Global Dimensions

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Global dimensions is a feature which makes it possible to link else unrelated hierarchies (Different connection/cube) – provided the hierarchies unique names are identical.

When using a criteria on one of the hierarchies in a Global dimension, the criteria is also applied to the other hierarchies in the Global dimension.

Unique names in Analysis Services are prefixed with [Dimension].[Hierarchy], meaning that a unique name belonging to a dimension with the name 'Period' cannot immediately be applied in another cube where the dimension is named 'Posting period', but the system is made in such a way that the prefix is exchanged before the query reaches Analysis Services.

At present there is no UI for configuring Global dimensions. It all happens in an XML-file: **ProgramData\TARGIT\ANTserver\Settings\GlobalDimensions\GlobalDimensions.xml**.

GlobalDimension.xml sample file

```
        <?xml version="1.0" encoding="utf-8"?>

        <globalDimensions>

                <globalDimension id="time_hierarchy">
                        <metadata database="DemoData" cube="Sales" dimension="Period" hierarchy="Period" />
                        <metadata database="Casual" cube="Clothing" dimension="Posting Period" hierarchy="
Hierarchy" />
                </globalDimension>

                <globalDimension id="time_month">
                        <metadata database="DemoData" cube="Sales" dimension="Period" hierarchy="Month" />
                        <metadata database="Casual" cube="Clothing" dimension="Posting Period" hierarchy="
Month" />
                </globalDimension>

        </globalDimensions>
```

In the example **Period->Period** from Sales cube in DemoData database is linked to **Posting Period->Hierarchy** in Clothing cube in Casual database (id="time_hierarchy"). Similar happens with the Month hierarchies (id="time_month").

The **globalDimension** id attribute is not displayed, but must be unique within all the global dimensions . The hierarchies to be linked must be written in the same **globalDimension** element.

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