

# Putting the DASH In Dashboards




## Using DataDrill EXPRESS to Quickly Create Visual Key Management Information

### Introduction

Many organizations have experienced an explosion in the amount of data that is available for their managers to use in making decisions. While this is far better than the alternative, the wealth of data requires that managers have a means to navigate and analyze the information which affects their projects. This is where DataDrill EXPRESS comes into play. Designed to summarize large amounts of information, DataDrill EXPRESS provides a color-coded summary of all projects and activities of interest to each manager, simplifying access to key information, and letting managers focus on managing.







### Operation

Each manager has an interest in looking at only the information that is vital to them. DataDrill EXPRESS selects only those projects from within the organization in which the manager has an interest (and permission to). One of the managers' entry points into DataDrill EXPRESS is shown below.

Folder Properties	
<b>Title:</b>	Portfolio 1
Status	Unit
	Project 1
	Project 2
	Project 3

In this list view of projects, the manager can very quickly see the status of each project. With such color-coding, the manager can easily manage by exception and concentrate on areas where his or her attention may be required.

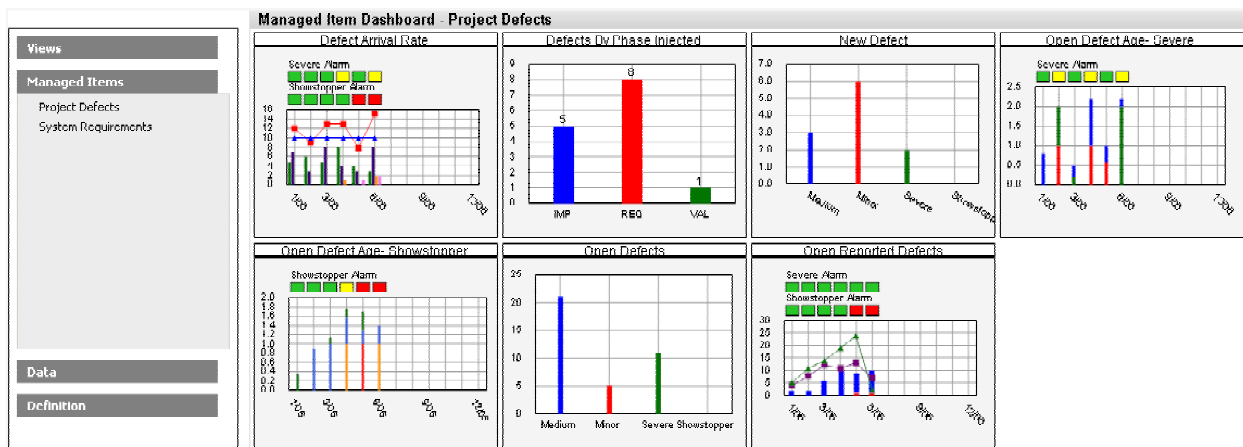
Once a trouble area has been identified, the manager needs to know the specific cause. In the summary view shown below, the manager can see all the color-coded areas for the project of interest. Notice how, without being bombarded with charts, graphs and tabular information, the manager can quickly assess the current status and decide which areas to investigate.

● Unit Properties		
<b>Title:</b>	Project 1	ActiveState
<b>Owner(s):</b>	none defined	1/1/2006 - 12/31/2006
<a href="#">details</a>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Show summary?		
Information Need	Item	Status
Defect Quality	--	
Requirements Progress	--	
Dimension	Element	Status
Dashboard Categories	Productivity	
	Quality	
Software CMMI Maturity Level 2	Process & Product Quality Assurance	
	Requirements Management	

