

SimVenture 4.7.0 – The Data Analysis Tool

Overview

Data Analysis is a new feature within SimVenture allowing teachers to review and compare data from multiple saved games. The data can be viewed in a variety of ways and can be filtered by month, student or data item.

Exporting a Game

To export a game, click on the Game menu at the top left of the SimVenture window and then select 'Export Data for Analysis'. You will then be prompted to choose a folder to save the data file to as well as a suggested filename. This can be changed if required, but it is important to remember that all the files to be imported in a batch for analysis need to have different filenames. To facilitate this, the suggested filename includes a random number which in almost all cases should be unique.

Analysing Data

Importing Data Files

To analyse the data from multiple games, first you will need to take all the exported files and place them in a single folder. You can also choose to place files in sub folders of the main folder if required. Then click on the Help menu on the front page then select 'Analyse Data' (this is also available from the 'Game' menu once in a game). You will be asked to browse to find the folder containing the exported files. Once you have done this, SimVenture will import all the data files in that folder or the sub folders and display the analysis window.

Different Views

The analysis window is primarily made up of a series of tabs in the same style as a modern internet browser. There are 3 grid views and a chart view. In addition there are 2 extra tabs to allow the user to filter the choice of students and data items to be viewed. Along the top is a toolbar containing other basic filtering settings.

Single Data View

This tab lets the user view a single data item for each student for each month. To change the data item to view then change the 'Single Data Item' combo box on the toolbar. The 'Single Student' combo box has no effect on this tab. The range of months to view can be changed by setting the start and end month values on the toolbar. Months are specified as numbers rather than using month names because it is quite possible for 2 different games to have started in different months. The actual month in the game can be seen as the 'month' data item.

Single Month View

In this tab the user is able to look at a variety of different data values for each student for a single selected month. Use the 'Selected Month' box on the right of the toolbar to select the month you wish to view. The 2nd column also contains the time and date when the game was exported.

Single Student View

The single student view is much the same as DataExport spreadsheet file included in a saved game, showing the values for the different data items month by month. The range of months to view can be changed by setting the start and end month values on the toolbar.

Months Chart

This view allows the user to view the values for a single data item as a line chart. The chart will show a separate line for each game selected. The data item shown is chosen by changing the 'Single Data Item' combo box on the tool bar. The range of months can also be changed on the toolbar.

Filtering the Data

The views can be further filtered using the 'Select Games' and 'Select Data Items' tabs. Any view which displays multiple games will only display those games which are checked on the 'Select Games' tab. The 'Select All' button will select all the games and 'Clear All' button will clear them all. Views which display multiple data items work in much the same way, only showing the items selected in the 'Select Data Items' tab.

Exporting the grid data

The data in the 3 grids can be exported to .csv format files (comma separated variables), which can be imported by most spreadsheet applications such as Microsoft Office. Just click on the save button on the far right of the toolbar and choose the name and location of the file where you wish to save the data.