



# IDEA 10

## Data analysis software to make audits more effective than ever

CaseWare IDEA Data Analysis software is the essential tool for auditors, accountants and other finance professionals to quickly analyze data, provide deeper insights, and make audits more efficient. Equipped with more than 100 audit-relevant tasks and a broad range of statistical tools and features, IDEA makes it easy to analyze very large datasets, import data from virtually any source, automate data analysis tasks, zero in on anomalies or outliers, identify trends, duplicates or unusual transactions, track the steps in an analysis, visualize results and more.

### Easy Data Import

IDEA's universal file conversion capabilities make data conversion easy. Get data from virtually any data source, including unstructured data (PDFs), text files, reports, data from ODBC and SAP, and import it into an IDEA database file.

### Instantly Access New Insights

Field statistics in IDEA can calculate more than 100 commonly requested statistics, and also include Character Field Statistics, which allow auditors to break character fields down into categories and identify columns with blank values. You can instantly access new insights without having to write queries or summarize or sort data. Clicking on the counts also provides drill-down capability, and results can be saved as their own databases to be used as audit findings. This saves you time, especially when you're working with large files.

### Zero in on Outliers

IDEA's Visualization feature includes two tasks, Discover and Visualize, that create charts—including line, scatter, bar, pie and treemap charts—and field statistics, using audit intelligence to profile your data so you can quickly pinpoint patterns, trends, outliers and correlations. Data can be displayed in up to 10 customizable panels within dashboards, helping you identify risk areas and prepare a more focused audit. The Visualization results and insightful statistics in your dashboards can be shared and reused for recurring audits, and customized to tailor your results to stakeholder needs.

### Work with Data from Different Systems

Sometimes the data you need is split across different databases, teams or departments. Bring the data into IDEA, then combine them to form a new file. IDEA's Relate tasks help you join, append and compare databases. Match databases with one or more common fields such as purchase order number, or combine separate vendor and customer tables to check for errant accounts. You can also match payroll and employee tables to reveal unmatched records and ghost employees.

### Quickly Identify Similar Records

IDEA offers advanced Fuzzy Duplicate tool to identify multiple similar records using three Character fields. Highlighting similar records and grouping them based on the degree of similarity, this allows you to detect data entry errors, multiple data conventions for recording information, and fraud. Data groups can then be fine-tuned based on case sensitivity.

*"With IDEA, we found a \$10 million difference between the total printed on the report and the data supporting it. That was just the tip of the iceberg! The finding prompted an investigation which later uncovered a fraud scheme. Discovering the unmatched data was key to exposing the fraud."*

*~ Fred Lyons, D'Arcangelo & Co. LLP*

## Form Audit Opinions

When testing an entire population is impractical or uneconomical, IDEA's five sampling methods help you estimate characteristics of the whole based on a subset. Save time and effort in calculating sample size, evaluating results, and drawing statistically valid conclusions.

IDEA can calculate sample sizes based on parameters entered and evaluate the results of sampling tests. Sampling methods include the following:

1. Systematic (e.g., every 1000<sup>th</sup> record)
2. Random (number of items chosen at random)
3. Stratified Random (unique to IDEA; a specified number of items selected randomly from within range bands)
4. Monetary unit (e.g., every 1000<sup>th</sup> dollar or other units)
5. Classical Variables Sampling (appropriate when several errors are expected in the sample database)

IDEA also provides an Attribute Planning and Evaluation option that can be used to calculate sample sizes, confidence levels, error limits and number of sample errors. These calculations are used to plan and then evaluate the results of the samples.

## An Audit Trail You Can Trust

IDEA's unique Project Overview feature graphically presents all of the tasks completed within a project, including when databases are created, deleted or changed. This history can also be used to automate the same analysis, allowing it to be repeated. In addition, a project's history can be printed or exported for sharing with management and other stakeholders.

## Fast and Automated Analysis

IDEA 10 helps make analysis faster and more efficient. Standard industry-specific audit routines are available in pre-packaged apps, allowing you to focus your effort on results and deeper analysis. With IDEA, you can also perform custom analysis with one of three scripting languages—IDEAScript, Visual Script and Python.

## Grow and Customize Your Analytics

As demand for data analytics increases, auditors, accountants and data analysts are increasingly leveraging Python to create repeatable tests and perform more advanced analysis. IDEA includes a Python interpreter and key packages to let users leverage the power of this tool, with no separate installations needed. Users can extend IDEA's functionality by building their own advanced analytic or using existing Python scripts.

## User Support at Your Fingertips

A support feature that users can access from the Files tab, Passport gives access to valuable tutorials, sample scripts and custom functions. After purchasing a perpetual IDEA software license, users are enrolled in the IDEA Annual Support and Maintenance program for a year, which offers access to new software releases, support from local IDEA experts, and a technical support site that provides access to the IDEA knowledge library and support tools, including videos.

For more information about CaseWare IDEA Data Analysis software or to make a purchase, contact us at [connect@caseware.com](mailto:connect@caseware.com).

### About CaseWare Analytics

CaseWare Analytics is home to IDEA® Data Analysis and the CaseWare Monitor continuous monitoring platform. Our software solutions are built on a foundation of industry best practices and expertise, enabling audit, compliance and finance professionals to assess risk, gather audit evidence, uncover trends, identify issues and provide the intelligence needed to make informed decisions, ensure compliance and improve business processes. We offer solutions that meet the needs of auditors, analysts, purchasing card managers, compliance officers and more. CaseWare Analytics is a division of CaseWare International, a group of technology companies with software deployed in over 100 countries with more than 450,000 users. To learn more visit [casewareanalytics.com](http://casewareanalytics.com).