

Getting Started with Minitab Solution Center

Contents

1	Introduction to Solution Center workflows	3
2	Dataset description	4
3	Sign into a repository	5
4	Prep your data	6
	Objectives	6
	Overview of data pipelines	6
	Open your data source	6
	Understand the Data Center views	6
	Prepare the dataset	7
	Merging or reshaping datasets	8
	Use Minitab AI to clean your data	9
	Reuse your data prep steps	9
	Explore data summaries	10
5	Analyze your data	13
	Use the Graph Builder to visualize your data	13
	Use One-Way ANOVA to determine differences	14
	Generate AI interpretation of results	15
6	Brainstorm ideas	16
	Choose your brainstorm tool	16
	Generate a brainstorm list	16
	Customize the appearance of your brainstorm	18
7	Create a dashboard	20
	Add data to your dashboard	20
	Create assets for your dashboard	20
	Create assets with Minitab AI	21
	Rearrange assets	21
	Sync data after a new data prep step	21
	Index	23

1. Introduction to Solution Center workflows

Use the Minitab Solution Center for all your data analytics projects.



The Minitab Solution Center provides the following workflows.

Analytics: Analyze your data in Minitab Statistical Software

After quick preview of your data via the data center or the dashboards, you may notice relationships in variables and trends that you need to further investigate.

Use Minitab Statistical Software to apply modern data analysis techniques for the exploration and modeling of your data.

Brainstorm: Brainstorm creative solutions

The brainstorm tool contains many ways to map out and identify relevant elements of your processes or projects. Use AI to help generate ideas to improve your brainstorming capabilities.

Data Prep: Clean and prepare your data for analysis

From the Minitab Data Center, you can preview your data and perform necessary data prep steps. You can select from many basic steps to apply to the entire dataset or separate columns.

You can save your data prep steps in a data center file to apply to other datasets.

Dashboard: Create and share customized dashboards

Use Minitab Dashboards to monitor and analyze critical metrics through interactive charts, graphs, and other visualizations.

Learn about this guide

Use this tutorial to learn about the most commonly used features and tasks in the Minitab Solution Center.

What's next

Let's get started!

Go to [Dataset description](#) on page 4 to learn about the example used throughout this tutorial.

2. Dataset description

Scenario: A compliance team is concerned about fraud detection accuracy as well as the key drivers that cause fraudulence in the automotive industry.

Download data: [Insurance Fraud Data](#)

Worksheet column	Description
claim_number	The claim identifier
age_of_driver	Age of the driver
gender	Gender of the driver: M or F
marital_status	Marriage status of the driver: 0 or 1
safety_rating	Safety rating: 2 - 100
annual_income	Annual income of the driver
high_education	Education status of the driver: 0 or 1
address_change	Address change status of the driver: 0 or 1
property_status	Does the driver own or rent
zip_code	ZIP code
claim_date	The date the claim was made
claim_day_of_week	The day of the week the claim was made
accident_site	The location of the accident: highway, local, parking lot
past_num_of_claims	Total number of previous claims
witness_present	Was a witness present: 0 or 1
liab_prct	The liability percentage: 0 - 100
channel	How claim was initiated: broker, phone, online
police_report	Was a police report filed: 0 or 1
age_of_vehicle	Age, in years, of the vehicle: 0 -14
vehicle_category	The type of vehicle: compact, large, medium
vehicle_price	The price of the vehicle
vehicle_color	The color of the vehicle
total_claim	Total claim amount in dollars
injury_claim	Injury claim amount in dollars
policy_deductible	The amount in dollars of the policy deductible
annual_premium	The annual policy premium
days_open	Number of days claim is open
form_defects	Number of errors on form: 0 to 13
fraud_reported	Whether fraud was reported: Y or N

What's next

Learn how to sign into your online repository to get started. Go to [Sign into a repository](#) on page 5.

3. Sign into a repository

Sign into your online repository to easily save all your Minitab Solution Center files in one location.

1. From the Minitab Solution Center home page, sign into an online repository.
2. Select **Settings** in the repository section of the landing page.



