

## Using Tableau Prep Builder

Tableau Prep **Extracts** data from one or more source files, **Transforms** the data to conform with consistent standards and **Loads** the data into a repository. ETL software is used to automate the redundant manipulation of data. In this exercise, you will **Extract** the **January Sales Data** file, **Transform** the data into the required two reports: # of units, Sales and Profit Margin by Product and Salesperson. Then **Load** the transformed data into Excel.

Notice that the column headings are in the ninth row, some rows have partial duplicate data and some rows are blank.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1											
2											
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**Cuddly Stuffed Animals**  
**January Sales Data**

Sales Order #	Salesperson #	Salesperson	Title	Profit Margin	Region #	Region	State	Product	# of units	Sales
35005	1304	Martin Van Buren	Sales Associate I	1,908.00	3	South	TX	Stuffed Horse	144	3,108.00
								Stuffed Horse		3,168.00
35006	1302	Grover Cleveland	Senior Sales Associate	936.00	1	Midwest	NE	Stuffed Panda	72	1,656.00
								Stuffed Panda		1,656.00
35009	1301	Thomas Jefferson	Sales Associate I	2,028.00	2	Northeast	PA	Stuffed Panda	156	3,588.00
				2,028.00				Stuffed Panda		
35011	1305	George Washington	Sales Associate I	1,560.00	1	Midwest	MN	Stuffed Panda	120	2,760.00
				1,560.00				Stuffed Panda		
35014	1303	Ulysses Grant	Senior Sales Associate	1,215.00	1	Midwest	MN	Stuffed Giraffe	108	2,268.00
				1,215.00				Stuffed Giraffe		
35017	1305	George Washington	Sales Associate I	708.00	2	Northeast	RI	Stuffed Elephant	48	1,200.00
				708.00				Stuffed Elephant		
35025	1303	Ulysses Grant	Senior Sales Associate	1,272.00	2	Northeast	ME	Stuffed Horse	96	2,112.00
								Stuffed Horse	96	
35026	1301	Thomas Jefferson	Sales Associate I	1,716.00	4	West	WY	Stuffed Penguin	156	3,120.00

Introduction **January Sales Data** February-December Sales Data Products Salesperson Region Sheet3 Sh ...

## Sample Reports

Product	# of units	Sales	Profit Margin
Stuffed Frog	1,524	\$ 33,528	\$20,574
Stuffed Unicorr	408	8,160	4,692
Stuffed Panda	1,140	26,220	15,675
Stuffed Koala	624	14,976	8,112
Stuffed Elephant	4,044	84,924	49,539
Stuffed Bear	2,376	59,400	35,046
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,116</b>	<b>\$227,208</b>	<b>\$133,638</b>

Salesperson	# of units	Sales	Profit Margin
1405 - James Polk	1,812	\$41,568	\$24,438
1425 - John Tyler	2,172	48,336	28,110
1541 - Ulysses Grant	756	17,112	10,062
1576 - James Madison	1,776	39,216	23,160
1588 - George Washington	1,584	35,784	21,168
1776 - James Monroe	2,016	45,192	26,700
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,116</b>	<b>\$227,208</b>	<b>\$133,638</b>

## Start Tableau Prep

The Tableau Prep Builder workspace consists of the Connections pane and three coordinated areas that help you interact with and explore your data:

- Flow pane: A visual representation of your operation steps as you prepare your data.
- Profile pane: A summary of each field in your data sample. See the shape of your data and quickly find outliers and nulls.
- Data grid pane: The row level detail for your data.

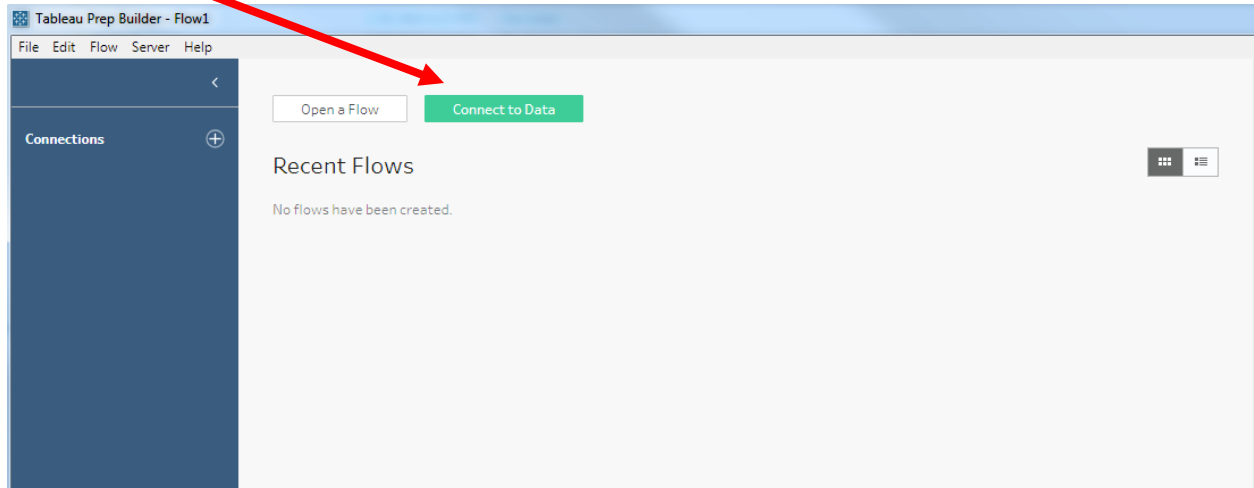
The screenshot shows the Tableau Prep Builder workspace. On the left is the **Connections** pane with a search bar and a list of data sources. The main area is divided into four panes:

- Flow Pane** (top center): Shows a visual flow of data operations. A single step labeled 'Clean 1' is visible, connected to a data source icon.
- Connection** (left side): A vertical pane showing the list of data sources, including 'Introduction A18.E26', 'Introduction A31.Q40', 'Introduction B6.C14', 'Introduction G18.J26', 'Introduction L18.O26', 'Introduction T31.T40', 'Products', 'Region', 'Region F6.W6', 'Region F7.W10', and 'Salesperson'.
- Profile Pane** (center): Displays a summary of the data fields. It shows a list of fields with their data types and a visual representation of the data distribution (e.g., a bar chart for 'Salesperson #').
- Data Pane** (bottom): Displays a grid of data rows. The first row shows 'Sales Order #', 'Salesperson #', 'Salesperson', 'Title', 'Units', 'Sales', and 'Profit Margin'. The data rows show values like '35,005', '1,306', 'John Tyler', 'Senior Sales Associate', '3,276', and '1,599'.

