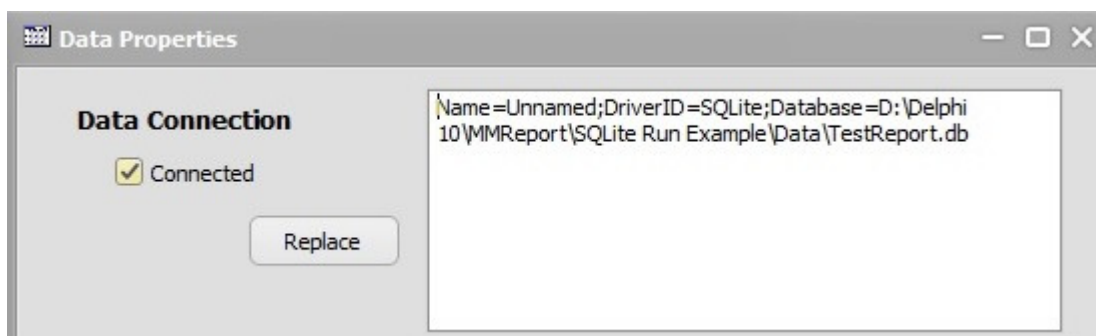


Next click on the ellipse with the three dots which will bring up the connection page.

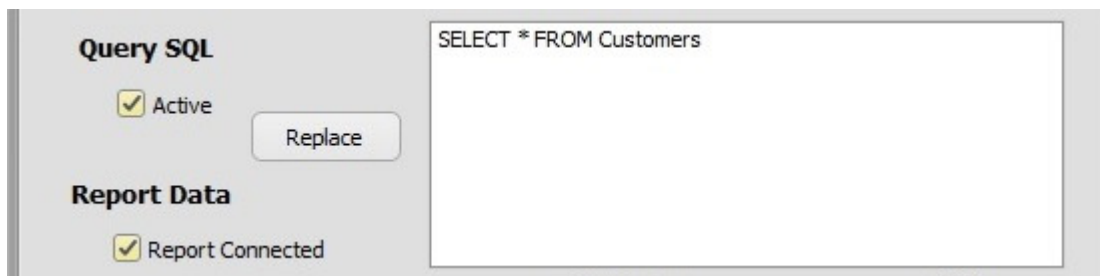
NOTE: Some properties in other components are accessed in a similar way.

Connection Page

Initially the page will be empty. First enter `DriverID=SQLite;Database=D:\Delphi 10\MMReport\SQLite Run Example\Data\TestReport.db` Use your Data source path. The full path name of the data file is required. Click on <Replace>—note that the connection component may add some extra as in the example report here So we get: `Name=Unnamed;DriverID=SQLite;Database=D:\Delphi 10\MMReport\SQLite Run Example\Data\TestReport.db` Make the connection by clicking the Connected check box.



Next enter an SQL statement to access the data required. In this case a query suitable for a Delphi FDQuery connected to a SQLite Database.
Click on <Replace> then Active.



