What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:

creating, by a computing device, a graphical user interface of an application for summarizing data, the graphical user interface comprising:

a data summary table; and

a task pane separate from the data summary table, the task pane comprising a layout pane including a row zone, a column zone, a value zone and a filter zone;

receiving a selection of a first field from a list of fields for inclusion in the filter zone;

receiving a selection of a first filter option available to the first field;

generating a first filtered value based on the first filter option;

receiving a selection of the first field for inclusion in the row zone; and

in response to the inclusion of the first field in the row zone, displaying the first filtered value as a row label in the data summary table.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving a selection of a second field from the list of fields for inclusion in the filter zone;

receiving a selection of a second filter option available to the second field;

generating a second filtered value based on the second filter option;

receiving a selection of the second field for inclusion in the column zone; and

in response to the inclusion of the second field in the column zone, displaying the second filtered value as a column label in the data summary table.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

receiving a selection of a third field from the list of fields for inclusion in the filter zone;

receiving a selection of a third filter option available to the third field;

generating a set of filtered values based on the third filter option;

receiving a selection of the third field for inclusion in the value zone; and

in response to the inclusion of the third field in the value zone, displaying a summary of the set of filtered values as a result value in the data summary table.

4. The method of claim 3, wherein the steps of displaying the first filtered value as a row label in the data summary table and displaying the second filtered value as a column label in the data summary table occur prior to displaying the result value in the data summary table.

5. The method of claim 3, further comprising:

receiving a selection to remove the third field from the value zone;

in response to the removal of the third field from the value zone, removing the result value from the data summary table while maintaining the generated set of filtered values based on the third filter option;

receiving a subsequent selection to include the third field within the value zone; and

in response to the subsequent inclusion of the third field within the value zone, redisplaying the result value in the data summary table summarizing the generated set of filtered values.

6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

receiving an indication that the first field is dragged from the row zone and dropped in the column zone; and

in response to the indication that the first field is dropped within the column zone, removing the display of the row label in the data summary table and adding a display of the first filtered value as a column label in the data summary table.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the row zone, the column zone, the value zone and the filter zone are arranged in a 1 by 4 rectangle within the layout zone.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the task pane further includes a fields pane for selecting one or more fields for inclusion within at least one of the row zone, the column zone, the value zone and the filter zone.

9. A computer system, comprising :

a processor unit; and

a computer-readable storage device storing instructions that, when executed by the processor unit, cause the processor unit to perform operations comprising :

creating a graphical user interface of an application for summarizing data, the graphical user interface comprising:

a data summary table; and

a task pane separate from the data summary table, the task pane comprising a layout pane including a row zone, a column zone, a value zone and a filter zone;

receiving a selection of a first field from a list of fields;

receiving a selection of a first filter option available to the first field;

generating a first filtered value based on the first filter option;

receiving an indication that the first field is associated with the column zone; and

in response to the association of the first field with the column zone, displaying the first filtered value as a column label in the data summary table.

10. The computer system of claim 9, wherein the instructions further cause the processor unit to perform operations comprising : receiving a selection of a second field from the list of fields;

receiving a selection of a second filter option available to the second field;

generating a second filtered value based on the second filter option;

receiving an indication that the second field is associated with the row zone; and

in response to the association of the second field with the row zone, displaying the second filtered value as a row label in the data summary table.

11. The computer system of claim 10, wherein the instructions further cause the processor unit to operations comprising:

receiving a selection of a third field from the list of fields for inclusion in the filter zone;

receiving a selection of a third filter option available to the third field;

generating a set of filtered values based on the third filter option;

receiving an indication that the third field is associated with the value zone; and

in response to the association of the third field in the value zone, displaying a summary of the set of filtered values as a result value in the data summary table.

12. The computer system of claim 11, wherein the instructions further cause the processor unit to perform the operations of displaying the first filtered value as a column label in the data summary table and displaying the second filtered value as a row label in the data summary table occur prior to displaying the result value in the data summary table.

13. The computer system of claim 11, wherein the instructions further cause the processor unit to operations comprising:

receiving a selection to remove the third field from the value zone;

in response to the removal of the third field from the value zone, removing the result value from the data summary table while maintaining the generated set of filtered values based on the third filter option;

receiving a subsequent selection to include the third field within the value zone; and

in response to the subsequent inclusion of the third field within the value zone, redisplaying the result value in the data summary table summarizing the generated set of filtered values.

14. The computer system of claim 9, wherein the instructions further cause the processor unit to perform operations comprising:

receiving an indication that the first field is dragged from the column zone and dropped in the row zone; and

in response to the indication that the first field is dropped within the row zone, removing the display of the column label in the data summary table and adding a display of the first filtered value as a row label in the data summary table.

15. The computer system of claim 9, wherein the task pane further includes a fields pane for selecting one or more fields for inclusion within at least one of the row zone, the column zone, the value zone and the filter zone.

16. A method, comprising:

creating, by a computing device, a graphical user interface of an application for summarizing data, the graphical user interface comprising:

a data summary table; and

a task pane separate from the data summary table, the task pane comprising a layout pane including a row zone, a column zone, a value zone and a filter zone;

receiving a selection of a first field from a list of fields for inclusion in the filter zone;

receiving a selection of a first filter option available to the first field;

generating a first set of filtered values based on the first filter option;

receiving a selection of a second field from the list of fields;

receiving a selection of a second filter option available to the second field;

generating a second set of filtered values based on the second filter option;

receiving an indication that the second field is placed within the row zone;

in response to the indication that the second field is placed within the row zone, displaying the second set of filtered values as first row labels in the data summary table;

receiving an indication that the first field is placed within the value zone; and

in response to the indication that the first field is placed within the value zone, displaying a summary of the first set of filtered values as a result value in the data summary table.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

receiving a selection of a third field from the list of fields;

receiving a selection of a third filter option available to the third field;

generating a third set of filtered values based on the third filter option;

receiving an indication that the third field is placed within the column zone; and

in response to the indication that the third field is placed within the column zone, displaying the third set of filtered values as column labels in the data summary table.

18. The method of claim 17, further comprising:

receiving a selection of a fourth field from the list of fields;

receiving a selection of a fourth filter option available to the fourth field;

generating a fourth set of filtered values based on the fourth filter option;

receiving an indication that the fourth field is placed within the row zone; and

in response to the indication that the fourth field is placed within the row zone, displaying the fourth set of filtered values as second row labels in the data summary table below the first row labels.

19. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

receiving a selection to remove the first field from the value zone;

in response to the removal of the first field from the value zone, removing the result value from the data summary table while maintaining the generated first set of filtered values based on the first filter option;

receiving a subsequent selection to include the first field within the value zone; and

in response to the subsequent inclusion of the first field within the value zone, redisplaying the result value in the data summary table summarizing the generated first set of filtered values.

20. The method of claim 16, further comprising:

receiving an indication that the second field is dragged from the row zone and dropped in the column zone; and

in response to the indication that the second field is dropped within the column zone, removing the display of the first row labels in the data summary table and adding a display of the second set of filtered values as column labels in the data summary table.