Working with Multiple Calendars

Canonical Dates, Shared Date Dimensions, Conformed Dimensions etc.

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Canonica-what?

The Story Behind the Term – "Canonical" - Date / Calendar

Here's the story:

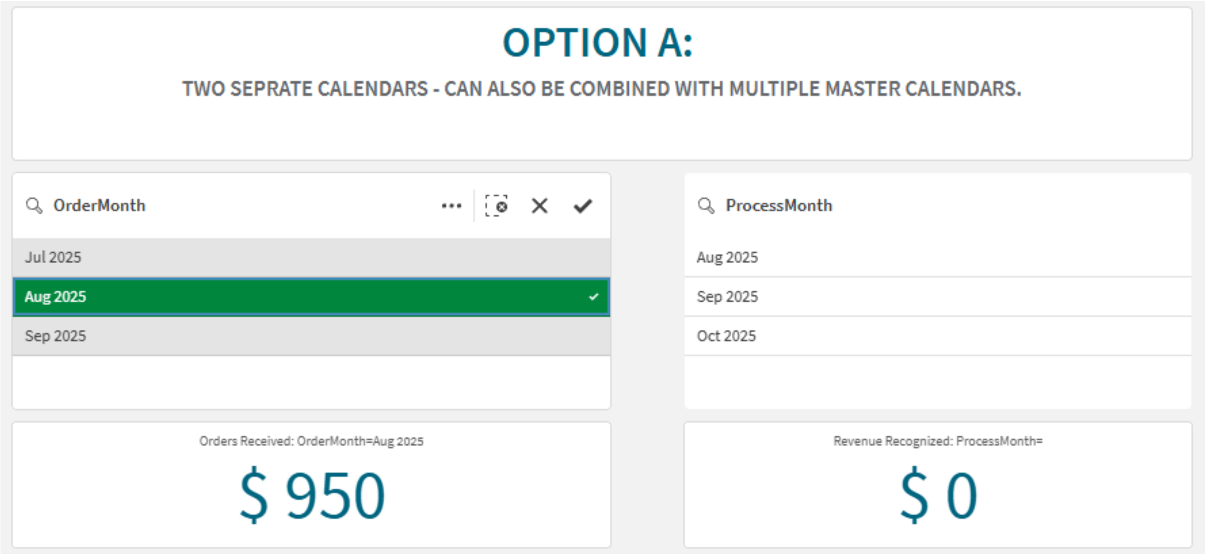
- In general data modeling, you might hear people talk about "shared date dimensions", "date bridges", or "conformed dimensions." Those mean roughly the same thing — connecting multiple date fields (like OrderDate, ShipDate, etc.) to one shared timeline.
- But in Qlik, the community (and even Qlik's own documentation) popularized the name "Canonical Date."
- It became a kind of *nickname* for that special setup where:
  - You make one master date field (the "canonical date"), and
  - You connect all your other date fields (OrderDate, ShipDate, ReturnDate, etc.) to it using a date bridge table.

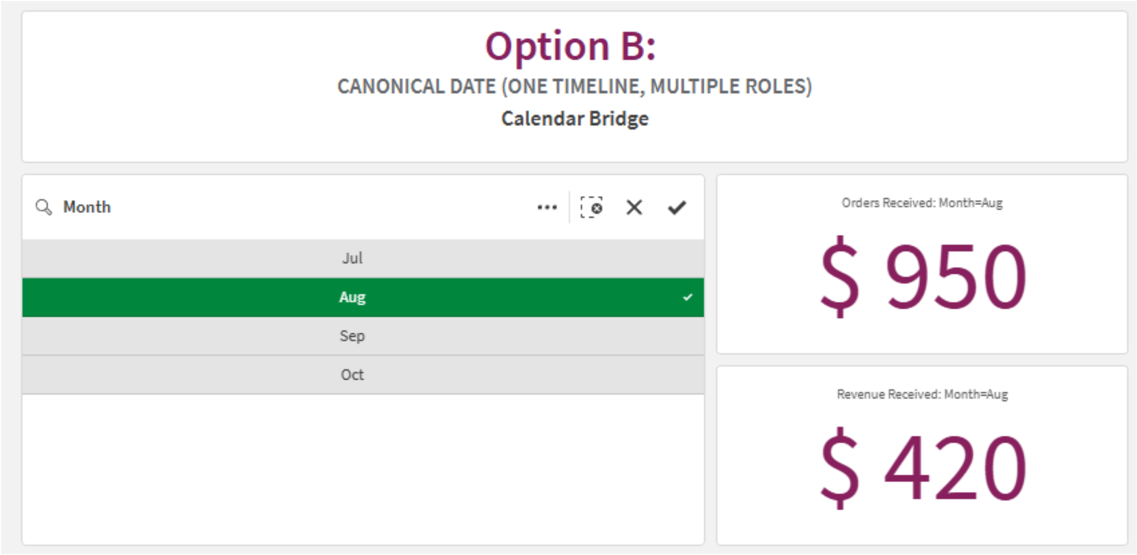
What is a “Canonical” Date?

