

Google Analytics 4 Guide

Introduction

GA4 - What is it?





Reporting Interface Audience Reports Acquisition Reports Behavior Reports Conversion Reports Reporting General

Conclusion



The clock is ticking for Universal Analytics. It won't be long until Google's flagship analytics product will no longer track any new data. This sunset will happen on **July 1st, 2023**.

So what do we do now? How do we prepare?

Let us guide you.





GA4 - What is it?

Google Analytics 4 (GA4) is the latest version of Google Analytics, a web analytics tool provided by Google that helps businesses and organizations track and analyze how users interact with their websites.

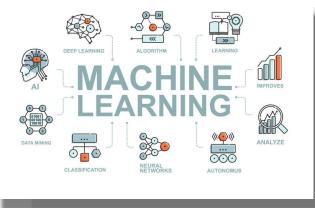




Do I need it?

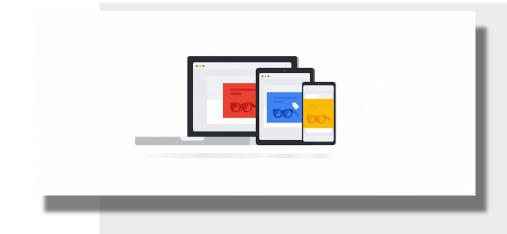
There are a few key reasons why businesses may choose to use GA4 instead of the previous version, Google Analytics (GA3) or another Analytical tool. Some of the main advantages of GA4 include:

1. Machine learning-based insights: GA4 uses machine learning to provide more detailed and accurate insights into user behavior. This can help businesses better understand how users interact with their website and make more informed decisions about their digital marketing efforts.





2. Cross-device reporting: GA4 allows businesses to see how users interact with their website across different devices, such as desktop computers, tablets, and smartphones. This can be especially useful for businesses that have a significant mobile presence.





Do I need it?

3. Enhanced e-commerce tracking: GA4 includes improved e-commerce tracking capabilities, allowing businesses to better understand how users interact with their online store and make more informed decisions about their e-commerce strategy.



Differences

GA3 to GA4, what changed?



Intro

Differences

Reporting Interface Audience Reports Acquisition Reports Behavior Reports Conversion Reports

Reporting Conclusion

Privacy

GA4 includes a number of features designed to protect user privacy, including the ability to limit data collection and the use of aggregated data in reports.





First you may be asking yourself, what is a 'hit type'? That is a good question, and the two Google Analytics platforms define it differently.

Here is our definition - A **hit type** is a specific interaction between a user and your website that is tracked by Google Analytics.

Like we said earlier, the two platforms define their hit types differently. To Universal Analytics, a hit type includes page hits, event hits, ecommerce hits, and social interaction hits.

	In a Universal Analytics property, a hit type
	Page View
1000	Event
	Social
	Transaction/e-commerce
	User timing
	Exception
	App/screen view



So we covered what they are in Universal, but what are they in Google Analytics 4?

Well, in GA4 all data is **event-based**, with the principle that any interaction can be captured as an event.

As such, Universal Analytics property hit types translate to events in a Google Analytics 4 property.

In a Universal Analytics property, a hit type	is captured in a Google Analytics 4 property as an
Page View	Event
Event	Event
Social	Event
Transaction/e-commerce	Event
User timing	Event
Exception	Event
App/screen view	Event



Hit Types

In GA4 if you want to track pageviews, purchases, clicks and so on, you will need to **create an event** for it.

This may sound like a pain (and it is) but it also comes with its benefits. You now have the option to define what hit types you want to track and see.

Additionally, for each event you create, you can also send any desired parameters such as page title, product id, revenue, etc....

In a Universal Analytics property, a hit type	is captured in a Google Analytics 4 property as an
Page View	Event
Event	Event
Social	Event
Transaction/e-commerce	Event
User timing	Event
Exception	Event
App/screen view	Event

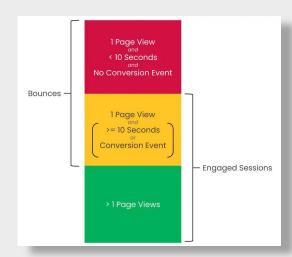


Bounce Rate and Engagement Rate

First, what is a Bounce rate? A **Bounce rate** represents the percentage of visitors who **enter the site** and then **leave** ("bounce") rather than continuing to view other pages within the same site. Bounce rate is calculated by counting the number of single page visits and dividing that by the total visits.

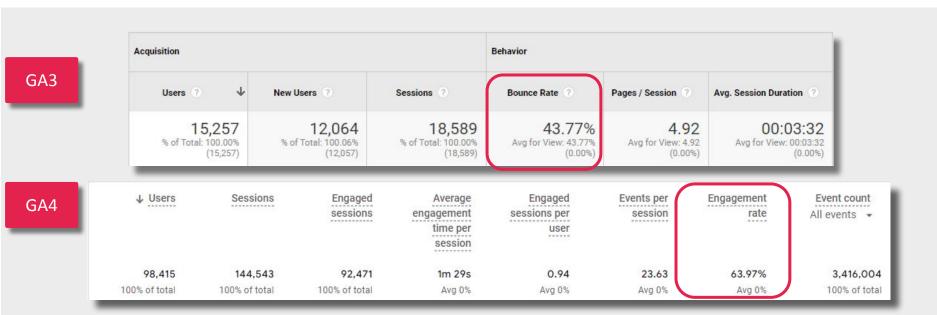
Then there is **Engagement rate**, this is the metric that GA4 is concerned with. Engagement Rate is an engaged session that lasts longer than 10 seconds, has a conversion event, or has at least two pageviews or screenviews.





