CONCATENATION

WHAT IS CONCATENATION

Concatenation is a feature in Report Studio that allows you to connect values from separate report columns so that they display as one column. For example, in this report sample, Building Number and Building Name are separate columns

BUILDING_NUMBER	BUILDING_NAME
10	Richard Cockburn MacLaurin Buildings (10)
14	Charles Hayden Memorial Library

Concatenation creates a new column containing the connected values:

BUILDING_NUMBER-BUILDING_NAME
10-Richard Cockburn MacLaurin Buildings (10)
14-Charles Hayden Memorial Library

This example shows two columns concatenated. You can concatenate as many fields as necessary.

HOW TO CONCATENATE COLUMNS

The following steps show how to concatenate two columns

1. Open the report in Report Studio.

2. Click the column name of the first column. Then, holding the SHIFT key down, click the second column heading (if the columns are not adjacent, hold the CTRL key instead). When you finish selecting the columns, they will be shaded:
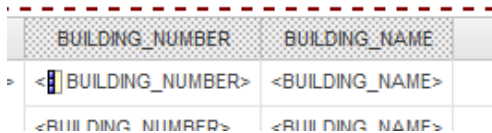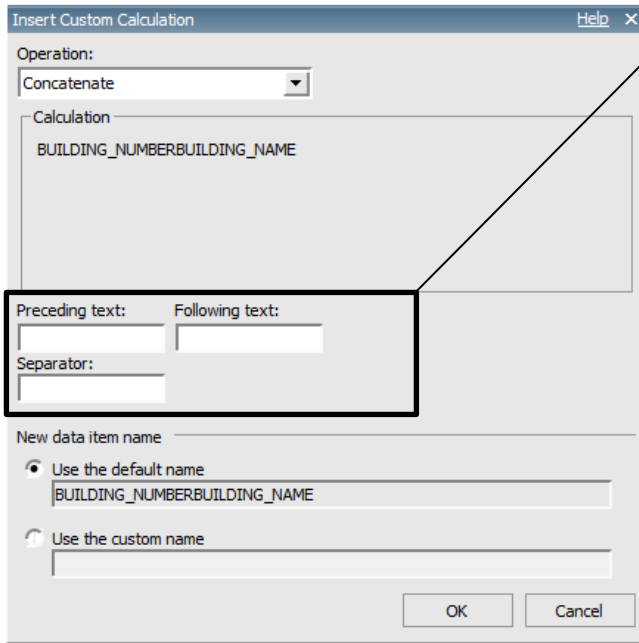

3. Click the down arrow on the **Calculate** button.
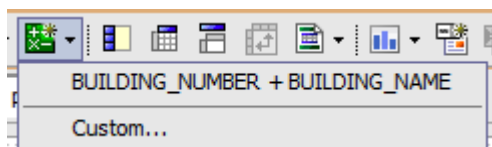
   Note that because you selected multiple columns, Cognos assumes you want to concatenate the fields. Selecting the **Custom** option lets you chose concatenation options.

4. Select **Custom….** The Insert Custom Calculation dialog displays.

Formatting the Concatenation

By default, Cognos concatenates field values with no space in between. For example, a concatenated building number and building name value would look like:

> E52Alfred E Sloan Building

A **Separator** improves readability:

> E52-Alfred E Sloan Building

Use **Preceding text** and **Following text** to enhance readability. For example, using 'Bldg ' as preceding text would result in:

> Bldg E52-Alfred E Sloan Building

For these options, you can use spaces, letters, numbers, punctuation, or special characters.

Unless you want to **Use the default name** for the column, select **Use the custom name** and specify a display name for the column.

5. Apply **Preceding text**, **Following text**, and/or a **Separator** text as appropriate.

6. Click **OK**. The concatenated column now displays to the right of the original two columns.

BUILDING_NUMBER	BUILDING_NAME	BUILDING_NUMBERBUILDING_NAME
<BUILDING_NUMBER>	<BUILDING_NAME>	<BUILDING_NUMBERBUILDING_NAME>
<BUILDING_NUMBER>	<BUILDING_NAME>	<BUILDING_NUMBERBUILDING_NAME>
<BUILDING_NUMBER>	<BUILDING_NAME>	<BUILDING_NUMBERBUILDING_NAME>

If you wish, you can delete the original two columns (by clicking on the column headings and pressing Delete).

7. Run the report to validate your work.