Using the BigQuery Data Source



Overview

The BigQuery data source is being released to all users as a Preview. The BigQuery data source allows app creators to access BigQuery datasets in READ-ONLY mode only. We do not support write/update/delete access because BigQuery is a <u>data warehouse</u> type of database, not an <u>online transaction processing</u> (OLTP) database that you would normally use to be the read/write data store for an application (like <u>Cloud SQL</u>). The intent of a data warehouse is to provide read-only datasets for reporting and data analytics. We do not plan to support write modes in AppSheet. We expect BigQuery datasets will be refreshed by the systems of record in a separate process outside of AppSheet (like a nightly ETL batch process, or a stream of data changes from the system of record using a tool like <u>Cloud Data Fusion</u>).

Licensing

BigQuery is a <u>GCP</u> service that many enterprise customers use for data reporting. The volumes of data to process can be quite significant. Therefore, we are classifying this data source as an Advanced Data Connector, which will require a Business- or Enterprise-level plan. Here is a summary of the plans that will enable access to a BigQuery data source :

New AppSheet plans that are required for BigQuery data source:

- AppSheet Enterprise Standard
- AppSheet Enterprise Plus

For reference: Older AppSheet plans that would have also enabled you to use the BigQuery data source:

• AppSheet Business

• AppSheet Enterprise

Limits

Because BigQuery has the potential to have massive amounts of data (potentially tens of millions of rows or more and up to 10,000 columns), we have put some product limits in place to ensure your apps will be able to load data and perform well. AppSheet will have the following limits in place for a BigQuery data source:

- **Read-only** BigQuery is a data warehouse, and we do not plan to support write operations from AppSheet.
- **100,000 row hard limit** BigQuery datasets larger than this will be truncated at the limit. This is the preview limit - it is still TBD what the limit will be for GA based on performance test results and user feedback.
- **Partitioned tables will not work** This is a preview limitation we hope to remove by GA. Any BigQuery tables that have a "Partitioned Column" will give an error during configuration in AppSheet. Use a BigQuery View without the partitioned column to get around this.
- GCP Access Service Accounts are the only access method we are providing. You will need to have access to create service accounts and keys in your GCP project, or you will need to request the creation from an IT Administrator who has this level of access. They can even create the data source as a <u>Team Data Source</u> and share it with you. The instructions below show how to set this up.

How to set up your App to be successful within these limits

1. Use <u>Security Filters</u>

- a. Use AppSheet <u>expressions</u>, which will be translated to BigQuery SQL and executed on the server before the data is downloaded to the app. Examples:
 - i. Filter by <u>USEREMAIL()</u> to just get rows owned or viewable by the currently logged-in app user
 - ii. Filter by *DateTime* values in the last week or month to get only the most recent data. Assuming a column in the dataset called *DateCreated*, you could use security filter expressions like:
 - 1. For the last week: [DateCreated] >= TODAY() 7
 - 2. For the last month: [DateCreated] >= TODAY() 30
 - iii. Use a combination of <u>user settings</u> and security filters to allow your app user to limit the data.
 - 1. Using the user setting column named *Year*, and a column in the dataset called *StartTime*, this is a way to select just the 2018 or greater data from a dataset:
 - a. [StartTime] >= DATETIME("1/1/" & USERSETTINGS("YEAR"))

2. Use BigQuery Views

a. You can create specific views for AppSheet in BigQuery that have potentially complex SQL queries to create a limited number of rows from the dataset. When setting-up the BigQuery data source as a table in your app, select from the list of views in your project as well as from the base datasets.

3. Create a new BigQuery Table

- a. BigQuery allows you to set up a copy of a table that can periodically be re-created based on a scheduled query.
- b. This is similar to a view, but is a physical table that contains the subset of data. This can also be used to reduce the number of columns in order to simplify the table structure.

User Guide

Pre-Requisites in GCP

In order to connect AppSheet to BigQuery, a Service Account must be created in GCP with the correct role to access BigQuery data. A Service Account is a special kind of account that is used to grant system to system level access, rather than access by individual users. AppSheet (a system) will use the service account user to access BigQuery (a system) which will establish the system-to-system communications. Additional user level access can be put in place in AppSheet through security filters on the datasource.