Query SQL

☒ Active

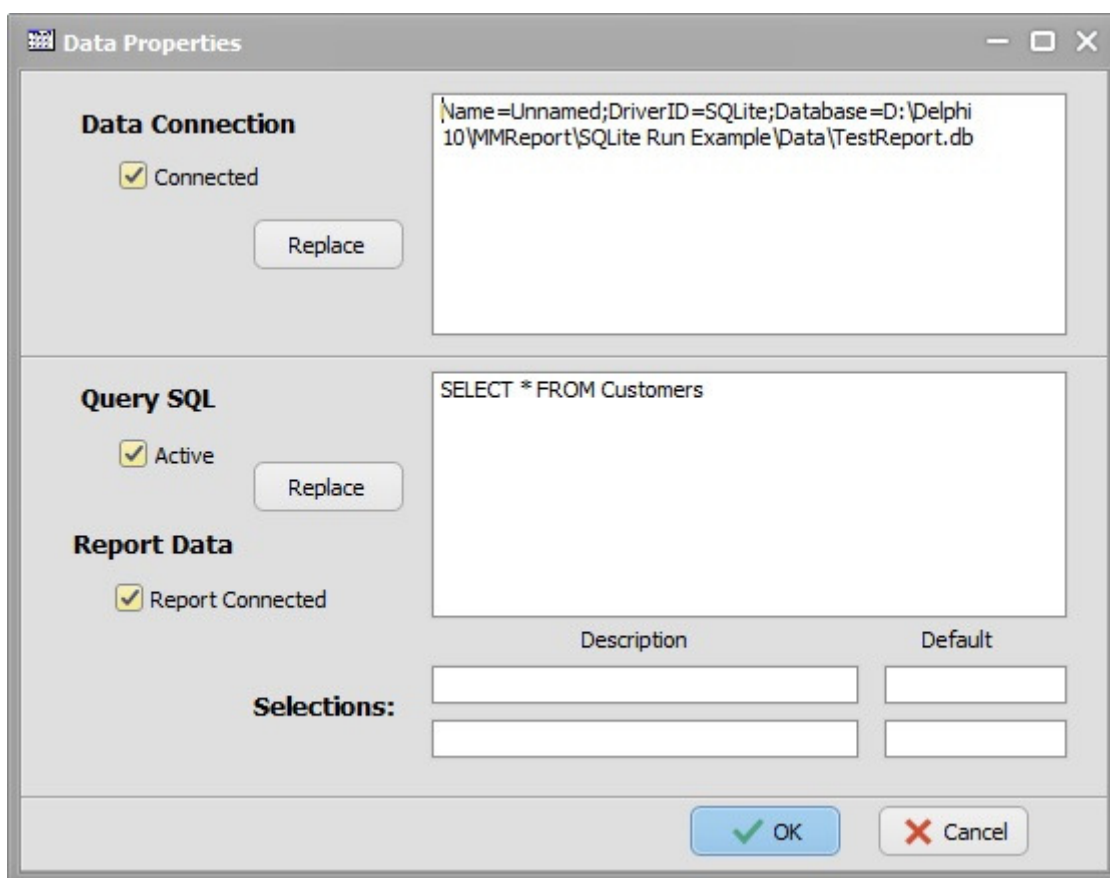
Replace

Report Data

☒ Report Connected

SELECT * FROM Customers

The resulting screen is shown below. Click on <OK> The Selections options are described on following pages.



Data Properties

Data Connection

☒ Connected

Replace

Name=Unnamed;DriverID=SQLite;Database=D:\Delphi 10\MMReport\SQLite Run Example\Data\TestReport.db

Query SQL

☒ Active

Replace

Report Data

☒ Report Connected

Selections:	
Description	Default

OK Cancel

If you create a report on one machine and want to run it on another then uncheck all the connections before saving.

Because the correct full path name for the Database file is required which may be different on another machine the report may totally refuse to load or run.

Making Data Selections

In this example the SQL Query contains a parameter suitable for a Delphi FDQuery connected to a SQLite Database. :Actry can be any parameter suitable for the FDQuery. When the report is run a popup screen will prompt for a country selection for the report. A second parameter could be added for two selections (Min, Max values or whatever). You could of course program the application for more here if required.

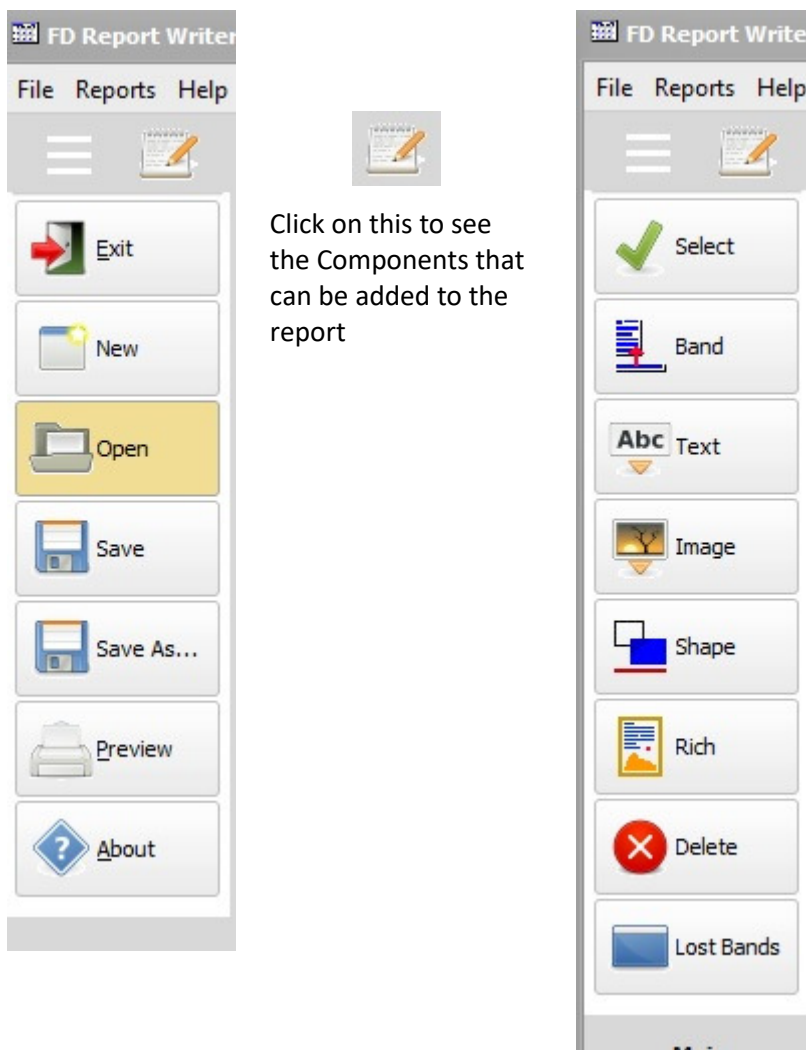
Query SQL	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Active	Replace

Report Data	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Report Connected	

Query SQL:
SELECT * FROM Customers
WHERE Country = :Actry

Selections:	
Description	Default
Enter Country	UK
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Adding Components



Here is where a comprehensive manual would describe each of these selections—but this is not it. The best starting point would be to load the example supplied with the source and experiment with various options.