3. Ensure that **Autosave** is on.
4. If you want, select **Change** to browse to the location where you want to save your files and then choose **Select**. Your save location is displayed.
5. Select **OK**.

What's next

Learn how to prep your data in the Minitab Data Center.

Go to [Prep your data](#) on page 6.

4. Prep your data

Objectives

Before analyzing fraud detection trends, the dataset must be cleaned and standardized. In this section, you will:

- Correct data types
- Remove invalid records
- Standardize categorical values
- Organize the dataset for analysis
- Understand how your data flows through the Minitab Data Center

Overview of data pipelines

The Minitab Data Center uses a data pipeline to prepare your data. A pipeline is a sequence of connected steps that transform raw data into a clean, analysis-ready dataset.

Every Data Center project contains an interactive pipeline diagram that represents the data processing steps. A typical pipeline flow contains the following nodes.

Data Source → Cleanup → Merge/Reshape → Output

- **Data Source:** Connect to your data and define its structure.
- **Cleanup:** Fix, filter, and standardize your data.
- **Merge/Reshape:** Combine or reorganize datasets.
- **Output:** Send cleaned data to **Minitab Statistical Software** or **Minitab Dashboards**.

Each step appears as a visual node in the pipeline, making it easy to understand and reuse your data preparation process.

Open your data source

1. From the Minitab Solution Center Home page, select **Data Prep**.
2. Select **Add Data**.
3. Sign into your repository.
4. **Open** the Insurance Fraud Data.
[Insurance Fraud Data](#)

When you open a dataset, a new pipeline is automatically created with the default nodes.

Data Source → Cleanup → Output

Understand the Data Center views

The Data Center has two primary views:

Cleanup view



Use the **Cleanup** view to:

- Change data types
- Filter rows
- Replace values
- Sort data
- Standardize categories

Data Source view

If you need to change the dataset schema or any settings that affect the entire dataset, select the data source file icon to open the **Options** panel.



For more information, go to [Manage the dataset schema](#) or [Set data source options](#).

Use the **Data Source** view to:

- Adjust dataset-wide settings
- Modify schema (column names and types)
- Configure file import options

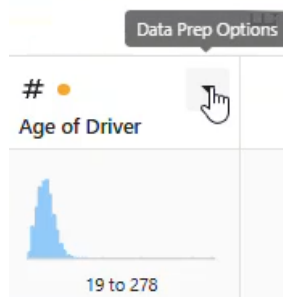
When to use each view:

- Use **Cleanup** to fix data.
- Use **Data Source** view to fix dataset structure.

Prepare the dataset

The compliance team wants to improve fraud detection accuracy. Before analysis begins, the dataset must be validated and standardized. Follow these steps to prepare *insurance_fraud_data.csv* for further analysis.

1. Open [Insurance Fraud Data](#) in the Minitab Data Center.
2. Make sure you are in the **Cleanup** view.
3. Select the column and open the **Data Prep Options** dropdown menu to access the column cleanup options.



1. Standardize identifiers

Ensure claim identifiers are treated as text and clearly formatted.

- Change **claim_number** data type from numeric to **text**.
- Prepend the **#** symbol to all claim numbers.

Why this matters: Prevents numeric interpretation and preserves formatting consistency.

2. Remove invalid or unrealistic values

Clean outliers and placeholder values that could affect analysis.

- Filter **age_of_driver** to include only values ≤ 100 .
- Filter **annual_income** to include only values greater than 1.

Why this matters: Removes unrealistic ages and invalid income entries that could skew results.

3. Standardize categorical values

Ensure consistent, readable labels across the dataset.

- In **gender**, replace:
 - M → male
 - F → female
- Change **address_change** data type from numeric to text.
- In **address_change**, replace:
 - 1 → yes
 - 0 → no

Why this matters: Standardized categories improve readability, grouping, and reporting.

4. Correct data types

Some numeric fields represent identifiers rather than quantities.

- Change **zip_code** data type from numeric to text.

Why this matters: Preserves leading zeros and prevents unintended numeric operations.

5. Organize the dataset

Prepare the dataset for analysis by sorting key variables. Use **Advanced Sort** to sort by:

- fraud reported
- injury_claim
- zip_code

Why this matters: Sorting helps prioritize and review fraud-related records efficiently.

