

Purpose

This specification will outline the threaded discussion feature being developed for the analytic tool in release 7.4. The threaded discussion feature is new to the analytic tool and will provide analytic tools users the ability to comment and build discourse pertaining to an entire analytic or individual analytic components. This discussion will occur during the creation of an analytic and will not be included as part of the final published analytic.

Comment Control

Commenting will be available to anyone who has a RUanalytic tool account and has access to view an analytic, regardless of whether they created the analytic or not. Access to analytics by non-creators is established and controlled by the analytic creator or a third party designated by the analytics creator.

Comment Interface

Comments will be indicated by a small discussion bubble icon that once clicked on will open a separate panel. The discussion bubble will include the number of comments that have been made on the analytic or analytic component. Once the panel is opened it will display the comments along with indicators of any threaded, multi-layered, discussion.

Users will be given the opportunity to create a new thread of discussion or join in on existing discussions by adding additional threads. Commenting will be simple and only allow for a title to be supplied when a new discussion is created. Otherwise users can leave a general comment. Comments will be associated with a user and display that users name and time of comment when viewing back the threads of discussion.

Commenting will be sorted starting with the most recent threads appearing first. When responding to a comment by creating a new thread the author of the parent thread will receive a notification in the analytic tool when they next log in. This notification will allow the user to view the comment and continue to provide discourse on the topic.

Implementation

Comments will be stored in the analytic database using newly created tables for this release.