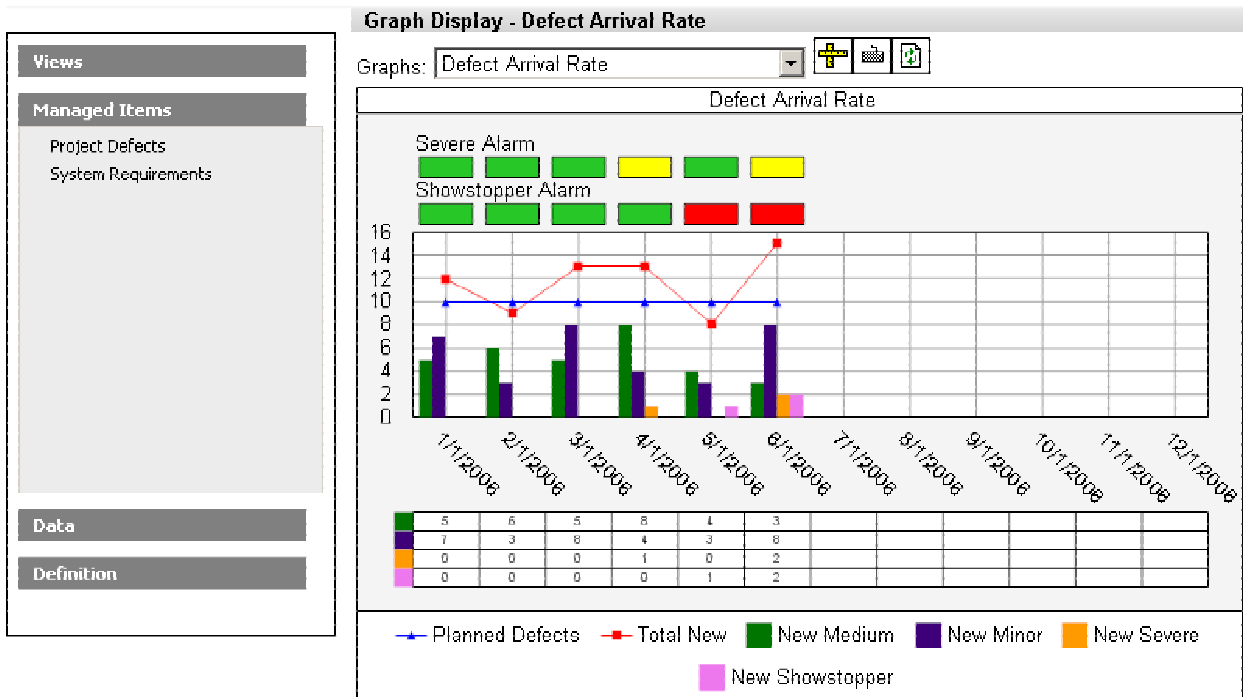
DataDrill EXPRESS includes a variety of information views – different ways to present project data depending on the specific information the managers need – ranging from a GANTT chart to a project-wide alarm status list to dashboard views.

Alarm View			
Item	Graph	Series	Status
Project Defects	Defect Arrival Rate	Severe Alarm	Yellow
	Defect Arrival Rate	Showstopper Alarm	Red
	Open Defect Age- Severe	Severe Alarm	Yellow
	Open Defect Age- Showstopper	Showstopper Alarm	Red
	Open Reported Defects	Severe Alarm	Green
	Open Reported Defects	Showstopper Alarm	Red
System Requirements	Requirements Change Summary	Requirements Alarm	Green
	Requirements TDDs	TDD Alarm	Green
	Requirements Volatility	Volatility Alarm	Green

Using these views, the manager can quickly see the historic and current status of any indicator of interest, and then quickly assess the relationship between two or more indicators.



DataDrill EXPRESS also makes contributing graphs, status details and numeric data available through several drill-down options.



## **Conclusion**

DataDrill EXPRESS delivers measurement information that enables software development projects and their organizations to assess and improve performance. Combining performance data from organizational data sources with best-practices, compliance rules and business decision processes, DataDrill EXPRESS helps you manage and improve project and business performance -- letting you quickly assess status, by drilling from the top level down to specific facts and applications.

Web-based dashboards provide real-time identification of problems by color-coding individual metrics. Each metric color-code is updated and then rolled up using your color-codes in groups of related data. Quickly spot trouble in the category of requirements, cost, quality or schedule. Tailor the categories to personalize the color codes to your management needs.

## **Background**

DataDrill EXPRESS is a Web-based management tool from Distributive Management that combines dashboards, performance metrics, built-in best practices and automatic compliance tracking to help companies bring software projects to more successful conclusions.

For more information and a closer look at DataDrill EXPRESS, please join one of our regularly scheduled introductory webinars or contact our Sales team directly:

Webinars: [http://www.distributive.com/softwaredevelopment\\_webinars.htm](http://www.distributive.com/softwaredevelopment_webinars.htm)

Contact Sales: [sales@distributive.com](mailto:sales@distributive.com)