Merging or reshaping datasets

In addition to cleaning and standardizing data, you may need to combine or reorganize datasets before analysis.

The following operations help prepare data for reporting, statistical analysis, or dashboard creation.

Join

Combines related datasets by matching rows using one or more key fields. This adds columns and makes the dataset wider.

For more information, go to [Join datasets](#).

Union

Stacks datasets with the same structure into one dataset. This adds rows and makes the dataset longer.

For more information, go to [Union datasets](#).

Transpose

Switches rows and columns. This is useful when data is arranged in a format that is not ideal for analysis.

For more information, go to [Transpose datasets](#).

Use Minitab AI to clean your data

The Minitab Data Center provides a conversational interface that guides your data preparation in the **Cleanup** view.

For the example above, you can enter the following text into the **Minitab AI** prompt to get the same results as individual steps.

Make claim numbers to text. Add the number symbol to claim numbers. Remove drivers that are older than one hundred. Change m to male and f to female. Remove drivers that don't have a valid income. Change address_change to text. Make 1 to yes and 0 to no for address changes. Sort by fraud, injury claim, and zip code.

For more information on using **Minitab AI** in the Data Center, go to [Using Minitab AI to clean your data](#).

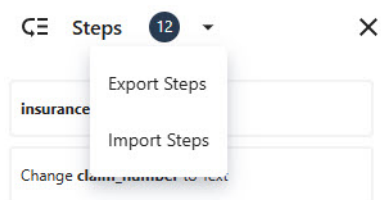
Reuse your data prep steps

After you apply all the prep steps, save the steps to use for future datasets with the same columns.

Export data prep steps

To save the steps, export them as a .mdcs file.

1. In the Steps pane on the left, select **Export Steps** from the dropdown menu.

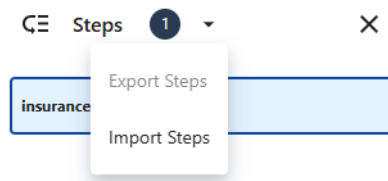


2. The file is saved to your downloads folder or other save location and uses the same name as your data file. Change the name accordingly.

Import data prep steps

To apply the steps to a new data file, import them as a .mdcs file.

Select **Import Steps** from the dropdown menu in the **Steps** pane.



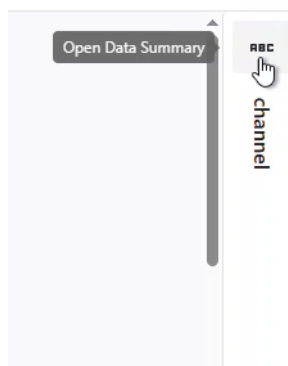
Explore data summaries

Each column has a graphical summary that shows the shape and range of the data and an icon that represents the data type. If data quality checks are on, data quality indicators also display in the column headers. For more information, go to [Data quality](#).

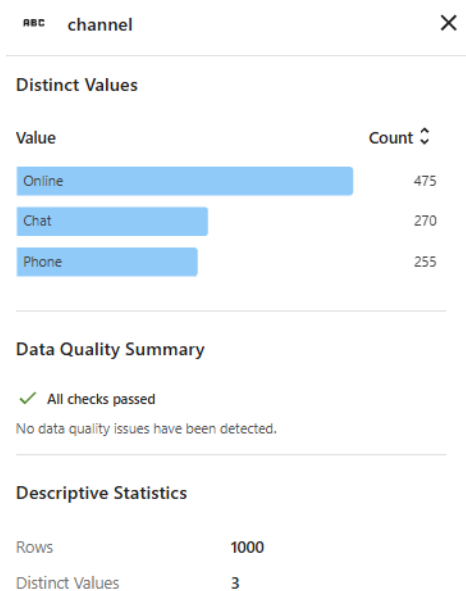
For example, the variable in the first column has 3 levels and the variable in the second column shows a bimodal distribution. The second column also has an orange dot that indicates that a quality issue was detected.