Bounce Rate and Engagement rate

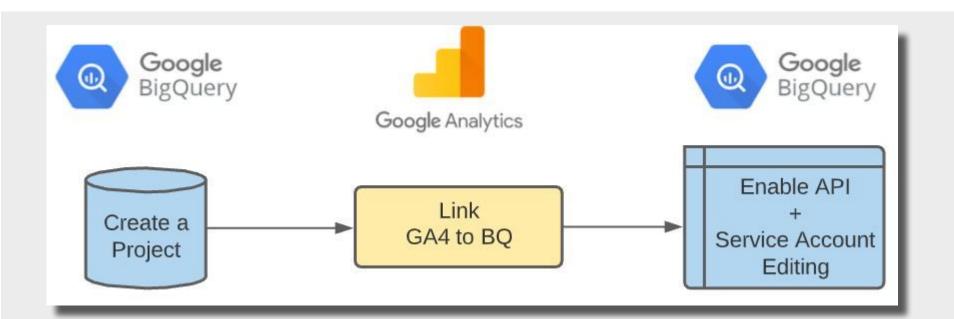
Engagement rate is the percentage of sessions that were engaged sessions. **Bounce rate** is the percentage of sessions that were **not** engaged sessions. Bounce rate is the **inverse** of Engagement rate.



BigQuery Linking

Another huge difference between GA4 and GA3, is that GA4 natively connects to BigQuery.

Previously, this was only available to paying users of Google Analytics.



Audience

Reports

Reports

BigQuery Linking

Why do we care about that? We care because **BigQuery** is a fully managed enterprise data warehouse that helps you manage and analyze your data with built-in features like machine learning, geospatial analysis, and business intelligence.

It is a platform that supports querying using ANSI SQL. Trust us, this is a very good thing.





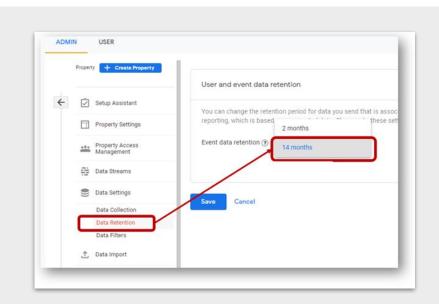
Data retention (AKA the duration of time that information is stored in Google Analytics) is different now too.

- Google Analytics 4's data expires up to 14 months.
- Google Analytics 3's data expires up to 50 months.

While year over year comparisons will still be possible, you will no longer be able to access your historic data in the same way.

However, if you start moving your **GA4** data to **BigQuery** early, then you'll be able to retain all of your historical data. This is quite important and highly recommended.

One quick note: Your UA container's historic data will be downloadable until the end of 2023. Otherwise, you can connect your account to BigQuery.

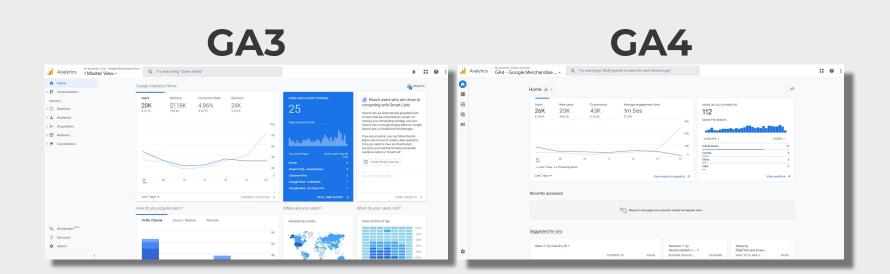


Reports

GA4's reporting interface



You'll find a very different set of reports in your GA4 view compared to GA3. On top of this, you will also see far fewer reports in general. This is because **many reports are only generated when you start tracking events**. GA4 also puts the creation of reports in your control. But don't panic, it isn't as bad as it sounds.





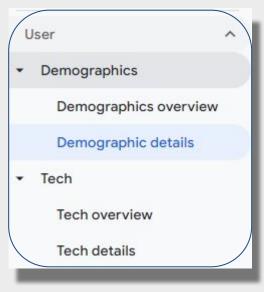
In **GA3's** reporting interface you can see **Audience section** which shows **Demographics, Interests**, **Geological data and Device data**.

For GA4 you can access these data under Reports > User > Demographics or Reports > User > Tech.