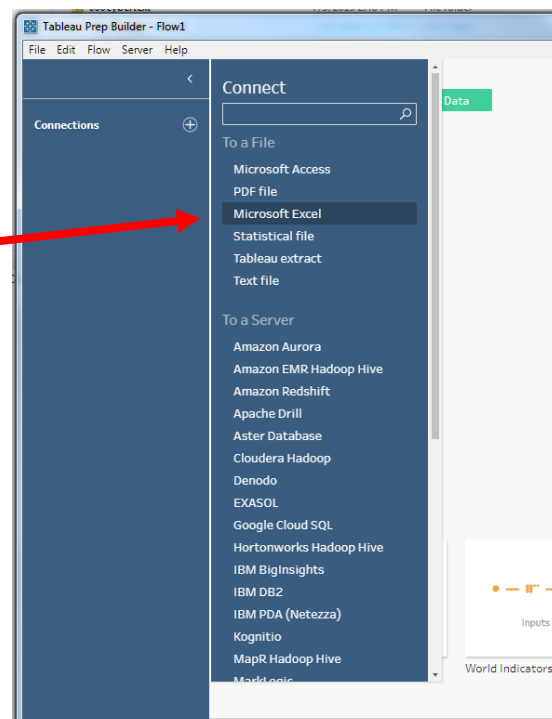
After you connect to your data and begin building your flow, you add steps in the Flow pane. These steps function as a lens into the structure of your data, as well as a summary of operations that is applied to your data. Each step represents a different category of operations that you define.

## Step 1: Input Excel file

To open Excel file via Tableau Prep, press green button “Connect to Data” on the Flow pane.

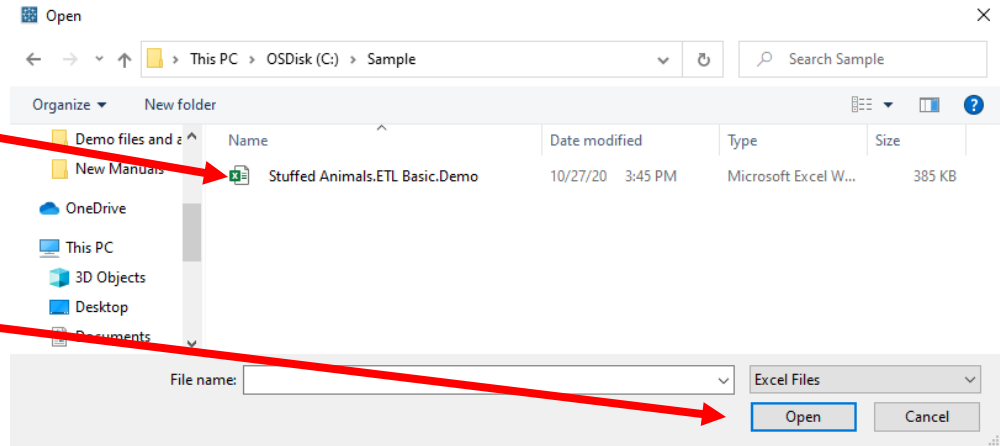


On the connections pane select Microsoft Excel.

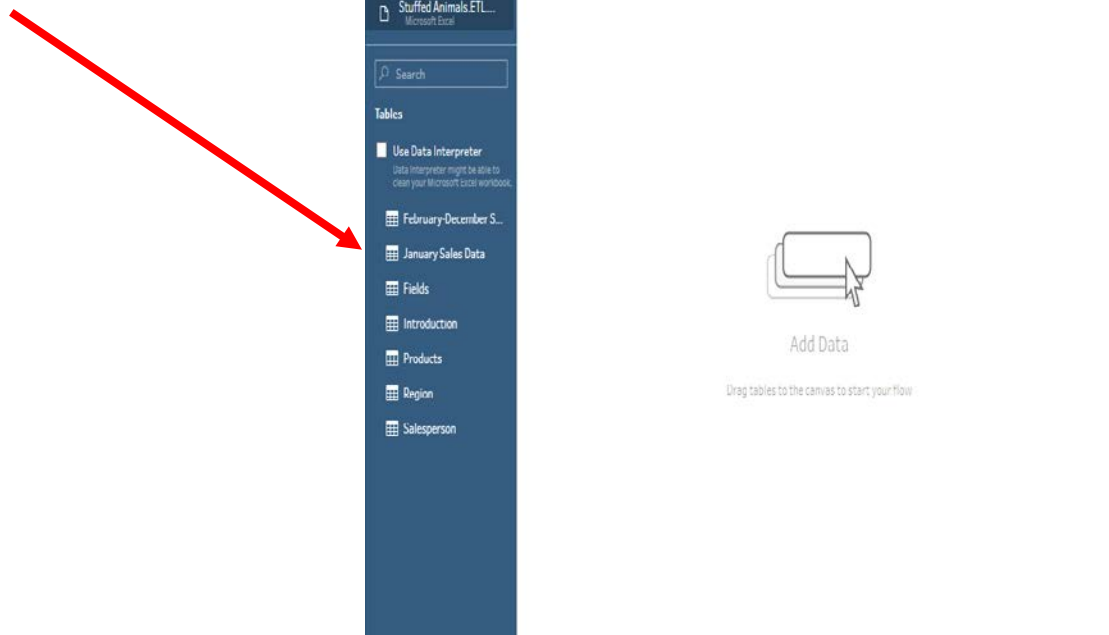


Select the file.

Select "Open".



After you open the file, select the "January Sales Data" sheet on the Connections pane. Either double click on the sheet name or drag the sheet name to the canvas.



After selecting the sheet, “January Sales Data” will appear on the Flow pane.

The screenshot shows the Tableau Prep Builder interface. On the left, the 'Connections' pane shows '4. Stuffed Animals.ET...' and the 'Tables' pane shows 'January Sales Data' selected. In the center, the 'Input' pane shows 'Single table' selected. On the right, the 'January Sales Data' table is displayed with 11 fields. A red arrow points from the text above to the 'January Sales Data' sheet icon in the Flow pane. Another red arrow points from the 'Field Name' column header in the 'January Sales Data' table to the 'F2' field name.

Field Name	Original Field Name	Changes	Preview
Cuddly Stuffed Animals	Cuddly Stuffed Animals		January Sales Data, Sales Order #, 35005
F2	F2		null, Salesperson #, 1304
F3	F3		null, Salesperson, Martin Van Buren
F4	F4		null, Title, Sales Associate I
F5	F5		null, Profit Margin, 1,908.00
F6	F6		null, Region #, 3
F7	F7		null, Region, South
F8	F8		null, State, TN
F9	F9		null, Product, Stuffed Horse
F10	F10		null, # of units, 144
F11	F11		null, Sales, 3,168.00

Sample data will be visible on the Profile pane. Notice that the Field Names are not correct.

## Step 2: Cleaning the data

The field names are in the ninth row.

Sometimes Tableau can find the headers by checking the box to the left of “Use Data Interpreter”.