ABC channel	# days open
 3 levels	 2.30331 to 15.1772
Online	6.5348
Online	6.8512
Online	6.4112

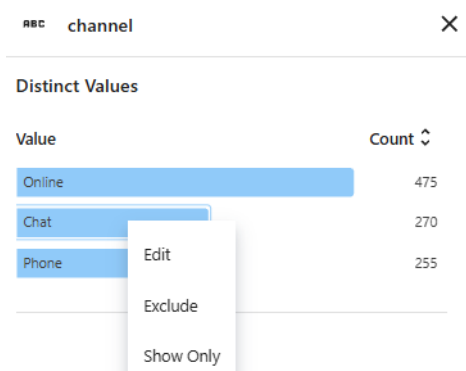
Open the [Data Summary](#) panel to get more information for the summary statistics on these columns.



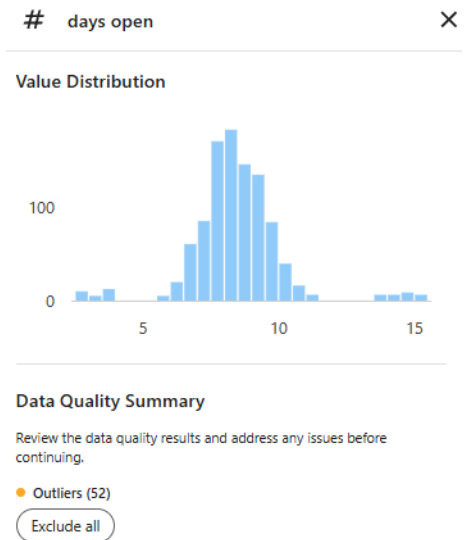
The data summary for Channel shows the frequency for each of the 3 levels.



Use the right-click menu to edit the grouping label, exclude the group from the dataset, or show only the rows that contain this value.



An orange dot indicates a data quality issue.



This data column has 52 outliers. Of these values, 27 are above the upper threshold, and 25 are below the lower threshold.

What's next

Because the data for [days open](#) indicate two distributions, the insurance company wants to look at this further. Go to [Analyze your data](#) on page 13.

5. Analyze your data

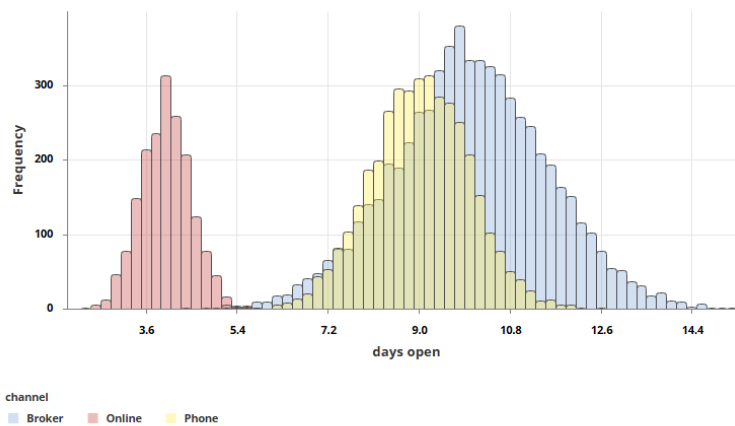
Use the Graph Builder to visualize your data

This example uses the prepped dataset from the [Prep your data](#) on page 6. Complete the following steps to explore data with the Graph Builder.

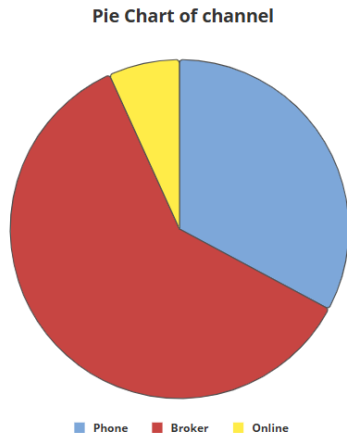
1. From Minitab Solution Center Data Prep, select **Open In > New Minitab Project**.
2. Select the drop down at the top of the page and enter *Insurance Fraud analysis* in **File Name**.