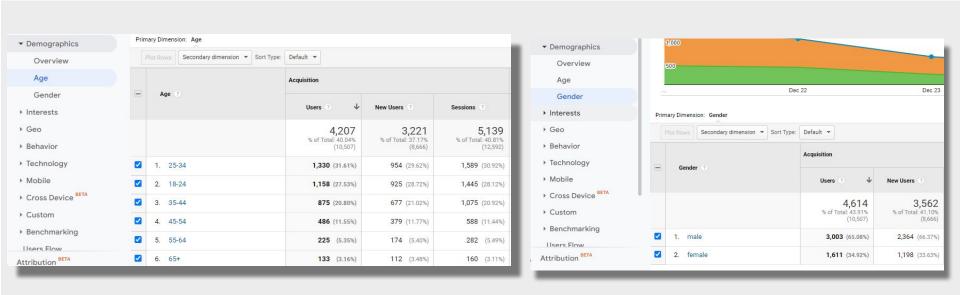
GA3



GA4

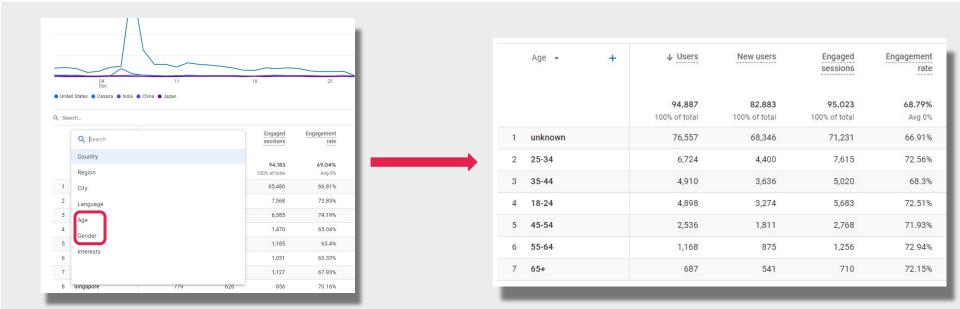


GA3's Demographic reports shows us the **gender** and **age** distribution.



In GA4 you can access the same age and gender data by following these steps:

- 1. Go through Reports > User > Demographics > Demographic Details.
- 2. Select Age or Gender from the dropdown in the first column.



GA3's **Geo Reports** shows us the **language** and **location** data.

Intro

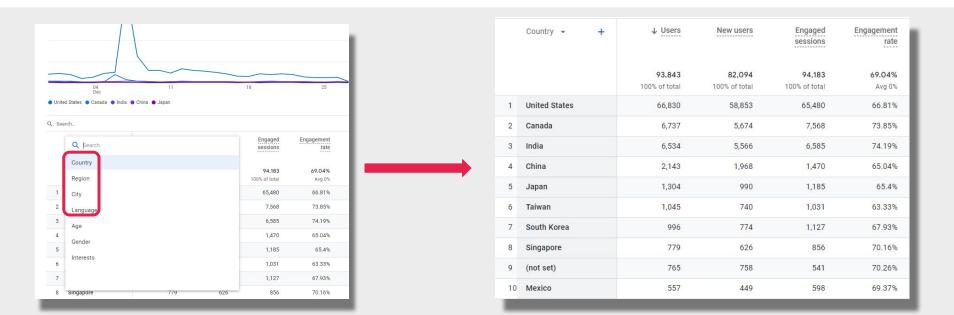
▼ Geo		Acquisition			
Language	Language ?				
Location		Users ? ↓	New Users ?	Sessions ?	
► Behavior		10,507	8,675	12,592	
► Technology		% of Total: 100.00% (10,507)	% of Total: 100.10% (8.666)	% of Total: 100.00% (12,592)	
► Mobile	1. en-us	6,468 (61.38%)	4,995 (57.58%)	7,837 (62.24%	
▶ Cross Device					
► Custom	2. en-gb	981 (9.31%)	879 (10.13%)	1,144 (9.09%	
► Benchmarking	3. zh-cn	283 (2.69%)	275 (3.17%)	291 (2.31%	
Users Flow	4. en-ca	257 (2.44%)	239 (2.76%)	301 (2.39%)	
Acquisition	5. en-in	233 (2.21%)	213 (2.46%)	264 (2.10%	
Behavior	6. ja	220 (2.09%)	201 (2.32%)	259 (2.06%	
	7. zh-tw	213 (2.02%)	194 (2.24%)	270 (2.14%	
Conversions	8. ko-kr	157 (1.49%)	135 (1.56%)	231 (1.83%	
Attribution BETA	9. es-es	149 (1.41%)	131 (1.51%)	167 (1.33%	
Discover	10. de-de	137 (1.30%)	122 (1.41%)	155 (1.23%	

▼ Geo Language		Acquisition			
Location	Country ?	Users ?	New Users (?)		
► Behavior ► Technology		10,507 % of Total: 100.00% (10,507)	8,675 % of Total: 100.10% (8,666)		
► Mobile ► Cross Device BETA	1. United States	4,819 (45.66%)	3,680 (42.42%)		
Cross Device	2. India	1,317 (12.48%)	1,186 (13.67%)		
▶ Benchmarking	3. [♣] Canada	612 (5.80%)	531 (6.12%)		
Users Flow	4. United Kingdom	374 (3.54%)	291 (3.35%)		
Acquisition	5. Japan	294 (2.79%)	263 (3.03%)		
Behavior	6. Taiwan	233 (2.21%)	203 (2.34%)		
Conversions	7. Germany	220 (2.08%)	190 (2.19%)		
Attribution BETA	8. South Korea	186 (1.76%)	164 (1.89%)		
Discover	9. Spain 10. Netherlands	128 (1.21%) 117 (1.11%)	95 (1.10%)		



In GA4 you can access the same language and location data by following these steps:

- 1. Go through Reports > User > Demographics > Demographic Details.
- 2. Select Country, Region, City or Language from the dropdown in the first column.



