16 THE NUMBER OF DATA ELEMENT TYPES ON A REPORT

Problem description

The report below is made by product group each quarter and contains the sales for each country. (In this case, the product group is Audio.) The report is requested via a screen. The user must enter the quarter of the report. Only those countries are printed where at least one product of a given product group has actually been sold. The totals for Europe, Asia, and Other are the sums of the respective columns. The percentage is calculated from Qty and Turnover.

Report 1A		Overview Audio (1)			20/07/2017 Current month:07-17 (2) Period: April-June (3)
Country	Local Sales	Turnover $ (x1000)	Net %	Margin $ (x1000)	
Austria (4)	xxx.xx (5)	xxxxx (6)	xx.x (7)	xxxxx (8)	
Portugal	xxx.xx	xxxxx	xx.x	xxxxx	
Germany	xxx.xx	xxxxx	xx.x	xxxxx	
Europe (9)	xxx.xx (10)	xxxxx (11)	xx.x (12)	xxxxx (13)	
Europe	xxx.xx	xxxxx	xx.x	xxxxx	
Asia	xxx.xx	xxxxx	xx.x	xxxxx	
Other	xxx.xx	xxxxx	xx.x	xxxxx	

How many data element types should be counted when determining the complexity of the external output?

Discussion

The data element types to be counted are denoted by the figures in parentheses. The date in the heading is standard, just as "Report 1A" in the upper left hand corner, and, consequently, is not counted. The percentage is counted once in the detailed line and once again in the total line for each geographical unit because the logical processing differs. Each column total is counted. The variable fields "Audio", "Current Month", and "Quarter" are also counted. Additionally, the data entered on the screen are counted as data element types (one in this case) when the complexity of the external output is determined, and the initiation trigger is counted.

Solution

Fifteen data element types are distinguished in total.

References to the standard

4.23, 8.3.a, 8.3.b, 8.3.d, 8.3.f and 8.3.g