Insurance Fraud analysis -  Saved ▼

3. Choose **Graph > Graph Builder**.
4. In **Variables**, enter *days open* and *channel*.
5. In **Gallery**, use the gallery scroll bar to visualize the data in different graph types. Select **Histogram**.
6. Select **Create**.
7. Choose **Graph > Graph Builder**.
8. In **Gallery**, select **Pie Chart**.
9. Select **Create**.



This histogram shows the three distinct distributions by channel.

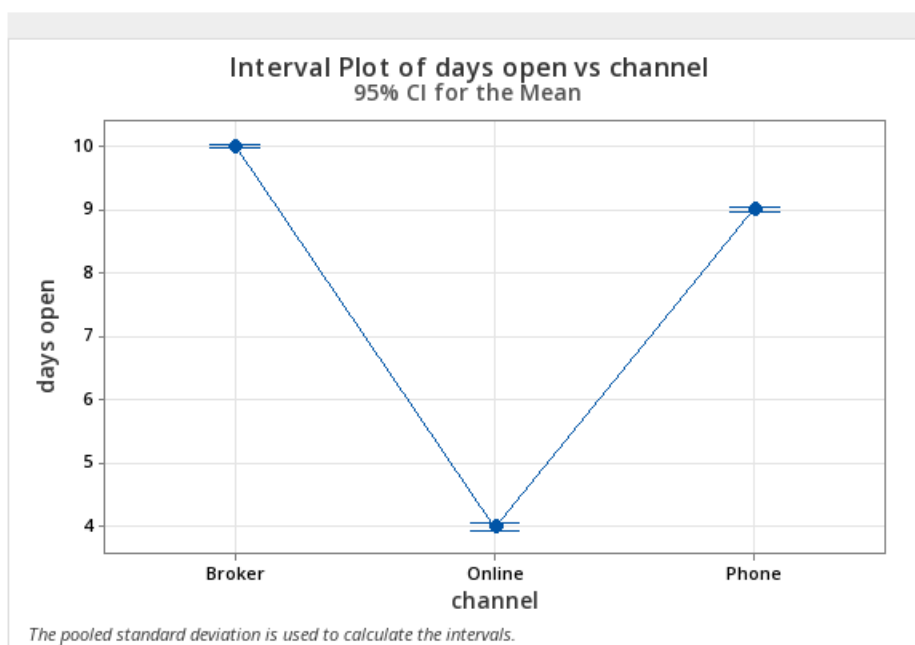


This pie chart shows the percentages of the three channel types.

Use One-Way ANOVA to determine differences

From the graphical visualizations, there appears to be a difference in the amount of time it takes to close a claim that depends on the channel. To statistically test this difference, the insurance company performs a one-way ANOVA test.

1. Choose **Stat > ANOVA > One-Way**.
2. From the dropdown, select **Response data are in one column for all factor levels**.
3. In **Response**, enter *days open*.
4. In **Factor**, enter *channel*.
5. Click **OK**.



Generate AI interpretation of results

Use Minitab AI to evaluate your results. Simply select the Minitab AI button , and your tables are transformed into clear, easy-to-understand natural language summaries.

Method

Null hypothesis	All means are equal
Alternative hypothesis	Not all means are equal
Significance level	$\alpha = 0.05$
Equal variances were assumed for the analysis.	

Factor Information

Factor	Levels	Values
channel	3	Broker, Online, Phone

Analysis of Variance

Source	DF	Adj SS	Adj MS	F-Value	P-Value
channel	2	50942	25471.0	16132.25	0.000
Error	11994	18937	1.6		
Total	11996	69879			

Minitab AI



Summary of Statistical Analysis

Purpose

The purpose of this statistical analysis was to determine whether the average number of days open differs across the three different channel groups: Broker, Online, and Phone. A one-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was conducted to test if there are statistically significant differences in the mean days open among these channels.

Insights

The ANOVA results indicate a highly significant effect of channel on days open ($F(2, 11994) = 16132.25, p < 0.001$). This means that the average number of days open is not the same across all three channel groups. Examining the group means, the Online channel has the lowest average days open at 3.9961 days, while the Broker and Phone channels have substantially higher averages of 10.0165 and 9.0214 days, respectively. These findings suggest that the choice of channel is strongly associated with differences in the average days open.