Behavior Reports Conversion Reports Reporting General

Conclusion

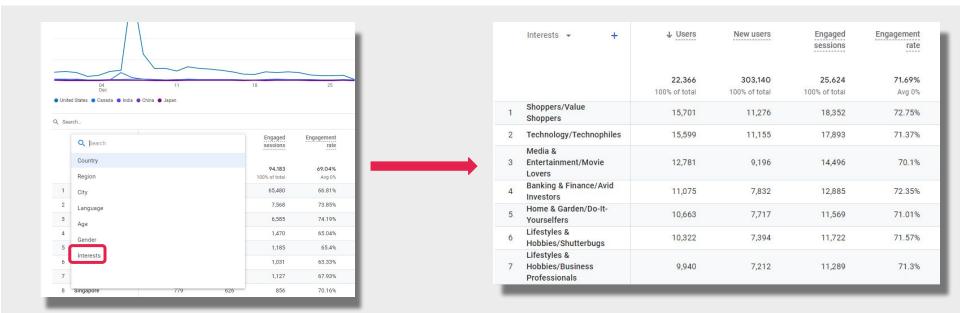
Audience Reports

GA3's Interest reports categorizes the customers that visited website.

▼ Interests			Acquisition				
Overview		Affinity Category (reach)					
Affinity Categories			Users ? ↓	New Users ?	Sessions ?		
In-Market Segments			4,671 % of Total: 44.46% (10,507)	3,618 % of Total: 41.75% (8,666)	5,698 % of Total: 45.25% (12,592)		
Other Categories			(10,507)	(0,000)	(12,592)		
→ Geo		1. Shoppers/Value Shoppers	2,986 (4.04%)	2,239 (3.96%)	3,630 (4.05%)		
▶ Behavior		2. Technology/Technophiles	2,789 (3.77%)	2,090 (3.69%)	3,361 (3.75%)		
► Technology		3. Media & Entertainment/Movie Lovers	2,439 (3.30%)	1,814 (3.20%)	3,016 (3.36%		
➤ Mobile ➤ Cross Device BETA		4. Lifestyles & Hobbies/Green Living Enthusiasts	2,031 (2.75%)	1,502 (2.65%)	2,446 (2.73%		
Cross Device Custom		5. Media & Entertainment/Music Lovers	1,991 (2.69%)	1,552 (2.74%)	2,400 (2.68%		
▶ Benchmarking		6. Lifestyles & Hobbies/Shutterbugs	1,990 (2.69%)	1,528 (2.70%)	2,415 (2.69%		
Users Flow		7. Home & Garden/Do-It-Yourselfers	1,872 (2.53%)	1,383 (2.44%)	2,253 (2.51%		
Acquisition		8. Lifestyles & Hobbies/Business Professionals	1,866 (2.52%)	1,394 (2.46%)	2,279 (2.54%		
Attribution BETA		9. Travel/Business Travelers	1,835 (2.48%)	1,350 (2.39%)	2,235 (2.49%		
		10. Sports & Fitness/Health & Fitness Buffs	1,772 (2.40%)	1,262 (2.23%)	2,159 (2.41%)		

In GA4 you can access these **Interest reports** by following these steps:

- 1. Go through Reports > User > Demographics > Demographic Details.
- 2. Select Interests from the dropdown in the first column.





Intro Differences

Reporting Interface Audience Reports Acquisition Reports Behavior Reports Conversion Reports Reporting General Cor

Conclusion

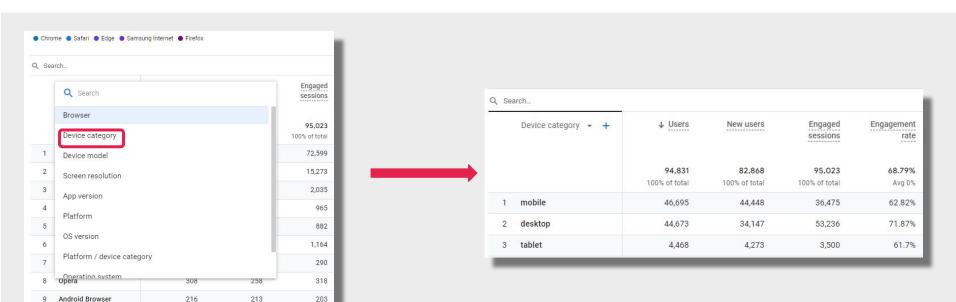
Audience Reports

GA3's **Mobile reports** shows us **Device Category** data.

▼ Mobile		Acquisition	Acquisition				
Overview	Device Category		Acquisition				
Devices		Users ? ↓	New Users ?	Sessions (?)			
Cross Device BETA Custom		10,507 % of Total: 100.00%	8,675 % of Total: 100.10%	12,592 % of Total: 100.00			
▶ Benchmarking	1. desktop	(10,507) 6,232 (59.32%)	(8,666) 4,712 (54.32%)	7,594 (60.31)			
Users Flow	2. mobile	3,981 (37.89%)	3,688 (42.51%)	4,643 (36.87			
Attribution BETA	☐ 3. tablet	293 (2.79%)	275 (3.17%)	355 (2.829			

In GA4 you can access the **Device Category data** by following these steps::

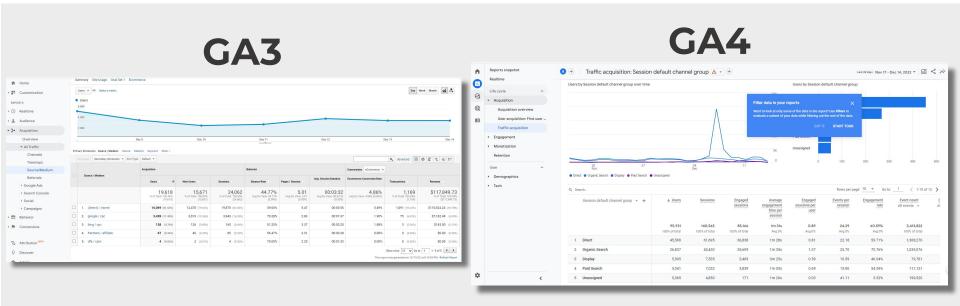
- Go through Reports > User > Tech > Tech Details.
- 2. Select Device Category from the dropdown in the first column.