The screenshot shows the Tableau Prep Builder interface. On the left, the 'Connections' pane shows a connection to '4. Stuffed Animals ET Microsoft Excel'. Below it, the 'Tables' pane lists several tables, including 'January Sales Data'. The 'Cleaned with Data Interpreter' checkbox is checked. The main pane shows the 'January Sales Data' table with 11 fields. A red box highlights the 'Field Name' column header, and a red arrow points to it. The table data is as follows:

Type	Field Name	Original Field Name	Changes	Preview
#	Sales Order #	Sales Order #		35,005, null, 35,006
#	Salesperson #	Salesperson #		1,304, null, 1,302
Abc	Salesperson	Salesperson		Martin Van Buren, null, Grover Cleveland
Abc	Title	Title		Sales Associate I, null, Senior Sales Associate
#	Profit Margin	Profit Margin		1,908, null, 936
#	Region #	Region #		3, null, 1
Abc	Region	Region		South, null, Midwest
Abc	State	State		TN, null, NE
Abc	Product	Product		Stuffed Horse, Stuffed Panda
#	# of units	# of units		144, null, 72
#	Sales	Sales		3,168, 1,656

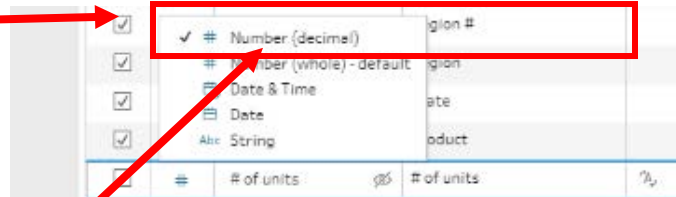
If it works, the field names will be displayed correctly.

If not, double click on the “Field Name” and change the names as shown below.

Type	Field Name	Original Field Name
Abc	Sales Order #	Cuddly Stuffed Animals
Abc	F2	F2

All number fields that will be added, subtracted, multiplied, divided must be coded as “Number (decimal)”.

Change the field “Type” by selecting the “Type” to be changed and selecting the desired “Type”.



- “Profit Margin”: “Number (decimal)”
- “# of Units”: “Number (decimal)”
- “Sales”: “Number (decimal)”

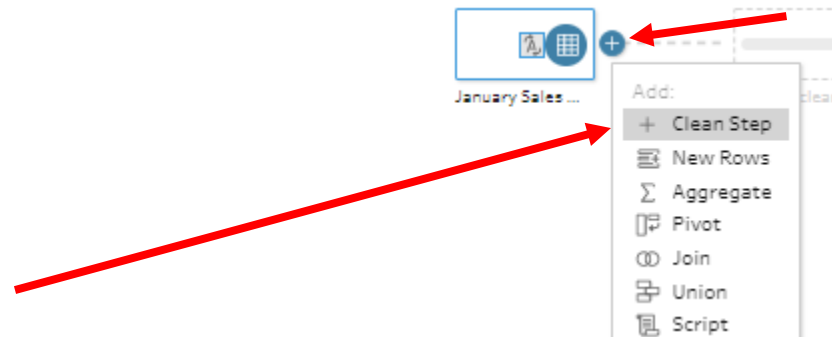
January Sales Data 11 fields | Filter Values...

Clear the check box to remove fields. You can also filter your data or change data types. [Add a clean step](#) to view and clean data.

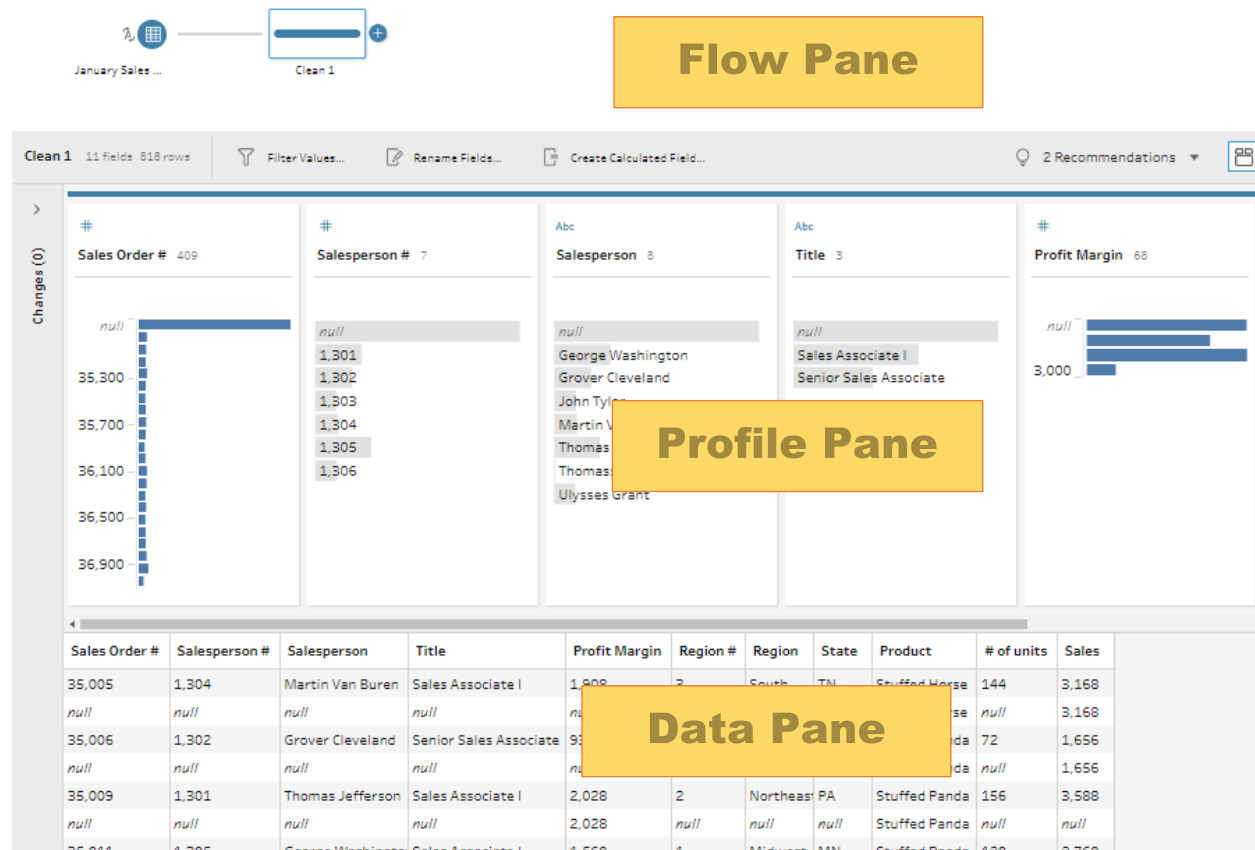
Fields selected: 11 of 11

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Type	Field Name	Original Field Name	Changes	Preview
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	#	Sales Order #	Sales Order #		35,005, null, 35,006
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	#	Salesperson #	Salesperson #		1,304, null, 1,302
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Abc	Salesperson	Salesperson		Martin Van Buren, null, Grover Cleveland
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Abc	Title	Title		Sales Associate I, null, Senior Sales Associate
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	#	Profit Margin	Profit Margin	Number (decimal)	1,908, null, 936
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	#	Region #	Region #		3, null, 1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Abc	Region	Region		South, null, Midwest
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Abc	State	State		TN, null, NE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Abc	Product	Product		Stuffed Horse, Stuffed Panda
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	#	# of units	# of units	Number (decimal)	144, null, 72
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	#	Sales	Sales	Number (decimal)	3,168, 1,656

In the “Flow Pane” select the “+” on the right of the “January Sales” input.