Important: AI technology may make mistakes. It is the user's responsibility to ensure the output is accurate, appropriate, and meets your organization's standards and requirements. For more information, see the [Minitab Trust Center](#).

What's next

Because there is a significant difference between channels, the team wants to explore how to open more claims online versus through a broker or over the phone. Go to [Brainstorm ideas](#) on page 16.

6. Brainstorm ideas

Choose your brainstorm tool

To select a tool, go to the [Home](#)  page and select [Brainstorm](#). All brainstorming tools encourage creative thinking for identifying new ideas and solving problems. The Minitab Brainstorm tool offers several different ways to organize your ideas.

- Fishbone (Cause and Effect)
- Man Machine Materials
- CTQ Tree
- Mind Map
- Idea Map
- 4S
- 8P

You can also use [Brainstorm AI](#) to create an editable brainstorm diagram from images, text descriptions, or both. For example, upload a paper sketch, whiteboard photo, flipchart note, defect image, or screenshot, or enter meeting notes, observations, transcripts, or a defect description.

Generate a brainstorm list

In a fishbone, an idea map, CT tree, or mind map, you can quickly generate a brainstorm list by typing items in the task pane, or by importing variables from other tools in your project.

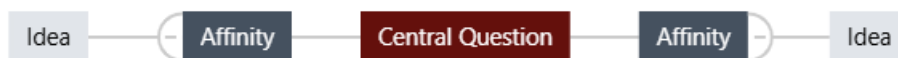
You can also use Minitab AI to generate ideas. To generate more precise results, enter a custom prompt. Minitab does not use or save any user input or AI-generated output.

Important: AI technology may make mistakes. It is the user's responsibility to ensure the output is accurate, appropriate, and meets your organization's standards and requirements. For more information, see the [Minitab Trust Center](#).

Use AI to generate affinities for an idea map

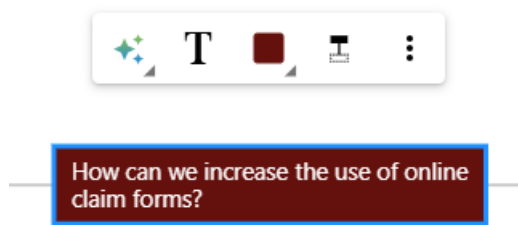
In this example, a quality improvement team would like to brainstorm ideas to increase the proportion of online claim requests. Currently, claims are accepted over the phone and online and it is faster and more accurate to submit online claim requests. The team decides to quickly generate brainstorm ideas using Minitab AI.

1. Go to the [Minitab Solution Center Home](#)  page.
2. Select [Brainstorm](#) and then select [Idea Map](#).

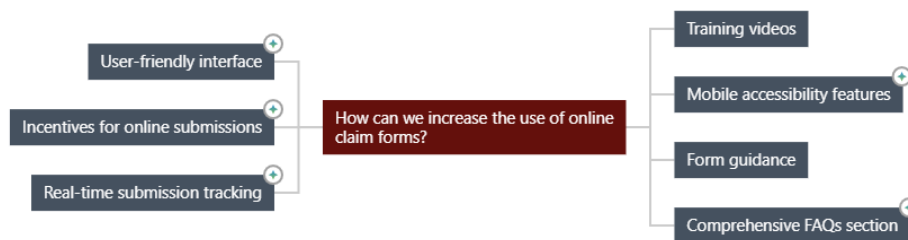


3. Select the drop down at the top of the page and enter *Insurance Fraud idea map* in [File Name](#).
4. In Central Question, replace the text with *How can we increase the use of online claim forms?*

5. Select the central question of the idea map to access the context menu. Then open **AI Options**.



6. Select **AI Custom Prompt** and enter the question you want to generate ideas for. For example, *How can we increase the use of online claim forms?*
7. Select **Generate**.
8. Review the results, then drag the new nodes to arrange the diagram as needed. You can rename nodes or add and delete nodes to customize your idea map.