Accessing a Public DataSet will only require a BigQuery Job User role.

Accessing a **Private DataSet** will require a Custom Role in GCP. Please see the instructions in the **Accessing a Private DataSet** section in the instructions below. You can skip this section if you plan to just use a Public DataSet.

Create a Service Account

1. Go to GCP console (<u>https://console.cloud.google.com</u>) / IAM & Admin / Service Accounts, click on "+ CREATE SERVICE ACCOUNT"

≡	Google Cloud Platform	🕽 DemoProject 👻	٩	Search products	and resources	
θ	IAM & Admin	Service accounts	+ CREATE SERVICE ACCOUNT	DELETE	+ MANAGE ACCESS	
+ <u>e</u>	IAM	Service accounts for pro	oject "DemoProject"			
Θ	Identity & Organization	A service account represents a Goog	gle Cloud service identity, such as code	running on Compute E	Engine VMs, App Engine	apps, or systems running outside Goo
٩	Policy Troubleshooter	Organization policies can be used to	secure service accounts and block risk	ky service account fea	tures, such as automatic	IAM Grants, key creation/upload, or 1
Ę	Policy Analyzer	🚽 Filter Enter property nam	ne or value			
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9월	Service Accounts	No rows to display				
۹	Labels					
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0	Privacy & Security					
::	Identity-Aware Proxy					
	Roles					

 Create service account with the BigQuery Job User role Choose a Service Account Name and fill out the description, then click the "Create" button

≡	Google Cloud Platform	DemoProject Q Search products and resources
θ	IAM & Admin	Create service account
÷ <u>*</u> ⊖	IAM Identity & Organization	Service account details Service account name
٩	Policy Troubleshooter	BIGQUERY-READONLY Display name for this service account
B	Policy Analyzer	Service account bigguery-readonty @demoproject-297500.jam.gserviceaccount.com X C
	Organization Policies	
연	Service Accounts	Service account description
۹	Labels	Describe what this service account will do
	Tags	
\$	Settings	CREATE
0	Privacy & Security	Grant this service account access to project
	Identity-Aware Proxy	optional)
1	Roles	 Grant users access to this service account (optional)

Grant the **Bigquery.Job.User** role

≡	Google Cloud Platform	DemoProject - Q Search products and resources
θ	IAM & Admin	Create service account
મ્થ ભ ચ	IAM Identity & Organization Policy Troubleshooter	 Service account details Grant this service account access to project
E,	Policy Analyzer Organization Policies	(optional) Grant this service account access to DemoProject so that it has permission to complete specific actions on the resources in your project. Learn more
<u>∞</u>	Service Accounts	Select a role Condition
>	Tags	+ ADD ANOTHER ROLE
\$	Settings	CONTINUE
0 11	Privacy & Security Identity-Aware Proxy	Grant users access to this service account (optional)
	Roles	DONE CANCEL

Type in "Bigquery Job" to the filter text box and a short list will appear below the filter text box. Select "BigQuery Job User"

≡	Google Cloud Platform	DemoProject - Q Search products and resources
θ	IAM & Admin	Create service account
+ <u>e</u>	IAM	Service account details
Θ	Identity & Organization	
٩	Policy Troubleshooter	Grant this service account access to project (ontional)
Ę	Policy Analyzer	Grant this service account access to DemoProject so that it has permission to
E	Organization Policies	complete specific actions on the resources in your project. Learn more
연	Service Accounts	E Bigguery job
•	Labels	
	Tags	BigQuery Job User Access to run jobs
\$	Settings	BigQuery Data Transfer Service Agent
0	Privacy & Security	Gives BigQuery Data Transfer Service access to start bigquery jobs in consumer project.
	Identity-Aware Proxy	3 G vtional)
	Roles	DONE
Ξ	Audit Logs	
	Essential Contacts	MANAGE ROLES
	A	·

Click on the "Done" button



b. (*optional*) The role can also be set with the gcloud command line interface, if this is preferred (Change [PROJECTID] and [SERVICE_ACCOUNT_ID] to the values appropriate for your account :

```
gcloud projects add-iam-policy-binding [PROJECTID]
--member="serviceAccount:[SERVICE_ACCOUNT_ID]"
--role="roles/bigquery.jobUser"
```