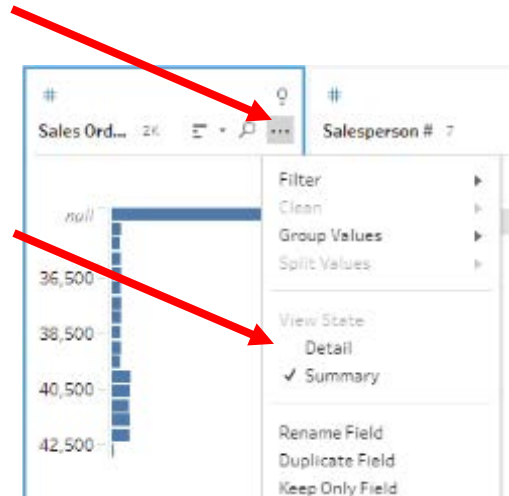


Select “+ Clean Step”.





If a field is displayed as a graph, hover over the field in the Profile Pane. Click on the three dots that appear in the upper right corner and select “Detail”.



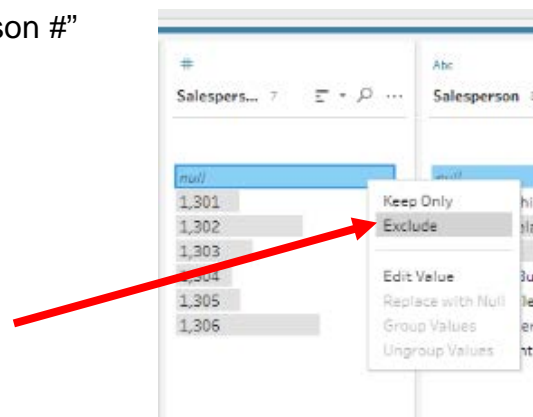
**Exclude all rows that do not contain data**

A quick review of the “Data Pane” shows that the blank rows were deleted and that some rows that do not contain a value for “Salesperson #”.

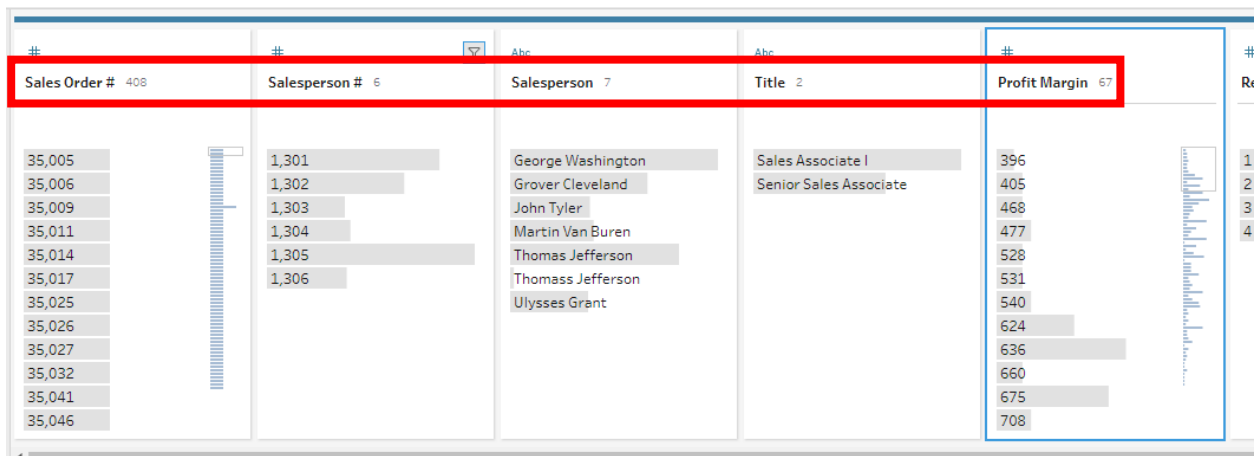
Sales Order #	Salesperson #	Salesperson	Title	Profit Margin	Region #	Region	State	Product	# of units	Sales
35,005	1,304	Martin Van Buren	Sales Associate I	1,908	3	South	TN	Stuffed Horse	144	3,168
<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	Stuffed Horse	<i>null</i>	3,168
35,006	1,302	Grover Cleveland	Senior Sales Associate	936	1	Midwest	NE	Stuffed Panda	72	1,656
<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	Stuffed Panda	<i>null</i>	1,656
35,009	1,301	Thomas Jefferson	Sales Associate I	2,028	2	Northeast	PA	Stuffed Panda	156	3,588
<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	2,028	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	Stuffed Panda	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>
35,011	1,305	George Washington	Sales Associate I	1,560	1	Midwest	MN	Stuffed Panda	120	2,760
<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	1,560	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	Stuffed Panda	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>
35,014	1,303	Ulysses Grant	Senior Sales Associate	1,215	1	Midwest	MN	Stuffed Giraffe	108	2,268
<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	1,215	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	Stuffed Giraffe	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>
35,017	1,305	George Washington	Sales Associate I	708	2	Northeast	RI	Stuffed Elephant	48	1,200
<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	708	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	Stuffed Elephant	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>
35,025	1,303	Ulysses Grant	Senior Sales Associate	1,272	2	Northeast	ME	Stuffed Horse	96	2,112
<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	Stuffed Horse	96	<i>null</i>
35,026	1,301	Thomas Jefferson	Sales Associate I	1,716	4	West	WY	Stuffed Penguin	156	3,120
<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	<i>null</i>	Stuffed Penguin	<i>null</i>	3,120

Modify the working dataset, so it includes only those rows that are not coded as “*null*”.

Right click on the “*null*” value in the “Salesperson #” field and select “Exclude”.

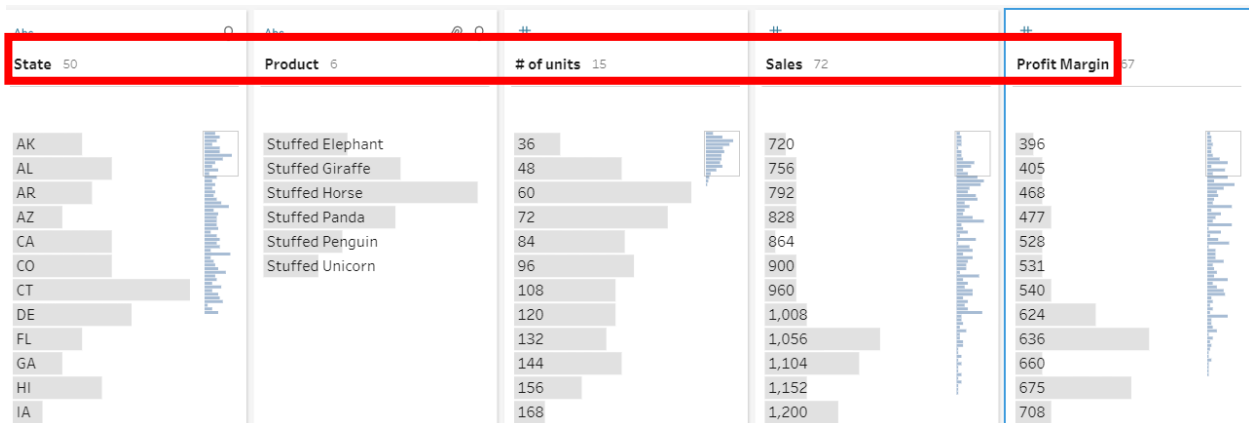


## Reorder the fields



In the “Data Pane” select the field “Profit Margin” and drag it to the last field position.

