Business Intelligence Product Directory

2009 EDITION

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Welcome!

Welcome to SearchDataManagement.com's **Business Intelligence Product Directory**. This directory is designed to be a valuable resource for those getting started with research or evaluating vendors in the business intelligence market. Inside, you'll find basic information about the major vendors in the business intelligence market and the products they sell. Each listing is accompanied by a short description and a long description including limited information about functionality and product use. You'll find products for businesses of all sizes as well as products that can be deployed on-demand and on-premise. Use this list to get started with the evaluation process. For more information about any of the products or to speak to a sales representative, please visit the vendor website or product website.

SearchDataManagement.com will launch a series of directories throughout the year to address unique segments of the data management market. Want to see your product listed in one of our directories? Go here to submit a product. Need to update product or pricing information? Email us here. For questions for the editors or to make suggestions for improving the directory, write to us at editor@searchdatamanagement.com.

Happy shopping!

Selecting the best business intelligence tools for your business

tHE BENEFITS OF business intelligence (BI) have been proven repeatedly. BI strikes at the heart of the charter of a business—bottom-line improvement. No longer speculative, BI provides tangible benefits to an enterprise's revenue and expenses. BI is about getting the right data to the right people at the right time.

Historically, BI has meant whatever we do to data in our post-operational data warehouses. That is not entirely true anymore. BI is done everywhere—in our operational environments, such as ERP, supply chain and call center systems, as well as data warehouses and other post-operational analytical structures.

BI, of course, needs data to be viable, and sometimes that means setting up additional data stores with data in a prepared state for the access. Sometimes there is a data store where BI access is needed, and sometimes that store needs to be built. However, data access is the layer in the data architecture that BI addresses. If the plumbing is robust but the presentation layer is lacking, all is lost. This guide will look at business intelligence vendors and methods.

There is no best or one-size-fits-all tool on the market. Multiple BI tools will be trained on any viable data store over the course of time. It's an evolutionary progression, and there is no method of data access that is necessarily a "first port of call" for BI. Perhaps no technology term has been as overused as BI, so it is essential to dive much deeper than the label and figure out which tools you really need in your organization.

Selecting the right BI tool should start with requirements-gathering from those accessing data. These "users" need a BI tool like a hole in the head. What they need is data access through the right mechanism (reports, alerts, visualization, interaction, etc.). Dust is collecting on unused BI tools ("shelfware") the world over, while frustrated users live with what is "good enough." The end result is that Microsoft Excel is the most common BI tool. This is problematic.

Ideally, the requirements-gathering process begins not with "what do you want to see?" but with "what are your business goals?" Together, the BI expert and the user can then explore the robust possibilities that today's BI market offers.

BUSINESS REQUIREMENTS GATHERING
Other questions to be asked during the requirements-gathering phase for BI include:

1. What are your short-term and long-term success criteria?

2. Where are you now, relative to that plan and your objectives?
3. What is viewed as a success for you and your team?
4. How is your business changing? How will it be different in five years?
5. What do you see as your company's strengths as well as its vulnerabilities/weaknesses?
6. Which operations/processes do you want to improve within your area of responsibility?
7. What are the critical business decisions you make and/or critical business questions you must answer in order to achieve your objectives?
8. What information or insights do you need in order to address these critical business issues and questions?

During the requirements-gathering phase, give only cursory consideration to the data sources. Data source selection, or building new databases for BI, can best be determined once you have all the answers to the above questions. I also advise considering likely future requirements in the process, even if they are not well formulated. Sometimes, in order to define these requirements, you'll have to reach out to an experienced outside party with multiple full-lifecycle views of BI in your industry.

INFRASTRUCTURE CHECK
In order to aid the selection process, the following information should be gathered on a project-by-project basis early in the process for each user grouping:

- Volumes/architecture of the data being accessed.

- Data volatility.
- Type of application.
- Integration needs with other systems.
- Number of users and their locations and roles.
- Access schedule.

There are dozens of products in the marketplace that provide access to data stores, many of which offer various types of analytic capability.

"One tool can fit multiple uses, but there is no equivalent of an enterprise 'Swiss army knife.'"
—WILLIAM MCKNIGHT

One tool can fit multiple uses, but there is no equivalent of an enterprise "Swiss army knife." Therefore, it is essential that a company select and deploy a small number of tools with complementary designs and capabilities that together support the specific use and usage pattern of each class of users. Effective sites will have three to four tools (for a midsized organization) or five to 10 tools (at a large organization).

Just as important as having complementary tools is not having any tools that compete (i.e., with similar features and benefits). It is simply too costly to buy, learn, deploy and support such tools and to resolve conflicts among users when resources become con-

strained. Choose a few tools well in order to match explicit business needs without proliferating.