Create a **JSON key** of the Service Account

c. Click on the Three Dots on the rightmost Actions column of the new Service Key you created, and select "Manage keys":

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+ <u>e</u>	IAM	Service accounts f	or project "Demol	Project"									
Θ	Identity & Organization	A service account represen about service accounts.	s a Google Cloud service i	identity, such as c	ode running on Com	pute Engine VMs, App Engine a	ops, or syste	ms runn	ng outs	ide Goo	gle. <mark>Learr</mark>	more	
٩	Policy Troubleshooter	Organization policies can b	e used to secure service account of	ccounts and block	k risky service accou	nt features, such as automatic I	AM Grants, I	key creat	ion/uplo	ad, or tl	ne creatio	n of se	ervice
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	Groups												

d. Click on the "Add Key" button and select "Create new key"

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θ	IAM & Admin	- BIGQUERY-REA	ADONL	LY										
+ <u>e</u>	IAM	DETAILS PERMISS	IONS	KEYS	METRICS	LOGS								
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B	Policy Analyzer	upload key formats												
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<u>•</u> =	Service Accounts	ADD KEY 👻												
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e. Accept the default selection of "JSON" and Click on the "Create" button



f. Note the file name. You will find this in your browser's download folder. Click on the "Close" button. Depending on your browser type, you may see the downloaded file in the bottom bar of your browser window.



g. Open the File so that you can cut/paste the contents in a few minutes

Accessing a Private DataSet

Every GCP account will have different security policies set up, according to the security needs of the customer account. The instructions in this section should work for most GCP projects with a highly restrictive set of policies. You may not need all of the permissions in the custom role in your specific GCP Project, so you can also try removing some of the permissions if you would like, then add them back in until it works for your project.

You need to create a Custom Role in GCP IAM in order to access a **Private DataSet**. Please **ignore** this section if you only need to access **Public DataSets**, and **skip** to the "**Add the BigQuery data source to an AppSheet App**" Section.

Creating a Custom Role

GCP provides a shell feature in the GCP Cloud Console called **Cloud Shell**, which allows you to use a command line interface. This is the quickest way to create a custom role. Click on the

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Cloud Shell icon

in the upper right of your GCP console

window. Click on the Continue button when prompted, and then wait for the Terminal window to boot up in the bottom portion of your screen.



U Establishing connection to your Google Cloud Shell...

Click on the "Open Editor" Icon in the Cloud Shell Navigation bar (or use vi if you prefer) :

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θ	IAM & Admin	Roles + CREATE ROLE ID CREATE ROLE FROM SELECTION - DISABLE DELETE	SHOW INFO PANEL									
+ <u>e</u>	IAM	Roles for "AppSheet-Scott" project										
Θ	Identity & Organization	e is a group of permissions that you can assign to members. You can create a role										
عر	Policy Troubleshooter	J add permissions to it, or copy an existing role and adjust its permissions. <u>Learn</u> re										
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Click on the ... icon and then the "New File" selection on the pop up menu:



Enter a File name of your choice with a .yaml extension, like : BigQuery.AppSheet.Roles.yaml



Cut and paste the following text into the file (modify the title and description values as needed for your use case):



Remove any blank lines at the end by using backspace or delete on your keyboard. You should see 12 lines in your file, like this:



Click on the "x" in the file tab to close the file (it will automatically save). Then, click on the "**Open Terminal**" button to get back to the shell.