Now the fields are in a different order.



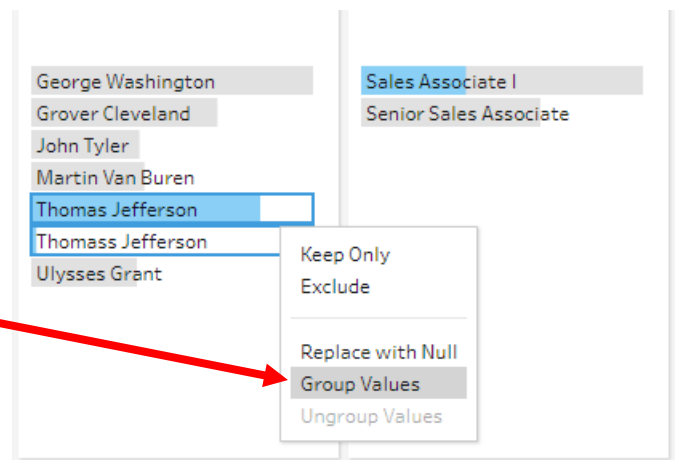
## Clean the Data in the Fields

The Cuddly Stuffed Animals company provided additional information in the Excel file.

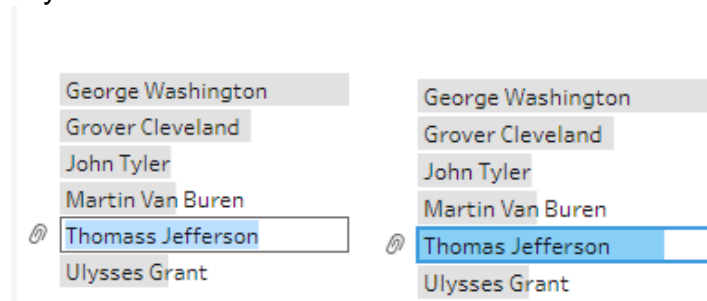
Product ID	Product	Code	Salesperson	Code	Region
101	Stuffed Penguin	1301	Thomas Jefferson	1	Midwest
102	Stuffed Horse	1302	Grover Cleveland	2	Northeast
103	Stuffed Unicorn	1303	Ulysses Grant	3	South
104	Stuffed Giraffe	1304	Martin Van Buren	4	West
105	Stuffed Panda	1305	George Washington		
106	Stuffed Elephant	1306	John Tyler		

Sometime data is entered into a system incorrectly. The “Salesperson” field has entries for “Thomass Jefferson” that must be corrected to “Thomas Jefferson”.

Select both, right click and select “Group Values”.



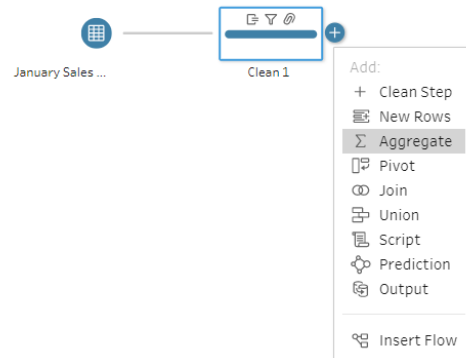
If the system groups with the incorrect name, type the correct name and hit the enter key.



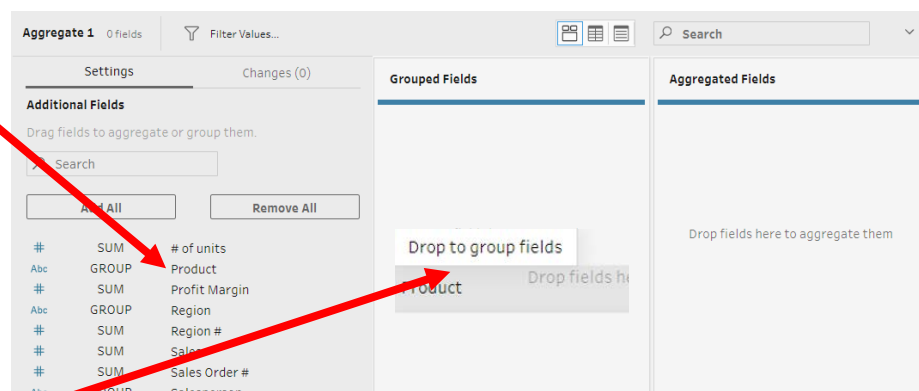
Check and correct the “Product” and “Region” Fields.

### Step 3: Aggregate Balances

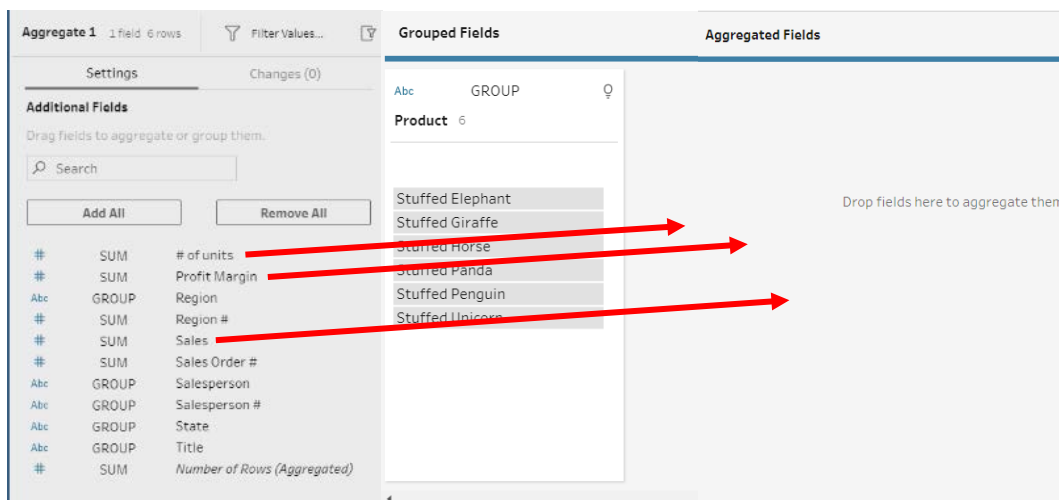
To accumulate the values by product, Click on the “+” to the right of “Clean 1” and select “Aggregate”.



Drag “Product” field



to “Grouped Fields”:



Drag “# of units”, “Sales” and Profit Margin” to “Aggregated Fields”.