Acquisition Reports

If you want to review channel based traffic data you would go to **Acquisition > All Traffic > Source / Medium** in GA3.

In GA4, you can find this same data in the **Reporting section**, under **Acquisition > Traffic Acquisition**.





Intro

Differences

Reporting Interface Audience Reports Acquisition Reports Behavior Reports Conversion Reports Reporting Conclusion

Acquisition Reports

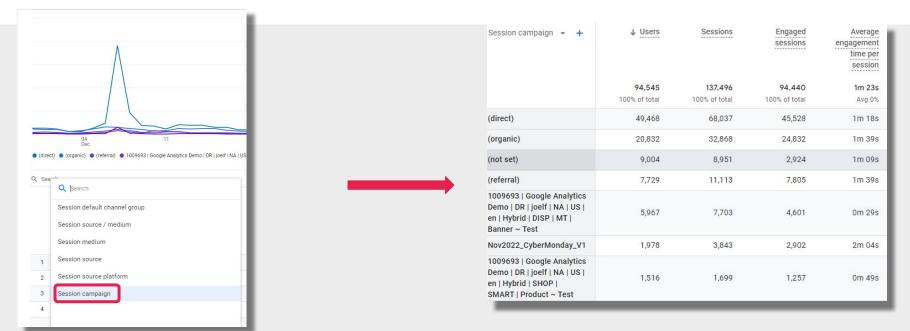
GA3's Google Ads section shows campaign data

Acquisition		Acquisition				
Overview	Campaign / Campaign ID	Clicks 7 🔱 0	Cost (?)	CPC (?)	Users ?	Sessions ?
► All Traffic		Offices •	Cust	CFC T	Users	Sessions
▼ Google Ads		5,800 % of Total: 100.00%	\$5,523.15 % of Total: 100.00%	\$0.95 Avg for View: \$0.95	1,662 % of Total: 15.82%	1,981 % of Total: 15.73%
Accounts		(5,800)	(\$5,523.15)	(0.00%)	(10,507)	(12,593)
Campaigns	1. Test 14391457426	4,397 (75.81%)	\$3,438.60 (62.26%)	\$0.78	434 (25.99%)	531 (26.80%)
Treemaps Sitelinks ^{NEW}	2. Test	378 (6.52%)	\$51.59 (0.93%)	\$0.14	93 (5.57%)	101 (5.10%)
Bid Adjustments	3. BMM Txt ~ AW - Hoodies 11704805699	254 (4.38%)	\$576.12 (10.43%)	\$2.27	181 (10.84%)	204 (10.30%)
Keywords	4. MIX Txt ~ AW-Brand (US/Cali) 1688889738	204 (3.52%)	\$70.95 (1.28%)	\$0.35	281 (16.83%)	362 (18.27%)
Search Queries Hour of Day	5. MIX Txt ~ AW - Apparel 1688886429	125 (2.16%)	\$319.75 (5.79%)	\$2.56	124 (7.43%)	156 (7.87%)
Final URLs	6. MIX Txt ~ AW - T-shirts 11675869173	73 (1.26%)	\$229.08 (4.15%)	\$3.14	56 (3.35%)	59 (2.98%)
Display Targeting	7. BMM Txt ~ AW - Hoodies 11704805693	70 (1.21%)	\$170.12 (3.08%)	\$2.43	49 (2.93%)	51 (2.57%)
Video Campaigns Shopping	8. EXA Txt ~ AW - YouTube 15003951276	49 (0.84%)	\$32.76 (0.59%)	\$0.67	43 (2.57%)	46 (2.32%)

Acquisition Reports

In GA4 here is how you can access Campaign Data:

- 1. Go through Reports > Acquisition > Traffic Acquisition
- 2. Select **Session Campaign** on the table shows up



Intro

Differences

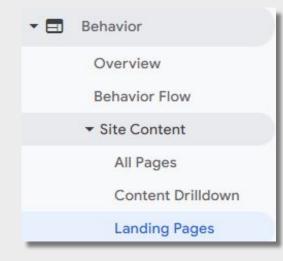
Reporting Interface Audience Reports Acquisition Reports Behavior Reports Conversion Reports Reporting General

Conclusion

Landing Page

Landing Page reports in UA gives us insight into the pages that customers land on first when they enter a website. The landing page report in UA can be found under **Behaviour > Site Content > Landing Pages**On the other hand GA4 doesn't come with built-in Landing Page report and you have to create it.

GA₃





Intro

Differences

Reporting Interface Audience Reports Acquisition Reports Behavior Reports

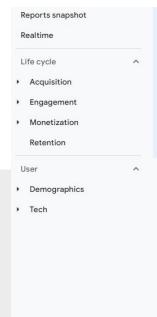
Conversion Reports Reporting General

Conclusion

Landing Page

How to create landing page report in GA4?:

First go to **Library** under Reports section.