One calendar that connects all your little calendars

A canonical date / calendar is like a “master calendar” — one special timeline that connects different calendars together.

- In Qlik a canonical date helps link different date fields (like *Order Date*, *Ship Date*, and *Return Date*) so you can look at them all together on the same timeline.





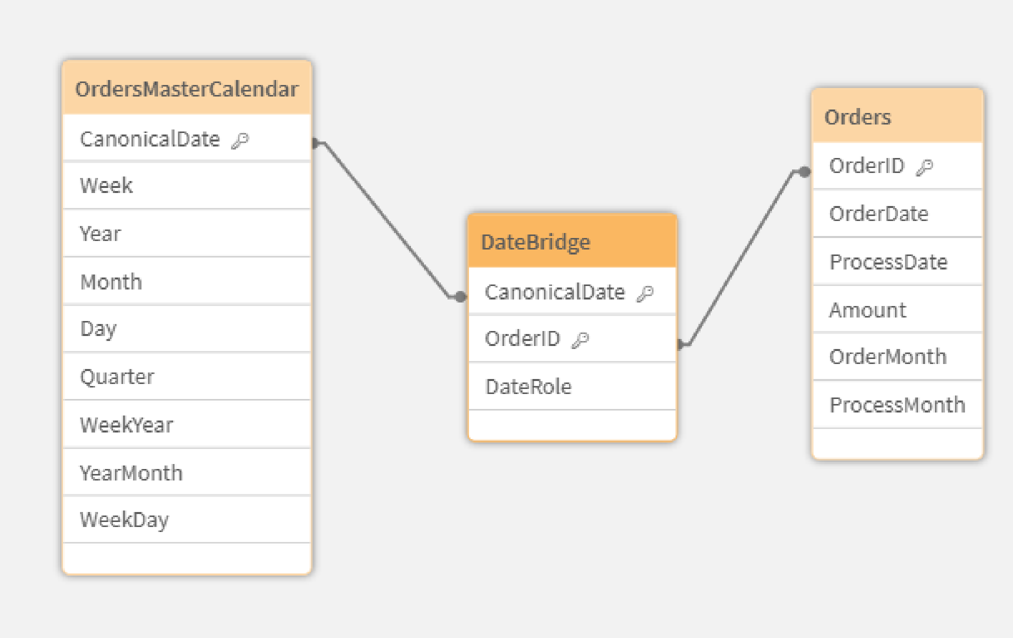
How is it done?

Linked with we call a Date Bridge

- Date Bridge is a special table that connects different date fields (like OrderDate, ShipDate, ReturnDate, etc.) to a single canonical date field.
- Field [DateRole] – that defines the calendar
- Set Analysis expression in your measure

```
[DateBridge]:
    Load
        OrderID,
        [OrderDate] as CanonicalDate, // t
         'OrderCal' as DateRole  // - this
         Resident [Orders];

    Load
         OrderID,
         [ProcessDate] as  CanonicalDate,
         'ProcessCal' as DateRole
         Resident [Orders];
```



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SAMPLE USE CASE

Sales vs. Returns / Refunds

- Scenario: You have both an OrderDate and a ReturnDate.
  Challenge: You want to analyze metrics like total sales, total returns, and return rates by different time perspectives.
- Use Case:
  - OrderDate: “How much revenue was generated in August?”
  - ReturnDate: “How much value was refunded in September?”
  - Canonical Date: “How much of August’s revenue was eventually returned (regardless of when)?”
- Why use a canonical date: It lets you pivot between *order perspective* and *return perspective* using a unified timeline (avoiding duplicated calendars or disconnected charts).

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