Grouped Fields

Abc

GROUP

Q

Product

6

Stuffed Elephant

Stuffed Giraffe

Stuffed Horse

Stuffed Panda

Stuffed Penguin

Stuffed Unicorn

Aggregated Fields

#

SUM

# of units

6

3,060

4,392

5,016

7,488

8,052

12,120

#

SUM

Sales

6

73,440

100,320

109,800

169,092

172,224

266,640

#

SUM

Profit Margin

6

40,545

55,176

64,782

90,585

97,344

160,590

Product

Stuffed Unicorn

Stuffed Horse

Stuffed Panda

Stuffed Giraffe

Stuffed Elephant

Stuffed Penguin

# of units

Sales

Profit Margin

6

3,060

73,440

40,545

12,120

266,640

160,590

7,488

172,224

97,344

8,052

169,092

90,585

4,392

109,800

64,782

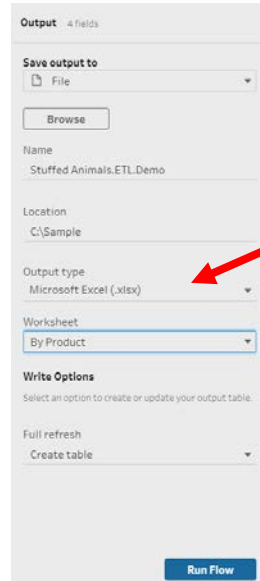
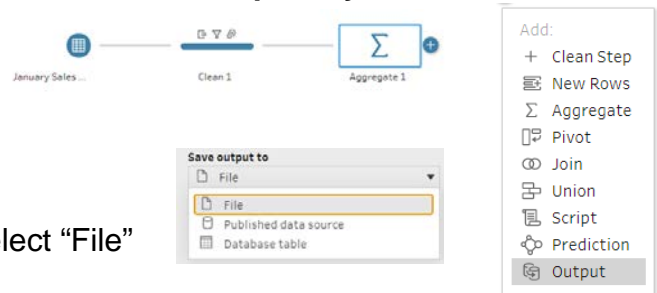
5,016

100,320

55,176

**Step 4: Output the cleaned data that will be used for the Report by Product**

Click on the plus sign of the “Aggregate 1” tile and select “Output”.

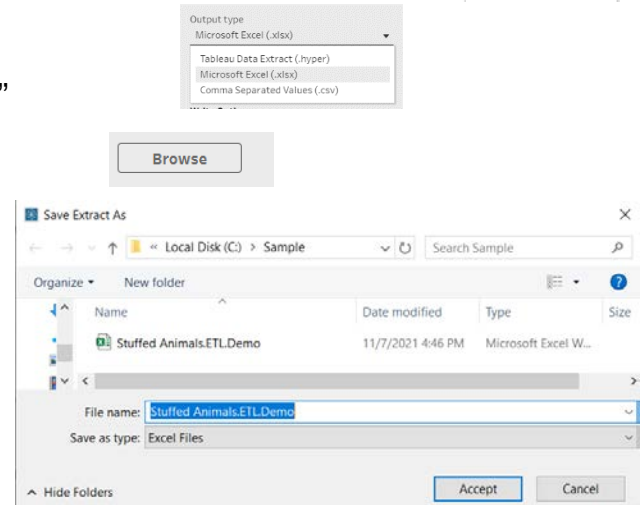


1. “Save output to”, Select “File”

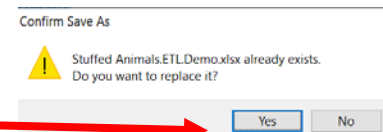
2. “Output type”, Select “Microsoft Excel (.xlsx)”

3. Select “Browse”

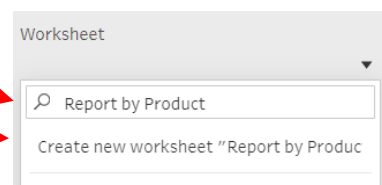
3.1 Select the original data file and select “Accept”.



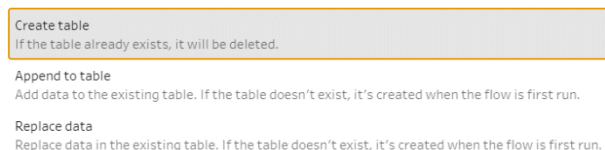
3.2 Confirm that you are replacing the original file.



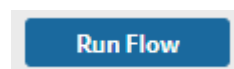
4. “Worksheet”, enter “Report by Product” and confirm by selecting “Create new worksheet “Report by Product””.



5. “Write Options” select “Create table”.



6. Select “Run Flow”.



If the program asks to confirm select Replace

Outputs with the same names already exist. Do you want to replace them?

Running the flow will replace these existing outputs with new outputs.

Output Step	Location	Name
Output	E:\Sample\Stuffed Animals.ETL.De...	Report by Product

Cancel

Replace

Select "Done".

Finished Running Flow



General Ledger.csv

Total time 00:00

Done

Open the original data file in Excel.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Product	# of units	Sales	Profit Margin		
2	Stuffed Un	3060	73440	40545		
3	Stuffed Ho	12120	266640	160590		
4	Stuffed Pa	7488	172224	97344		
5	Stuffed Gir	8052	169092	90585		
6	Stuffed Ele	4392	109800	64782		
7	Stuffed Pe	5016	100320	55176		
8						

Make format changes and to prevent the changes being inadvertently lost when other extracts are performed.

	A	B	C	D	E
1	Product	# of units	Sales	Profit Margin	
2	Stuffed Unicorn	3,060.00	\$73,440.00	\$40,545.00	
3	Stuffed Horse	12,120.00	\$266,640.00	\$160,590.00	
4	Stuffed Panda	7,488.00	\$172,224.00	\$97,344.00	
5	Stuffed Giraffe	8,052.00	\$169,092.00	\$90,585.00	
6	Stuffed Elephant	4,392.00	\$109,800.00	\$64,782.00	
7	Stuffed Penguin	5,016.00	\$100,320.00	\$55,176.00	
8	Total	40,128.00	\$891,516.00	\$509,022.00	
9					
10					

To change the name of the tab, double click on the tab "Report by Product", replace it with "Jan Report by Product" and hit the Enter key.

Save, close the Excel file, and return to Tableau.

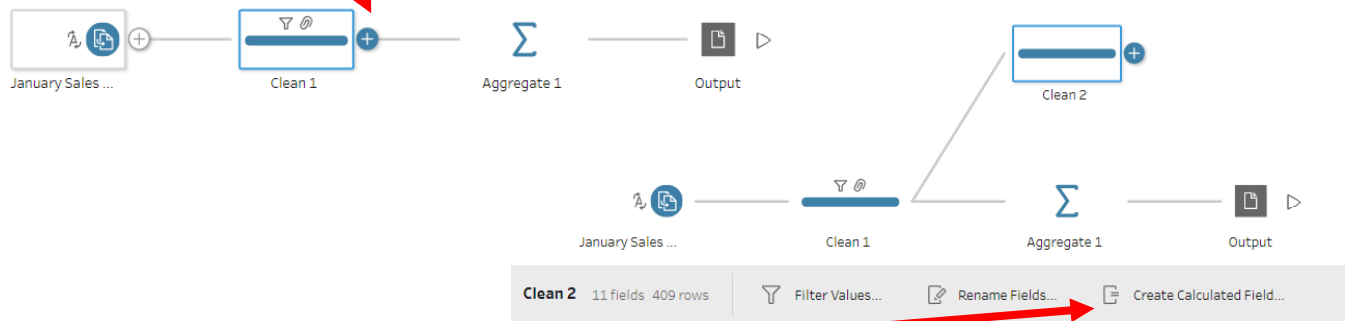


**Step 5: Create a new field that combine the fields “Salesperson #” and “Salesperson”**

The “Salesperson” report will summarize the data by “Salesperson #” with the salesperson’s name attached for clarity. We now want to combine the fields with “ - ” between the fields.