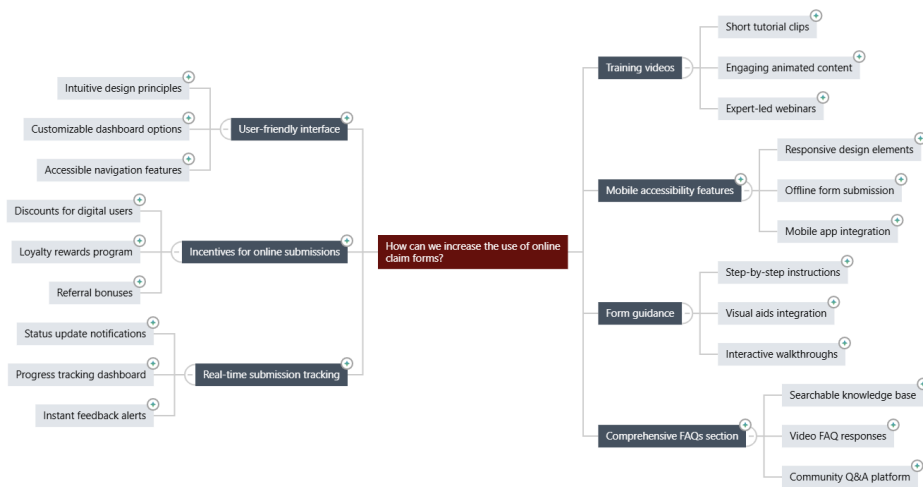


All nodes that were generated by Minitab AI have a symbol on them. Nodes that were added or modified by the user do not have the symbol.

Use AI to generate ideas for each affinity

In this example, we use AI to generate ideas for each affinity.

1. Select each node (affinity) to add ideas to. Then open **AI Options**.
2. Select **AI Quick Generate**.
3. Review the results, then drag the new nodes to arrange the diagram as needed. You can rename nodes or add and delete nodes to customize your idea map.



Customize the appearance of your brainstorm

Minitab Brainstorm offers countless ways to customize your brainstorm diagrams. Complete the following steps to customize the AI generated idea map from the previous section.

1. Open the **Idea Map** options on the right side of the canvas.
2. Select **Title** and enter a title such as *Online Claim Form Ideas*.
3. Brainstorm, change the type to **Mind Map**.
4. In Density, select **Compact**.
5. Right-click a node and select **Priority** to assign priorities to various affinities and ideas.

There are many other ways to format your maps to communicate improvement ideas.



What's next

Use the dashboard to visualize important metrics.

Go to [Create a dashboard](#) on page 20.

7. Create a dashboard

Add data to your dashboard

This example uses the prepped dataset from the [Prep your data](#) on page 6. You can alternatively open a dataset directly in the dashboard but clean up steps will not be available.

Important: Because you opened the previous dataset in [Minitab Statistical Software](#), you need to open a second instance of the same dataset to use it in [Minitab Dashboards](#).

1. From the [Minitab Solution Center Home](#)  page, select [Data Prep](#).
2. Select [Add Data](#) and open [Insurance Fraud Data](#).
3. Select [Import Steps](#) from the dropdown menu in the [Steps](#)  pane on the left. Then browse to the steps that you exported in the [Prep your data](#) on page 6 topic.
4. Using the toolbar at the top of the page, enter *Insurance Fraud Dashboard* to name the data connection.
5. Select [Open In > New Dashboard](#)  from the toolbar.

Create assets for your dashboard

Complete the following steps to create a dashboard to quickly monitor key metrics.

Follow these steps to create a [U Chart](#).

1. From the left pane, open [Assets](#).
2. Under [Process Quality](#), select [U Chart](#).
3. Ensure the insurance fraud dataset is selected and select [Open](#).
4. In [Variable](#), enter *form defects*.
5. In [Subgroup size](#), enter *1*.
6. Select [OK](#).

Follow these steps to create a [Normal Capability](#) analysis.

1. Under [Process Quality](#), select [Normal Capability](#).
2. Ensure the insurance fraud dataset is selected and select [Open](#).
3. In [Data column](#), enter *safety_rating*.
4. In [Subgroup size](#), enter *1*.
5. In [Upper spec](#), enter *90*.
6. Select [Transform](#). Select [Box-Cox power transformation \(\$W = Y^\lambda\$ \)](#).
7. Select [OK](#) in each dialog.