>	CLOUD SHELL Editor		Den Terminal	⊘	: _	Ø	×
	File Edit Selection View Go Run Terminal Help						
	EXPLORER: SHAALAND C III BigQueryAppSheet.Roles.yaml BigQueryAppSheet.yaml README-cloudshell.txt	BigQuery.AppSheet.Roles.yaml × 1 title: "bigquery.appSheet" 2 description: "bigQuery ro role for AppSheet" 3 stage: "GA" 4 includedPermissions: 5 - bigquery.datasets.get 6 - bigquery.routines.get 8 - bigquery.routines.list 9 - bigquery.tables.get 10 - bigquery.tables.get 11 - bigquery.tables.get 12 - resourcemanager.projects.get			ik.		
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+ <u>#</u>	IAM	Roles for	"AppSheet-Scott" pro	piect												
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٩	Policy Troubleshooter	and add permi more	issions to it, or copy an existing r	ole and adjust it	s permissions. <u>Learn</u>											
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2	Essential Contacts		AI Platform Administrator		Other	E	nabled	:								
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*	Early Access Center		AI Platform Feature Store Admi	in	Other	E	nabled	:								
-			AI Platform Migration Service U	Jser	Other	E	nabled	:								
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Cut and paste the following commands, one at a time. Replace the Red text with your own values. The backslash tells the shell that the command will continue on the next line :

```
gcloud iam roles create <your new role name> \
--project=<your-project-id> \
--file=<your-YAML-File-Name.yaml>
```

Here is an example of how I filled out the Red text with my values :

```
gcloud iam roles create bigquery.appsheet3 \
    --project=appsheet-scott \
    --file=BigQuery.AppSheet.Roles.yaml
shaaland@cloudshell:~ (appsheet-scott)$ gcloud iam roles create bigquery.appsheet3 \
```

```
shaaland@cloudshell:~ (appsheet-scott)$ gcloud iam roles create bigquery.appsheet3 \
> --project=appsheet-scott \
> --file=BigQuery.AppSheet.Roles.yam1
```

You will now need to authorize the shell to call the API which will create the role. Click on Authorize:



You should see the resulting text which tells you the role was successfully created:



Now, you need to share your **Private DataSet** with the role that you created so that all the permissions needed by the AppSheet BigQuery data source. The first thing you need is the user name that was assigned to your service account. Navigate to the Service Accounts

section of Google Cloud Console using the hamburger menu or go to this URL: <u>https://console.cloud.google.com/iam-admin/serviceaccounts</u>

Copy the email column from your BigQuery Service Account that we created earlier in this document, so that you can paste it in a few minutes. You may want to open another tab for the next step so that you can re-copy it into your mouse buffer if you lose it :



Open a new tab in your browser and go to the BigQuery service in Google Cloud Console. Use the hamburger menu in the upper left corner, or just navigate to this URL : <u>https://console.cloud.google.com/bigquery</u>

Find your private dataset and click on the triple dot menu on the right and then on "Open":



Click on "Share DataSet" in the BigQuery navigation bar:

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(I)	SANDBOX Set up billing to upgrade to the	e full BigQuery experi	ence. Learn more			
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	appsheet-scott iii PrivNYC_Citibikes	Dataset info 🍃				
	bigquery-public-data	Dataset ID	appsheet-scott:PrivNYC_Citibikes			
		Created	May 7, 2021, 11:05:00 AM			
		Default table expirati	on 60 days 0 hr			
		Last modified	May 7, 2021, 1:01:00 PM			
		Data location	US			

Paste the Service Account email address into the Add Members text box.

Click on the "Select a role" drop down menu

Select the "Custom >" option

Select the new role you created like "bigquery.appsheet"

Click on the "Add" button.



Note the new role now has a member, which is your service account. Click on the "**Done**" button:

Dataset permissions

To grant access to this dataset, add members and assign Identity and Access Management (IAM) roles to specify their level of access. Multiple roles allowed.

You can no longer set ACLs in the console to manage access. To learn how IAM and ACLs are related, see the documentation.

DATASET PERMISSIONS AUTHORIZED VIEWS

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		Select a role 👻	Add
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•	(4		
Full acc	cess to all resources.		~
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BigQue Full acc	ery Data Owner (2 members) cess to datasets and all of their con	itents	\sim
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Now, you are ready to add the Data Source in AppSheet. If you were using a **Public DataSet**, then you can continue from here.