Salesperson	# of units	Sales	Profit Margin
1405 - James Polk	1,812	\$41,568	\$24,438
1425 - John Tyler	2,172	48,336	28,110
1541 - Ulysses Grant	756	17,112	10,062
1576 - James Madison	1,776	39,216	23,160
1588 - George Washington	1,584	35,784	21,168
1776 - James Monroe	2,016	45,192	26,700
Total	10,116	\$227,208	\$133,638

Click on the plus sign on the right of the “Clean 1” step and select “Clean Step”



Select “Create Calculated Field”.

Enter “Salesperson Number and Name” as the “Field Name”.

Enter the formula: [Salesperson #]+ " - " +[Salesperson].

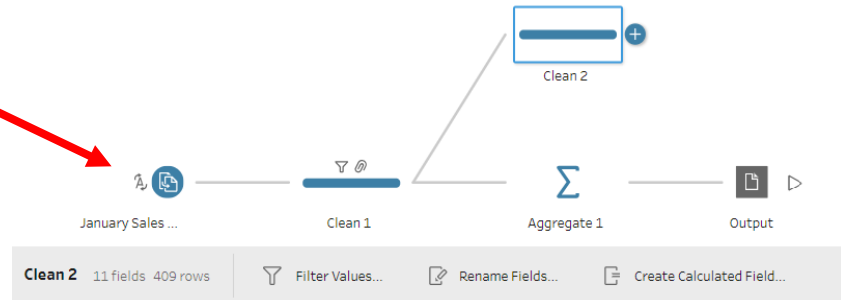
There is an error because “Salesperson #” is a number and “Salesperson” is a string.

Function '+' can't accept parameters: (integer, string).

Select the “X” to close the window.

Change the field “Salesperson #” from a numeric to a string.

Select the first step,  
“January Sales”.



Select the “Type” field for  
“Salesperson #”.

**January Sales Data** 11 fields | Filter Values...

Clear the check box to remove fields. You can also filter your data or change

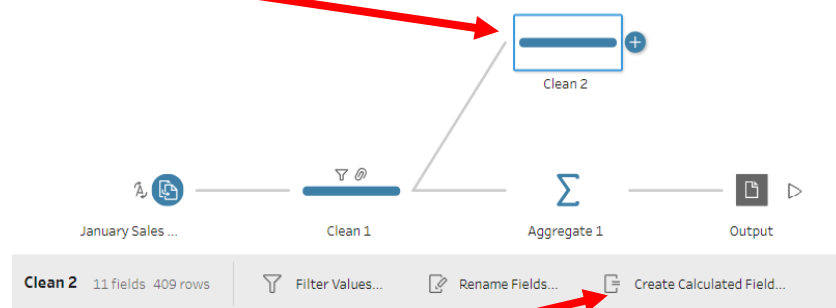
Fields selected: 11 of 11

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Type	Field Name	Original Field Name
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	#	Sales Order #	Sales Order #
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	#	Salesperson #	Salesperson #
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Abc	Salesperson	Salesperson

Select “String”

- # Number (decimal)
- ✓ # Number (whole) - default
- Date & Time
- Date
- Abc String

Select the step Clean 2.



Select “Create Calculated Field”.

Enter “Salesperson Number and Name” as the “Field Name”.



Enter the formula: [Salesperson #]+ " - " + [Salesperson].

Add Field

Field Name: Salesperson Number and Name

Reference: All

Formula: [Salesperson #]+ " - " + [Salesperson]

ABS(number)  
Returns the absolute value of the given number.  
Example: ABS(-7) = 7

Calculation is valid ^

Apply Save

Select “Save”.

A new field has been created.

Abc

Salesperson Number an... 6

1301 - Thomas Jefferson
1302 - Grover Cleveland
1303 - Ulysses Grant
1304 - Martin Van Buren
1305 - George Washington
1306 - John Tyler

**Step 6: Aggregate balances and export “Report by Salesperson”**

Right Click on the “Clean 2” in the “Flow Pane” and select “Rename Step”.

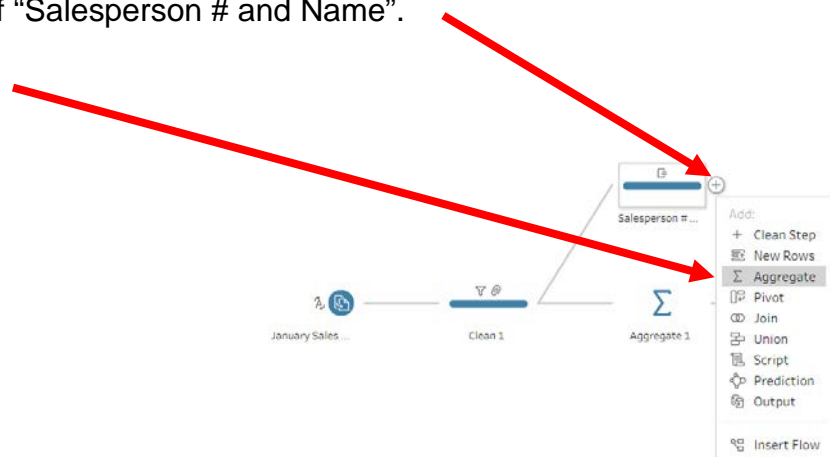


Type “Salesperson # and Name” and press “Enter”.



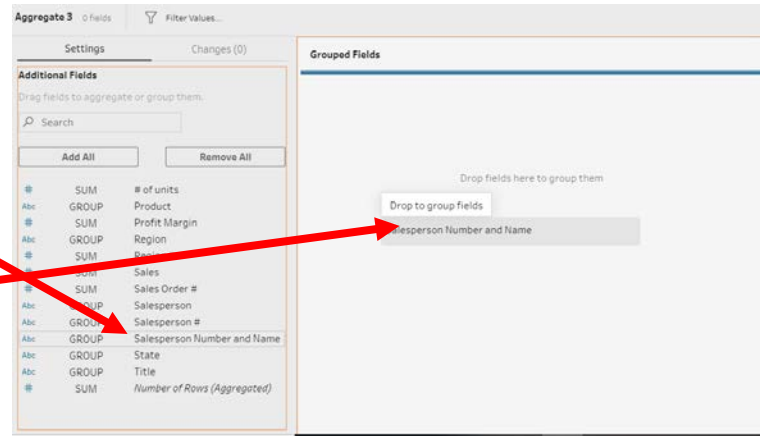
Click on the “+” to the right of “Salesperson # and Name”.

Select “Add Aggregate”.

