



## **Use of aggregate Function**

**Have you written a report that ended up rendering huge data volumes and results in lengthy run times and therefore causes performance issues?**

There are many scenarios that could cause this but by far the most common one is the absence of aggregate function use in reports.

**Simply put, an Aggregate is to bring together or to collect into a mass or sum. Examples of aggregates are SUM, MAX, MIN & COUNT.**

Solution:

- Launch Alchemex Report Manager.
- Navigate to the “Columns” Tab and take a close look at the fields you have included in your report. Now identify all the fields that your report will ever need to show and then delete the superfluous ones.
- Now identify all your VALUE fields and apply an Aggregate to each of them. The most common aggregate being SUM.

What you have done by aggregating is as follows –

- You now have a report that groups your results by the remaining fields i.e. Customer Name and then sums your VALUE fields (i.e. Sales amount excl VAT) accordingly.

Thus instead of having a report that renders each and every transaction line item from your source Transaction Table into “Sheet1”, you now have a report that only renders the exact required data. You have effectively tuned your report for speed.

This simple practice will dramatically reduce runtime and result in, for example, a 5 minute report now running out in a matter of seconds.