CATEGORIES OF BI TOOLS

The marketplace requires BI buyers to understand which tool best fits their needs. The terminology used is confusing, with ingeniously subtle variations on common themes used throughout because there aren't enough suitable descriptive words to go around.

The categories of BI tools include:

1. Reporting tools
2. Desktop/traditional BI
3. Multidimensional tools
4. Data mining
5. Data visualization tools

There are multiple ways BI tools can provide access data, but it is important to understand the value that each category provides.

Reporting tools, often a first port, provide enterprise reporting and analysis functionality that can support complex needs. They provide users with multiple software components that allow data to be accessed based on their particular needs. Ad hoc query or drill-down, slice-and-dice forms of analysis are best with desktop/traditional BI tools.

Reporting tools produce the most varied forms in the easiest manner of all the tools, but their ability to interact with the reports is limited. Other tools, like desktop BI tools, provide greater interactivity with the data. Specific reporting needs that are too complex in content, design, sourcing or format could continue to be handled with a reporting tool.

Multidimensional access involves building a structure separate from the relational data store (a "cube") that is optimized for high performance of a specific set of queries around a few dimensions and metrics.

Data mining has long been a means to attain high business value from a

> ## "There are multiple ways BI tools can provide access data, but it is important to understand the value that each category provides."
> ### —WILLIAM MCKNIGHT

warehouse. As the means of automating discovery to explore and identify new business insight, it stands alone as an access method. For all other forms of BI, you must understand ahead of time what you're looking for. Algorithmic data mining, however, will make you aware of situations that may represent new market opportunities or business problems that have yet to surface.

Finally, data visualization tools provide a means of making sense of vast amounts of detailed information through plotting, charting and otherwise cutting through the volumes of data to make visual sense.

TOOL SELECTION

A single tool can provide elements of many categories, but more likely it is

a suite of tools from a vendor that will meet all of your data access capabilities. An organization's strategy for vendor management (i.e., one large vendor vs. several smaller ones) should provide a strong rationale for the ultimate selection.

BI tool selection is not an all-IT affair. Once the requirements have been gathered, the infrastructure needs checked, and the tool categories matched to the requirements, users should be involved in the process in order to aid adoption and acceptance of the tools. Users can provide feedback on the look-and-feel elements of the selection. If the organization has made a decision about the data store upon which BI will be trained, then it might be effective to download and test time-limited trial versions of the BI tools that have made it to the final round of the selection process.

CONCLUSION

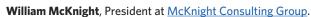It is important to understand the business requirements before making a business intelligence purchase. Collecting a profile of the existing architecture that BI will be integrating with is another important criterion. The category of

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tool needed can then be determined and the tools short-listed and trialed in-house, with users, in order to determine the best-fit BI tool to achieve the goal of the right data to the right people at the right time. ∎

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

William McKnight, President at McKnight Consulting Group.
William is the president of McKnight Consulting Group. William functions as strategist, lead enterprise information architect and program manager for complex, high-volume, full life-cycle implementations worldwide—utilizing the disciplines of data warehousing, master data management (MDM), business intelligence (BI), data quality and operational BI. McKnight is a Southwest Entrepreneur of the Year finalist, a frequent best-practices judge, has authored more than 150 articles and white papers and given over 150 international keynotes and public seminars. His team's implementations from both IT and consultant positions have won Best Practices awards. He is a former IT VP of a Fortune company, a former engineer of DB2 at IBM and holds an MBA. He can be reached at william@williammcknight.com.

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Vendor: Vendor/developer of product at directory press time; ● **SaaS or services** indicates technology available as SaaS, hosted, on-demand, ASP and web services; ◆ **On-premise SW** indicates software or systems on premise; ◉ Description was written by the SearchDataManagement.com editorial team based on information gathered from vendor websites.

1010DATA

1010data

1010data's BI Service combines a back-end database and analytics tool to derive insight directly from raw data. ●

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.1010data.com

FOUNDED: 2000

SUMMARY: Offered in the Software as a Service (SaaS) model, 1010data's BI Service offers a complete approach to performing the deepest analysis and deriving insight directly from raw data. 1010data combines a powerful back-end database with a flexible front-end tool. The data management tool is architected to handle multi-terabyte databases at a lower cost than other data management approaches. 1010data is designed to allow companies to perform true ad hoc analytics in seconds. With 1010data, users have all the back-end power they need to analyze and manage data, coupled with front-end capabilities that fully realize that power. 1010data runs on commodity hardware, providing a standard, less rigid process that yields lower costs. ◉

PRICING: Starts at $50,000; price is based on amount of data and the number and type of users to ensure proper service levels.