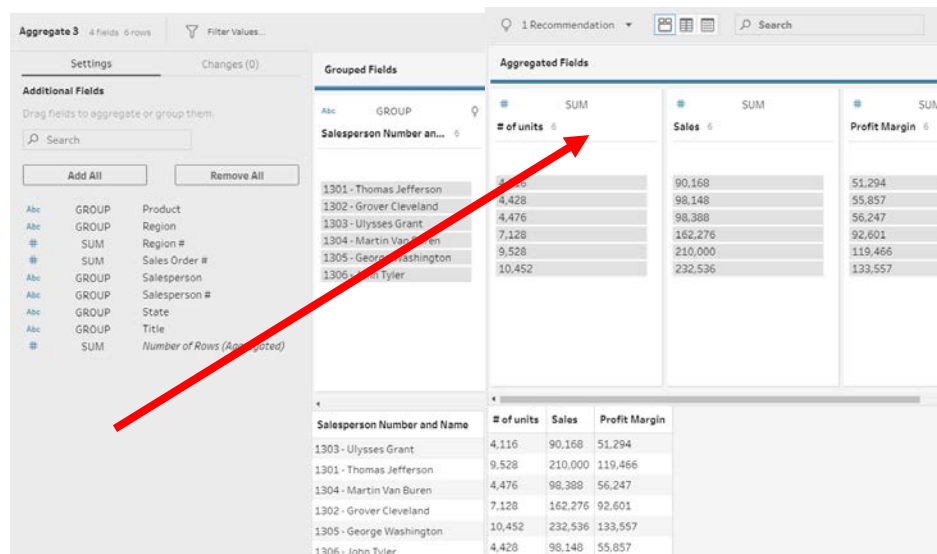


Drag “Salesperson # and Name”  
field

to “Grouped Fields”



Drag “# of Units”, “Sales” and “Profit Margin” field



to “Aggregated Fields”.

**Step 7: Output the Report by Salesperson**

Click on the plus sign of our Aggregate tile and select “Add Output”.

**Output 2** 4 fields

Save output to  
File

Browse

Name  
Stuffed Animals.ETL.Demo

Location  
C:\Sample

Output type  
Microsoft Excel (.xlsx)

Worksheet  
By Salesperson

**Write Options**  
Select an option to create or update your output table.

Full refresh  
Create table

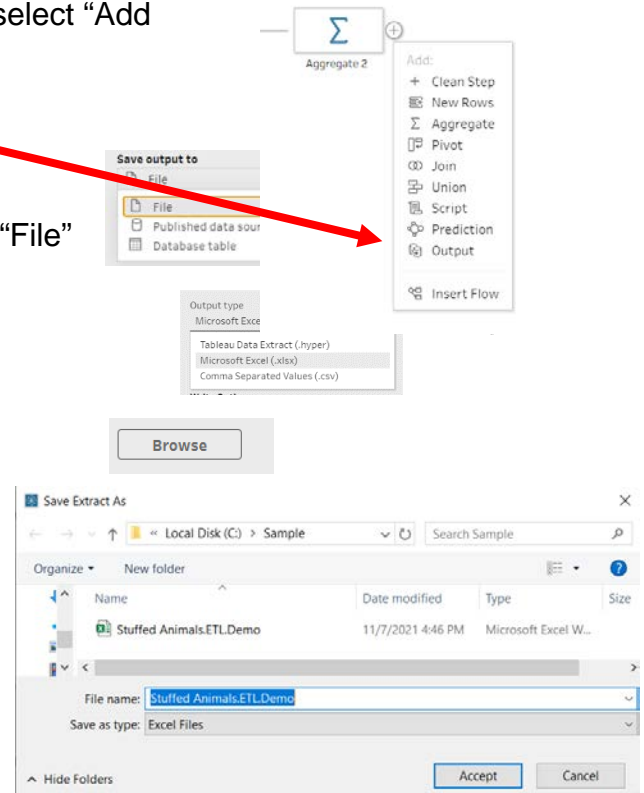
Run Flow

1. “Save output to”, Select “File”

2. “Output type”, Select “Microsoft Excel (.xlsx)”

3. Select “Browse”

3.1 Select the original data file and select “Accept”.

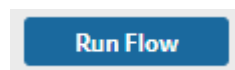


3.2 Confirm that you are replacing the original file.

4. “Worksheet”, enter “Report By Salesperson” and confirm by selecting “Create new worksheet “Report by Salesperson””.

5. “Write Options” select “Create table”.

6. Select “Run Flow”.



7. Select "Done".

Finished Running Flow



General Ledger.csv

Total time 00:00

Done

8. Select Replace.

Outputs with the same names already exist. Do you want to replace them?

Running the flow will replace these existing outputs with new outputs.

Output Step	Location	Name
Output 2	E:\Sample\Stuffed Animals ETL De...	Report by Salesperson

Cancel

Replace

Open the original data file in Excel.

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Salesperson	# of units	Sales	Profit Margin		
2	1303 - Uly	4116	90168	51294		
3	1301 - Tho	9528	210000	119466		
4	1304 - Mai	4476	98388	56247		
5	1302 - Gro	7128	162276	92601		
6	1305 - Gec	10452	232536	133557		
7	1306 - Joh	4428	98148	55857		
8						
9						
10						
11						

Make format changes and to prevent the changes inadvertently lost when other extracts are preformed change the name of the tab.

Double click on the tab "By Salesperson", replace it with "Jan by Salesperson" and hit the Enter key.

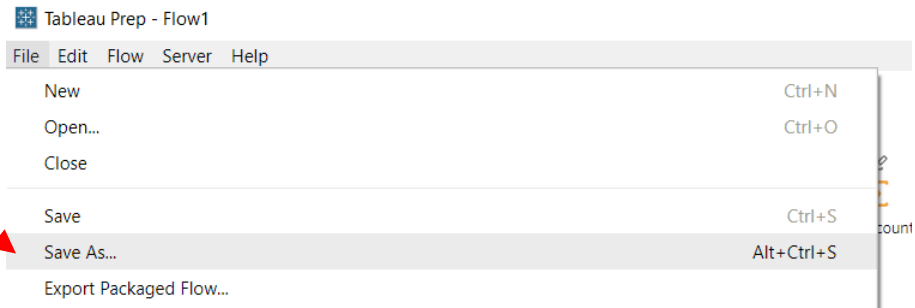
	A	B	C	D	E
1	Salesperson Number and Name	# of units	Sales	Profit Margin	
2	1301 - Thomas Jefferson	9,528.00	\$210,000.00	\$119,466.00	
3	1302 - Grover Cleveland	7,128.00	\$162,276.00	\$92,601.00	
4	1303 - Ulysses Grant	4,116.00	\$90,168.00	\$51,294.00	
5	1304 - Martin Van Buren	4,476.00	\$98,388.00	\$56,247.00	
6	1305 - George Washington	10,452.00	\$232,536.00	\$133,557.00	
7	1306 - John Tyler	4,428.00	\$98,148.00	\$55,857.00	
8	Total	40,128.00	\$891,516.00	\$509,022.00	
9					
10					
11					
12					

Save, close the Excel file and return to Tableau.

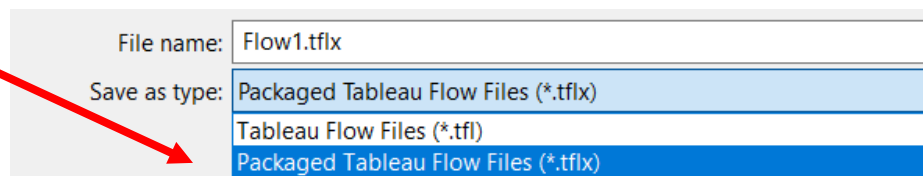
## Save the Tableau flow and data

Select "File".

Select "Save As".



Change the type to "Packaged Tableau Flow Files (\*.tflx)".



Select "Save".



Save the file as a normal Tableau Prep file," \*.tfl" and close Tableau.