Add the BigQuery data source to an AppSheet App

- 2. Go to appsheet.com and login
 - a. Go to My Account / My Account



b. Click on the "+ New Data Source" button



My Account

ID: 13					
Plan: Busine	ess [→ Sign Out				
Sources	Integrations	Policies	Billing	App Info	Partner
Use this se sources (e	ection to configu g: from Google D	re additional o Prive and Drop	lata sources f box) can be u	or your accoun sed together in	t. This is a featu the same app.
Accoun	t Sources				
These sourc	ces can be accesse	d by all apps in	this account.		
+ New [Data Source				

c. Select "Cloud Database" and put your data source Name at the top that you'd like to use for your new data source (we used "BigQuery-NYC-Citibikes" as our name)::

Add a new data source

BigQuery-NYC-Citibikes		
G	Google	
	Microsoft	
\$	Dropbox	
Ø	Smartsheet	
P	Airtable	
8	Apigee	
box	Box	
8	Cloud Database	

 choose the "BigQuery" option from the Dropdown list of available DB types (NOTE: If you don't see BigQuery in the list, your account may not have this feature rolled out yet - please wait and try again tomorrow - Don't worry, all of the previous work you've done is still good! You can start from here.)

Add database connection information
Туре
✓ SQLServer
MySQL
DynamoDB
Postgres
MariaDB
Oracle
Redshift
BigQuery

e. Next, we will find the 3 input fields from back in our GCP Console and in the key file we downloaded above. We need the BigQuery DataSet ID, the Google Cloud Project ID, and the Service Account Key

Add d conne	atabase ction informat	tion
Туре		
BigQue	ry	•
DataSet ID		
Google Clo	oud Project ID	
Service Ac	count key	
Test	Authorize Access	

f. DataSet ID - Go to the Google Cloud Console (<u>https://console.cloud.google.com</u>) and select "BigQuery" under the "Big Data" section. You may need to scroll down a fair bit on the main left hand hamburger menu to find it.

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ő	Looker		Data transfers	
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C	Data Fusion		Reservations BI Engine	
<u></u>	Financial Convices			DIKE



- h. Find your BigQuery dataset that you'd like to use. We'll use a Public dataset called bigquery-public-data:new_york_citibike for demo/instructional purposes, but you should select the dataset that you would like to use in your app. If you don't see the dataset you want, click on the "+ ADD DATA" button and add it.
 - i. Open the dataset by clicking on the 3 vertical dots menu on the right of the dataset name. Make sure you are at the top level:

The	dataset level 🙂 , not	on a Table level 🖩
	Google Cloud Platform 🔹 DemoPro	ject 👻
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51	C Type to search	
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	ncaa_basketball	
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		Crea
	citibike_stations	ast
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	new_york_mv_collisions	
	▶ ∷ new_york_subway	
	iii new_york_taxi_trips	
	iii new_york_trees	
	iii nhtsa_traffic_fatalities	
	▶ 🛄 nih_gudid	
	▶ <u>iii</u> nlm_rxnorm	
	▶ <u>III</u> noaa_goes16	

ii. Copy the DataSet ID so that you can Paste it into AppSheet

bigquery-public-dat	query-public-data:new_york_citibike			
Description None Dataset info		Labels 🖍 None		
Dataset ID	bigquery-public-data:new_york_citibike			
Created	Apr 11, 2017, 6:17:32 AM			
Default table expiration	Never			
Last modified	Mar 20, 2019, 2:11:33 PM			
Data location	US			

iii. Now, paste it into AppSheet's new data source window:

Add database connection information

	Туре
	BigQuery -
Pas	te DataSet ID Value here
	uery-public-data:new_york_citibike
	Google Cloud Project ID
	Service Account key
	Test Authorize Access

i. Google Cloud Project ID: Go back to the Google Cloud Console. Click on the Project Name at the top of the Browser, and then copy the Project ID from the pop-up so that you can paste it into AppSheet.