If you want, add other assets to your dashboard.

Create assets with Minitab AI

Minitab Dashboards provides artificial intelligence that creates visualizations and places them on the dashboard. This can give you a good starting point to create an informative dashboard. You can edit and delete these visualizations after **Minitab AI** creates them.

To generate the visualizations, select **Minitab AI** , select the insurance fraud dataset, and then select **OK. Minitab AI** creates a new page to place the visualizations.

Note: AI technology may make mistakes. It is the user's responsibility to ensure the output is accurate, appropriate, and meets your organization's standards and requirements. For more information, see the [Minitab Trust Center](#).

Rearrange assets

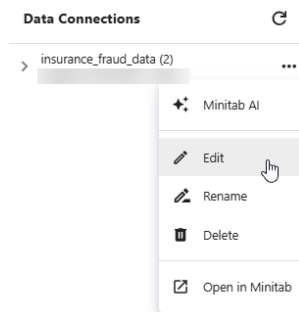
You can arrange the assets on the dashboard canvas to find the best way to display your visualizations. Your dashboard can include multiple pages.



Sync data after a new data prep step

In the previous step, we created a dashboard with a data connection to monitor key metrics. The improvement team decided that some of the safety ratings may be incorrect, so they want to apply a filter to remove safety ratings that are less than 25.

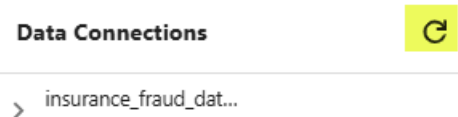
1. Select **Data**  from the left pane. From the **Data Connections** pane, select **Edit** to add the data prep step in the Data Center.



2. From dropdown menu for the *safety_rating* column, select **Filter Rows**. Then enter *safety_rating, greater than or equal to, 25* and select **Save and Load**.
3. Select **Refresh** to refresh the data connection to save the changes. The assets on the dashboard use the refreshed data.

Note: These edits only affect dashboard data and do not change **Minitab Data Center** data. Data Center updates also do not affect the dashboard.

If your original data source changes, select the **Refresh Data** icon to update the data in the dashboard to match the source. For example, this could be additional data added to an Excel spreadsheet saved in your Microsoft OneDrive folder.



Index

A

advanced sort 7
ANOVA 14

B

brainstorm 16
 customize appearance 18

D

Data Center 7
data prep steps 7
 export 10
 import 10
data summary 11
dataset description 4

E

export data prep steps 10

G

Graph Builder 13

H

histogram 13

I

import data prep steps 10
insurance fraud data 4
interval plot 14

M

Minitab AI
 generate brainstorm ideas 16, 17
 interpretation of statistical analysis 15
Minitab Brainstorm 16
Minitab Dashboards
Minitab Data Center 7
Minitab Statistical Software 13

O

one-way ANOVA 14

P

pie chart 14

S

sample dataset 4
sort 7

Minitab Our mission is to help people discover valuable insights in their data.

Minitab helps companies and institutions to spot trends, solve problems and discover valuable insights in data by delivering a comprehensive and best-in-class suite of data analysis and process improvement tools. Combined with unparalleled ease-of-use, Minitab makes it simpler than ever to get deep insights from data. Plus, a team of highly trained data analytic experts ensure that users get the most out of their analysis, enabling them to make better, faster and more accurate decisions.

For nearly 50 years, Minitab has helped organizations drive cost containment, enhance quality, boost customer satisfaction and increase effectiveness. Thousands of businesses and institutions worldwide use our products to uncover flaws in their processes and improve them. Unlock the value of your data with Minitab.

Automation and Reporting



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Data Analysis & Predictive Modeling



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Model lifecycle management on a simple yet powerful platform

Visual Business Tools



Minitab Workspace®

Visual tools to ensure process and product excellence

Project Ideation & Execution



Minitab Engage®

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Education Hub™

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Quality Solutions



Real-Time SPC™

Monitor, respond, and deliver immediate quality and process monitoring

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