□ Library





Reporting Interface Audience Reports Acquisition Reports **Behavior**

Reports

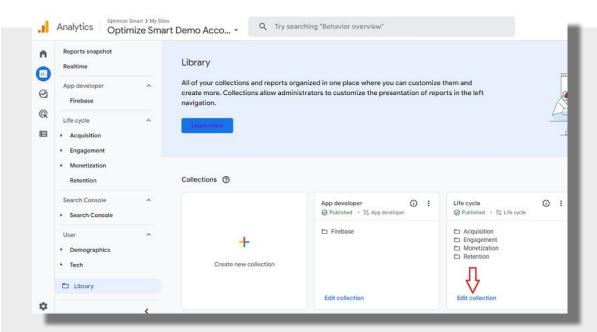
Conversion Reports Reporting General

Conclusion

Landing Page

How to create landing page report in GA4?:

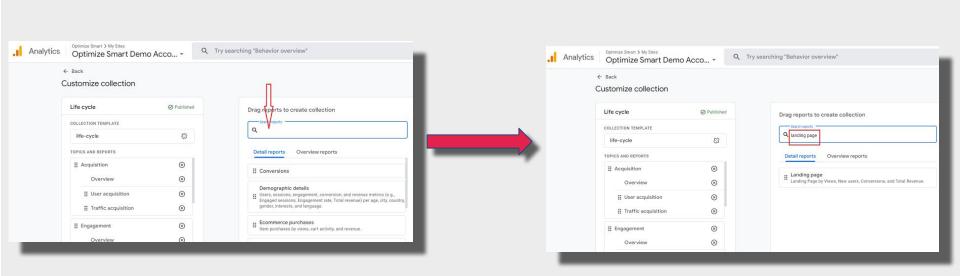
Then click 'Edit collection' button under Life cycle



Landing Page

How to create landing page report in GA4?:

Type 'Landing Page' at the search bar shown below

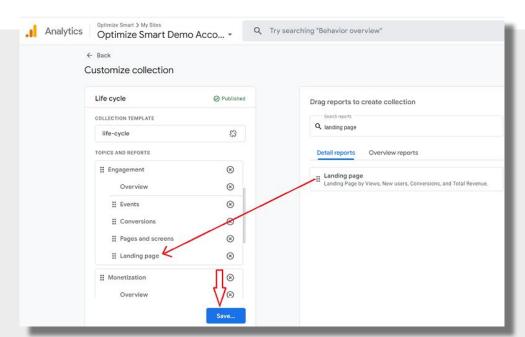




How to create landing page report in GA4?:

Drag 'Landing Page' under 'Pages and screens' at 'Engagement' section then save as current report.

After that you will see landing page report under Reports > Engagement > Landing Page



Intro

Differences

Reporting Interface Audience Reports Acquisition Reports Behavior Reports Conversion Reports Reporting General

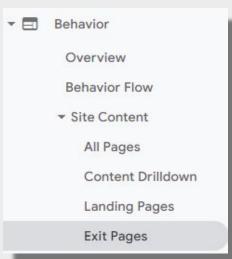
Conclusion

Exit Pages

First, what is an **Exit Page**? An Exit Page is the final page that a viewer sees before leaving the website. For example, if a user is reading your blog content, then visits a product page and leaves your site from there, the exit page is the product page.

The exit page report in UA can be found under **Behaviour > Site Content > Exit Pages**Unfortunately, GA4 doesn't come with a built-in Exit Page report, so we need to create one.

GA3



Reports

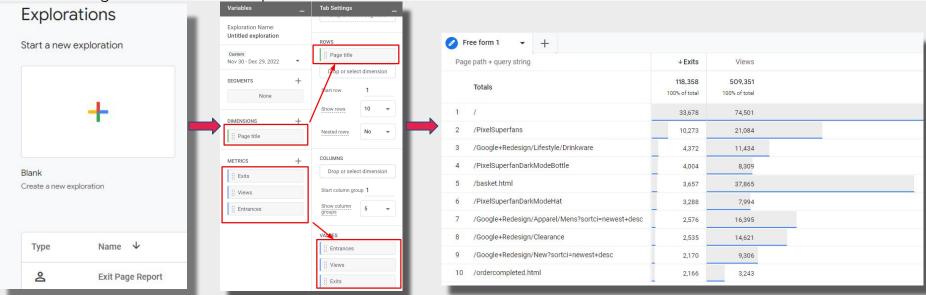


Exit Pages

How do you create an exit page report in GA4? Follow these steps:

- Click on **Explore**.
- Add Exits and any other metrics as your metrics and Page Title as the dimension.
- Now select the wanted date range. And add the metrics to Values and page title to Rows

The following slides will show this process in more detail.



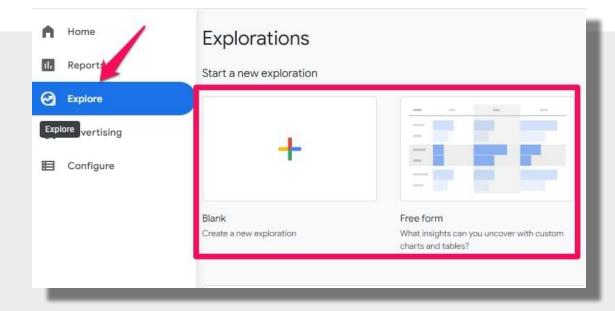


Intro Differences Reporting Audience Acquisition Behavior Conversion Reporting Conclusion Interface Reports Reports Reports Reports General

Exit Pages

How to create exit page report in GA4?:

First go to **Explore** section then click on 'Blank' report section.



