



# Paths

Help Documentation

## Paths

### Page Bounces

This report displays the pages on which visitors landed and left without navigating to other pages of your site. Site administrators and users can use this report to identify which pages should be optimized to provide the best visitor experience. For example, if a landing page was created to draw visitors into a website and then guide them to other pages or products, but this page has a HIGH bounce rate, that means visitors are coming to the page but then leaving the site rather than exploring further. Therefore, the page should be reviewed and revised to better encourage visitors to visit other pages of the site, view other products, etc.

Each row returned in this report can be further analyzed by SmarterStats. By moving your mouse over a row, a down arrow appears at the end of the row containing the Page name. The options available when clicking on this arrow include: Data Mining, Open URL, Set Page Alias and View Details.

- Data Mining - Data mining allows site administrators and users to drill down into more detail about the item in the particular row. For example, viewing the referring URLs, bandwidth used, query strings and more.
- Open URL - Opens the item in a new window. For more information, see the Data Mining overview .
- Set Page Alias - Allows users to set a friendly name for sometimes complex Page URLs. For example, if a Page shows up as `"/smartertools/products/smarterstats/pricing.aspx"`, users can instead attach the alias of "SmarterStats Pricing". That way, any report items that reference that page URL will display "SmarterStats Pricing" instead of the URL itself. This feature is especially useful when using query variables, which can have cryptic or numerical variables such as `ProductID=37`. For more information, see the Page Alias overview .
- View Details - Displays a number of details about the specific item. For example, Traffic details, Performance results, any result codes returned (e.g., 404 errors) or any Site Tuning issues that are found.

Note: This report can be added as a report item to a custom report. For more information on report items, refer to Understanding Report Items .

For a definition of the terms listed on this page, please refer to the Glossary .

## Entry Files

This report displays the top entry files (the first files downloaded by a visitor during a visit to your website) for the selected date range. Depending on the optimization of the site or the scripting used, any file extension can be the first file that loads. However, image files are often listed as the top entry files, as there are various scripts that enable image files to load in a browser prior to an actual page displaying.

This report is most useful to designers and developers. If the initial files are images or other files that can be larger in size, it is a good indication that designers may want to optimize those files to keep page load times as fast as possible.

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## Entry Pages

This report displays the pages visitors used most frequently to enter your website. Site administrators and users can use this report to identify which pages can be optimized to provide the best visitor experience or to draw traffic to other areas of the site. In addition, if landing pages were created for

marketing efforts, this report can give an indication of how well (or not so well) those marketing efforts are attracting visitors.

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## Exit Pages

This report displays the pages on which visitors most frequently left your website. Site administrators and users should review the pages that appear near the top of this list and determine how to change these pages to better retain visitors. This report can be used in conjunction with the [Page Bounces](#) report to see where your site is losing traffic and can give some indications about how to better retain visitors.

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## Paths

This report displays the most frequent traffic patterns of your website visitors. When a visitor moves from page to page within a site, they generate a specific path for their movement. For example, if a visitor enters your site via the Default.html page, clicks on a link to Product.html, then proceeds to Order.html, and they finally leave via Thank\_you.html, they generate the following path:  
default.html/product.html/order.html/thank\_you.html.

Single-hit paths near the top of the list should be investigated as potential areas for optimization, as they sometimes indicate a lack of interest-generating content or a bad visitor experience (slow load times, bad design, cultural issues, etc.).

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