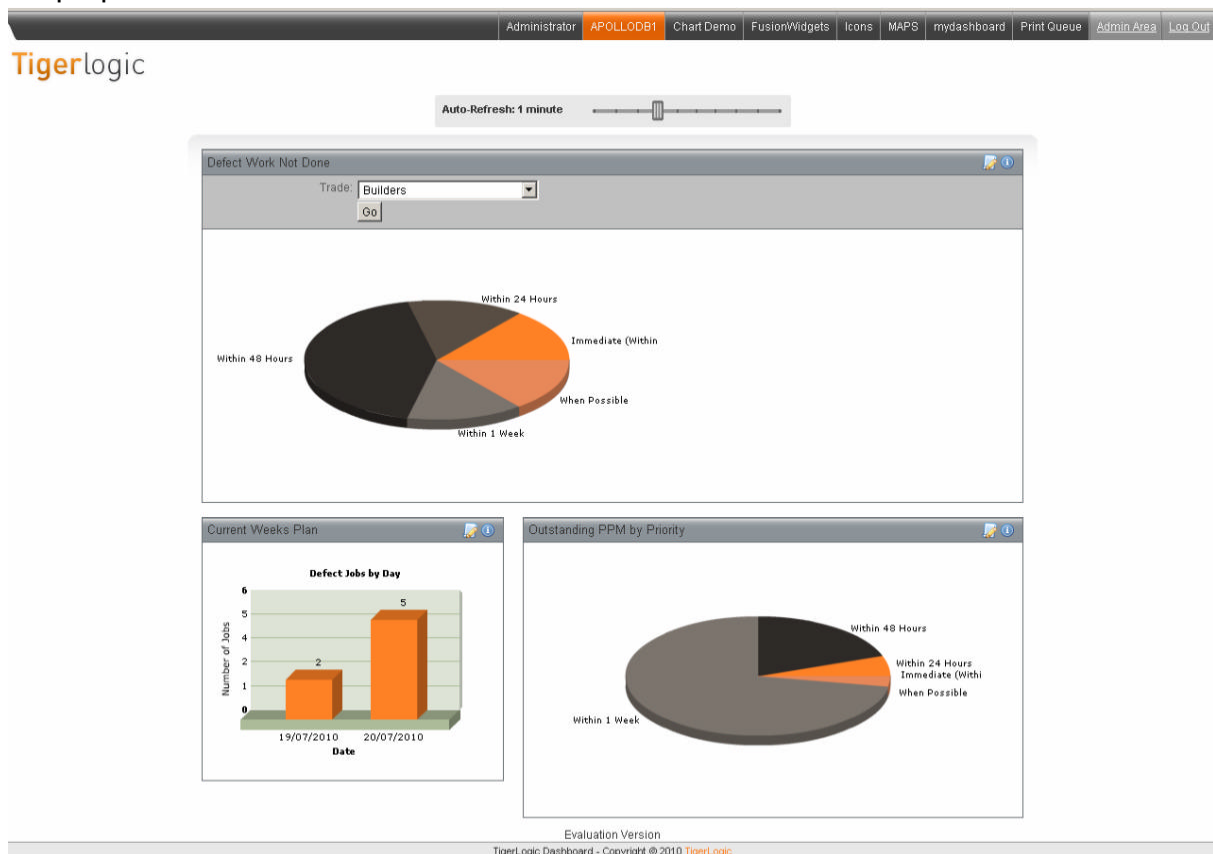


## Additional Features for Apollo-FM – Introducing Tigerlogic Dashboards

One of the most important additions to FM software over recent months has been immediate visual information, that can be manipulated. This has mainly come from Dashboard Software. Premier Software has looked at various ways of doing this, mostly through ODBC. We sent out, “How to create Dashboards” to our customers using MS Excel and ODBC, and we have investigated specific dashboard software like Corda and Crystal. Our aim was to provide these dashboards to enhance Apollo-FM information production, at an affordable price. The MS Excel exercise did work but was not very cosmetic. The dashboard software we looked at cost anything from 1500.00 to 10,000.00 pounds, which we felt was excessive. The most expensive also used technology, which created long delays in refreshing data.

In February I was invited to view some new features for D3, one of which was the new dashboard software. It is native to D3 and therefore does not use ODBC. The software is now released and I have been testing it and have decided this is exactly right for Apollo -FM. The software is web Based, and Apollo-FM will be able to produce a seamless link to the dashboards, by opening them in their own window. Below is an example of what I have put together for demonstration purposes:



The dashboard shown above obtains its information from the current week's plan which it calculates, so it only produces data for the current week. The 3 graphs shown are updated every minute. The auto refresh slide bar can be used to increase or reduce this refresh time. The graphs are known as widgets. Each widget can be manipulated separately, or they can all be manipulated by filtering the data with drop down selection boxes. This dashboard has a trade selection box which affects all widgets. The widgets can also drill down into the data (using AQL!) which completes the features of the dashboard. There are many types of widgets, ranging from 2D bar charts to exploding Pyramid, Curved and Linear Gauges, and even Drill down Maps!

The software comes in two parts. There is a software Developer's Kit (SDK) and a distribution package which allows the dashboards to be run on the server. As the widgets are created through the same software as Apollo-FM I would suggest that Premier Software will develop your dashboards for you, free of charge. This will allow you just to have the distribution software to run your dashboards to obtain the information you wish.

The software works best with D3 for Windows (version 9, most users are currently on D3 7.4.3). This is a new version of D3 (9.0 as opposed to 7.0), and it requires the end user to take out a new Software Maintenance Agreement (SMA), but you will be refunded for any outstanding SMA you currently have in place. This is a very good deal, as it was originally envisaged that end users would have to purchase the new product. Your IT may also be keen to know that this version is certified to work on virtual servers, unlike D3 7.4.

The distribution software comes in a range of numbers of users. The lowest is 5, and I don't believe that any of our users requires more than this. It comes in three levels, standard, professional, and enterprise. The level you purchase decides which widgets you can use. I would suggest that all users adopt the enterprise level to be able to use all the widgets. The price for a 5 user Standard distribution package is 495.00 plus 99.00 SMA. The 5 user professional level costs 605.00 plus 121.00 SMA, and the 5 user enterprise level costs 715.00 plus 143.00 SMA. When you compare this to the prices I referred to earlier in this document, this is very good value. If you want to know more about the dashboards please give me a call on 01622 757178, and I can answer specific questions. I will be attempting to allow Apollo-FM users to try it out on the Internet soon.