Conversion

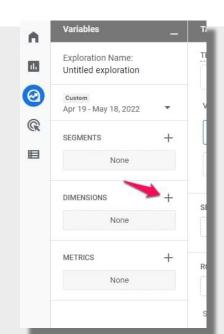
Reports

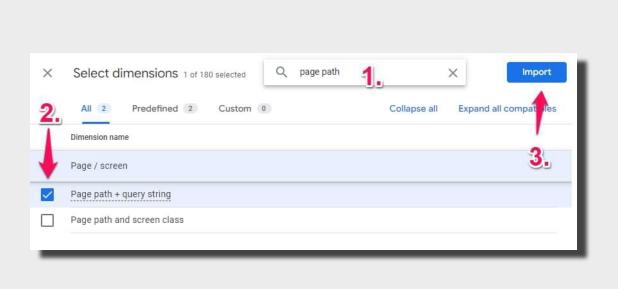


How to create exit page report in GA4?:

On the opening page click '+' on Dimension section.

On the opening tab search for 'Page Path' then select 'Page Path + Query String' last click 'Import'.



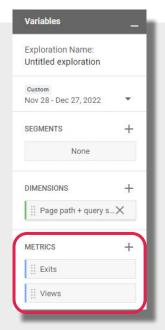


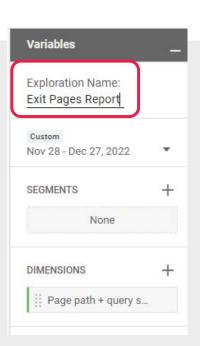
Reports

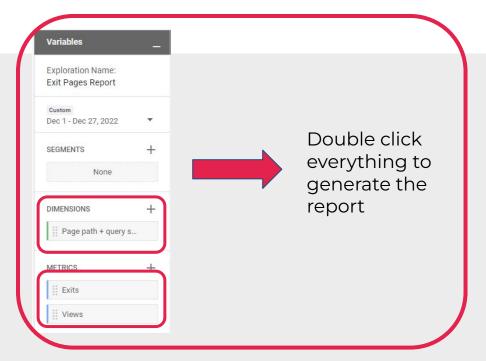


How to create exit page report in GA4?:

With the same method add 'Exits' and 'Views' at 'Metrics' section then rename your report and that's it.





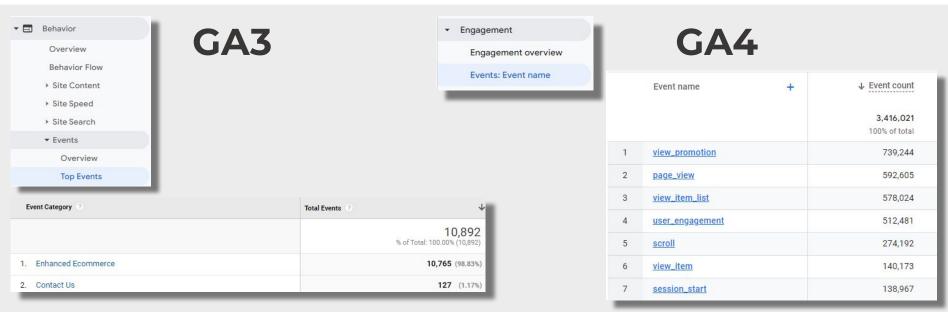


Event (Behavior) Reports

Events parameters differ some between the two platforms as well:

- GA3 events works with Event Category, Event Action, Event Label and Event Value.
- GA4 events works with Event Name and Parameters.

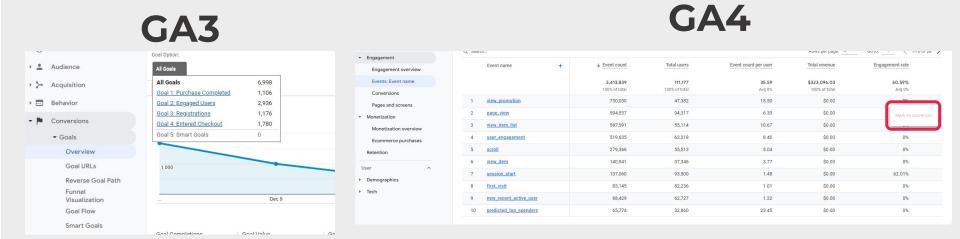
<u>List of automatically collected events for GA4</u>



Conversion Reports

Intro

In GA3 you can set up custom goals to track your important events. Since everything is counted as an event in GA4, you are able to easily mark any important events as a conversion. Your events can be found under the **Conversions** tab. There you will find the event and that events parameters and values. While you were limited to 20 goals in GA3, you are capable of having unlimited events in GA4

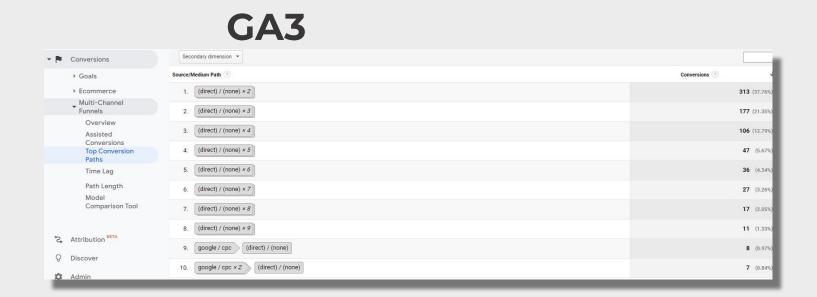


Conversion Reports

Intro

In GA3 under Conversions tab you can see 'Multi -Channel Funnels' this section This section allows you to review all the visit maps made by users on the way to making a conversion.

