

HELP I am about to quit on AS2005

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<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/SQL-Server/microsoft.public.sqlserver.olap/2007-01/msg00185.html>

- *From:* "Peter de Heer" <peter@xxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 15 Jan 2007 17:42:41 +0100
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My background is programming and hard-core SQL, and I am familiar with several languages and handling of many types of data structures, both conceptually and in actual experience of over 20 years. I expected just by the nature of the subject a rough ride from the start, but what I experienced in the end was utter disappointment.

From my perspective the most basic things are extremely hard to configure

and even then needlessly limiting in use due to the way they seem implementation. On top of that maintenance and manual creation of dimensions with sufficient control is lacking and bound to end in a dead end road. The only thing that seems to work is to make a relational equivalent of what you want to do and let wizards come up with an approximation of what is intended. Which is nice for people not knowing what they want and it probably sells well too, but it does not solve business problems or help developers create functional and maintainable solutions.

Now it could be the tools I use, so I will elaborate on that a bit. I use SQL server manager management studio and MDX for data access. And I use Visual studio 2005 to define the AS2005 side of my model. My gripes are mostly with the later as it is full of features that do absolutely not work, has loads of eye candy and unusable stuff while at the same time it is functional deficient and buggy. This wouldn't be so bad if I could define a solution by means of the SQL server management studio, but that allows only viewing of data, not modelling. The next alternative is to use XML definitions to create stuff, which for me is at this point a step to big, too fast. And it requires far better documentation than is supplied IMHO.

The concept of cubes and how to define relationships, etc. is simple and just a handful of basic rules (Q/A style) should enable anyone with my background to get ahead and create solutions pretty fast in line with design intentions. I can't believe how little of that simplicity can be found back in the user interface and the documentation. Who are these tools designed for? Given that it's a developer tool I would say people like me, but I sure don't feel that way. This leads me to conclude that something is very wrong here, is the product even finished? Am I beta testing or participating in some science experiment?

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This is so frustrating...I wouldn't even know where to begin listing the issues I encountered so far without risking an all out flaming war! Not to mention it would take me a lot of time just to visualise the issues in a way that everyone can understand.

So please someone tell me what tools you use that give you the control that is needed, as I have written off visual studio 2005 for it. If nothing else pops up, I don't think I give it another look any time soon, which I still feel is a loss. But what I can't control even in the slightest just ain't good enough to be used in a solution.