≡	Google Cloud Platform	🗣 DemoProject 👻	Q Search products and r		~
	SANDBOX Set up billing to	upgrade to the full BigQ	uery experience. Learn more		
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98	Q Type to search	Select a project			NEW PROJECT
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		🗸 🏠 🐌 DemoProject	0	demoproject-29	
	citibike_station				

j. Paste the Project Id into AppSheet

Add database connection information

	Туре		
	BigQuer	y	-
	DataSet ID		
	bigquery	/-public-data:new_york_c	iti
Pa	ste the F Google Clor	Project ID here	
	demopro	oject-29	
	demopro	oject-29	

k. Service Account key : This is in the JSON file that was downloaded when we created the key on the Service Account in GCP Console (IAM & Admin). Find the file that was downloaded (will be in your browser's download directory) and open it with any text editor. Copy the entire contents of the file.

	e demoproject-297500-d6db503c4179.json — Downloads
1 🔻	{
2	"type": "service_account",
3	"project_id": "demoproject-29
4	"private_key_id": "d6db503c417979dfe8b329b78de333eab77f834d",
5	"private_key": "BEGIN PRIVATE KEY∖nMIIEvgIBADANBgkqh
6	"client_email": "bigquery-readonly@demoproject-29
7	"client_id": "1069197622
8	"auth_uri": " <u>https://accounts.google.com/o/oauth2/auth</u> ",
9	"token_uri": " <u>https://oauth2.googleapis.com/token</u> ",
10	"auth_provider_x509_cert_url": " <u>https://www.googleapis.com/oauth2/v1/certs</u> ",
11	"client_x509_cert_url": " <u>https://www.googleapis.com/robot/v1/metadata/x509/bigquery-readonly%40demoproject-29</u>
12 🔺	}
13	

I. Paste into AppSheet:

Add database connection information

	Туре	
	BigQuery -	
	DataSet ID	
	bigquery-public-data:new_york_citi	
	Google Cloud Project ID	
	demoproject-297500	
Past	e Service Account Key from JSON file her Service Account key	е
	••••••	
	Test Authorize Access	

m. Click on Test and then Authorize Access

Add database connection information
Туре
BigQuery
DataSet ID
bigquery-public-data:new_york_citi
Google Cloud Project ID
demoproject-297500
Service Account key
Test Authorize Access

Add a BigQuery Table to your App in AppSheet

n. On the Data Tab - Click on "+ New Table"

AppSheet BUSINESS			⑦ +2 5 ∂	SAVE 👻 S
NYC-Citibikes	Tables Columns Slices User Settings			Z
🔕 Not Deployed	Add new tables and modify table properties in this pane.		=	Q 🗹 C'
 Info Data 	A Table name 'NYC-Citibikes' uses special characters that are used in expressions and formulas. Consider renaming the table to remove these special characters.	More info		
uX •	+			
- Behavior	New Table	8		
Security				
Q Intelligence	:= NYC-Citibikes		•	
왕. Users	- source: MC-Choixes quaimer: Sheet1 datasource: google			
Ø Manage				
🗇 Learning Center				(+)
Q Search for help				HE NYC-Citibikes

o. Select big query nYC citibikes

neets on Google Drive	Documents on Google Drive	Sheets on Google Drive 2
ocuments on Google Drive	2	google calendar 1
g query nYC citibikes		native
tabase 1 team 1102162	google calendar 1 team 931271	google calendar 2 team 931271
abase 1 team 1102162	google calendar 1 team 9312/1	google calendar 2 team 9312/1

p. Select Tables or Views (we will use Tables)

	Choose a Sheet/Table	×	
Get dat			×
	Tables		
Sheets or	Views		

q. Select the table that you want for your App (we selected citibike_stations):

	Choose a Sheet/Table	×	
Get dat	► Tables		×
Sheets or Documer	citibike_stations citibike_trips D Views		

r. Mark the table as "Read-Only" - this will improve your performance as the app will not try to recache as often. Click on the "Add This Table" button.

<	Create	a new table		×
Source Id A provider-specific path to the table data (not user-visible)	citibike_stations			Ŧ
Are updates allowed? Are adds, deletes and updates allowed?	imes Updates	× Adds	× Deletes	Read-Only
				Add This Table

s. Now, your app will have access to this data as if it were any other table.

Tables	•	Columns	Slices	User Settings	
Add new	tables a	nd modify table	properties in t	this pane. 🔲	
▲ Ta	able nar able to re	ne 'NYC-Citibikes emove these spe	s' uses specia cial character	l characters that are used in expressions and formulas. Consider renaming these set of the set of t	More info
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Service	e Accour	nt key			
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Test	t A	uthorize Access			

Don't forget to add security filters to limit the number of rows that will be used with AppSheet.