For example, below we see that the first row shows (direct)/(none)x2 and 313 conversions related with this path. This means people who came the website twice from direct source converted 313 times.



Intro

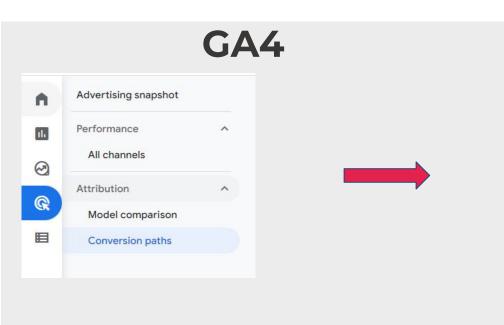
Differences

Reporting Interface Audience Reports Acquisition Reports Behavior Reports Conversion Reporting
Reports General

Conclusion

Conversion Reports

In GA4 you can find conversion paths under **Advertising > Conversion paths** tab



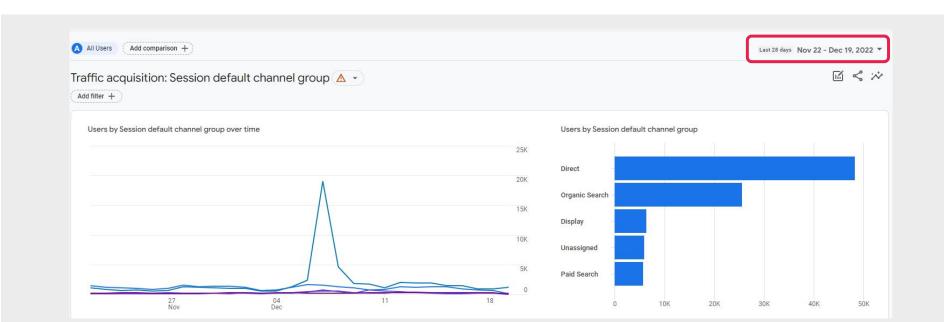
Source •	↓ Conversions
	372,048.00
	100% of tota
1 (direct) 100%	151,498.00
2 google 100%	53,449.00
3 (unattributable) 100%	23,200.00
4 google × 3 100%	13,872.00
5 google × 4 100%	13,560.00
6 google × 2 100%	9,305.00
7 google × 5 100%	7,618.00
8 google × 6 100%	6,753.00
9 google × 7 100%	6,591.00
10 google × 8 100%	4,307.00

Data

Adjusting reports in GA4

Picking Date

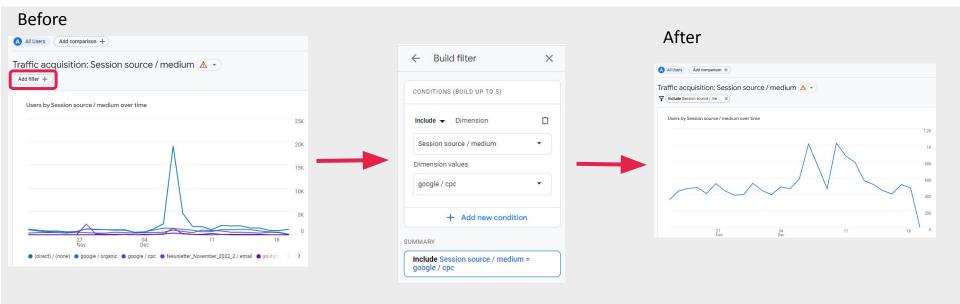
For every report, the date can be adjusted at right top corner of the screen. Here you will also see automatic options such as past 7 and 28 days...





For filtering reports in GA4, we can add a filter easily by following these steps:

First, click on the "Add filter +" button. Then use the "Build filter" pop-up which can be seen at right side of the page. From here you can add the desired dimensions and values to your report.



Migration

We are here to help



Intro

Differences

Reporting Interface Audience Reports Acquisition Reports Behavior Reports Conversion Reports Reporting General

Conclusion

Google Analytics 4

Recap

Universal Analytics final day is rapidly approaching.

Google will be **sunsetting** Universal Analytics on **July 1st, 2023**. After this date, your Google Analytics account will no longer report **any** data whatsoever.

This means that the time to migrate to Google Analytics 4 is **now**.

Let us do the heavy lifting for you. We will have your GA4 container operation in a matter of days.

Google Analytics 4

Our Process

- 01 Set up your new GA4 account
- 02 Begin migration to GA4
- 03 Analyze and implement event measurement
- Provide guidance and help you get settled in with your new Google Analytics home
- Have you and your GA4 container ready for the next era of data analytics within a matter of weeks

Book a call with us today to get started!

THANK YOU

Algofy, your first choice in digital marketing.

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