ACTUATE

e.Reports

Actuate's core product, e.Reports, is a scalable platform designed for delivering high-fidelity reports to large numbers of report consumers, particularly in very large extranet applications that serve the financial and public sectors. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.actuate.com

FOUNDED: 1993

SUMMARY: Actuate's core product, e.Reports, is a scalable platform designed to help organizations deliver high-fidelity reports to large numbers of report consumers, particularly in very large extranet applications that serve the financial and public sectors. The Actuate e.Report product line creates high-level, brochure-quality reports appropriate for distribution both inside and outside the firewall. These reports can help organizations represent the brand at its best to employees, investors, customers and partners—users that typically require information presented in a well-designed, pixel-perfect layout. e.Reports also enables users to deploy and maintain rich information applications easily and quickly and the product integrates with existing applications and portals. Available within every report is a navigation bar that provides access to an automatically generated table of contents; search, analysis, and print and save options and page navigation tools. Hyperlinks enable drill-to-detail, and dynamic parameter pick lists help users navigate easily through reports. ◉

PRICING: Vendor declined to provide pricing.

ACTUATE

BIRT-based open-source platform

Actuate's BIRT-based open-source platform and products each provide a programming environment. This Java-based platform for building RIAs and mashups helps meet the authoring and interactivity needs of business users in smaller organizations across a broad range of industries. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.actuate.com

FOUNDED: 1993

SUMMARY: Actuate's BIRT-based open-source platform and products each provide a programming environment. (BIRT stands for BI Reporting Tools, open source Eclipse-based reporting system.) This Java-based platform for building Rich Internet applications (RIAs) and mashups expands Actuate's product line beyond its traditional niche to meet the authoring and interactivity needs of business users in smaller organizations across a broad range of industries. Developed in collaboration with the Eclipse Foundation and countless developers, the Actuate BIRT tools offer options for creating rich interactive reports, dashboards and mashups and more. Interactive Viewer is an ad hoc Web reporting tool that enables end users to modify report views to suit their needs. Report Studio is an ad hoc Web reporting tool that lets business users develop their own reports based on templates created by IT and/or developers. Both BIRT Designer and BIRT Designer Pro enable IT and developers to create templates and reports that can be accessed within the Actuate framework and used by both business and end users. With Flash and Dashboards, BIRT reports can arrive in any format, including (Flash) dashboards that users can customize to meet their own reporting needs. ◉

PRICING: Vendor declined to provide pricing.

ACTUATE

e.Spreadsheet

Actuate's e.Spreadsheet reporting technology is designed to address spreadsheet distribution issues. In 2008, Actuate released its e.Spreadsheet Designer tool as freeware from its BIRT-exchange community site. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.actuate.com

FOUNDED: 1993

SUMMARY: Actuate's e.Spreadsheet reporting technology is designed to address spreadsheet distribution issues. In 2008, Actuate released its e.Spreadsheet Designer tool as freeware from its BIRT-exchange community site. e.Spreadsheet is a spreadsheet automation tool intended to simplify spreadsheet creation and enable users at every skill level to participate in spreadsheet design, modification and viewing. Actuate e.Spreadsheet securely provides live business data on demand as easy-to-use and familiar Excel spreadsheets, with all formatting, formulas and graphs intact. This can save users from having to reformat from flat .CSV files; use custom scripting or unstable plug-ins; employ complicated querying; or cut, paste and manually enter data, which invariably leads to entry errors. Instead, users can receive complete information direct from the source, pre-formatted and ready for analysis. ◉

PRICING: Vendor declined to provide pricing.

ARCPLAN

arcplan Essentials

arcplan Essentials for SAP is designed to enable SAP clients to quickly and cost-effectively deliver information-rich, user-defined BI applications beyond either embedded or newly acquired SAP tools. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.arcplan.com/home.cfm

FOUNDED: 1993

SUMMARY: arcplan Essentials is a third-party BI tool for SAP environments. arcplan Essentials for SAP delivers ad hoc reporting and visual dashboards that offer federated query and write back to SAP and non-SAP data sources. arcplan Enterprise, the core of the arcplan Essentials for SAP package, is a complete environment for composing and running BI applications. It includes capabilities for data integration, data visualization and report composition and includes group collaboration capabilities. The product has strong federated query capabilities across enterprise resource planning (ERP), relational database management system (RDBMS), OLAP, corporate performance management (CPM) and other BI systems, making arcplan attractive in heterogeneous environments or as a means of integrating other BI investments. ⊙

PRICING: Vendor declined to provide pricing.

BLINK LOGIC

Blink Logic

Blink Logic is designed to give users, customers and partners just the information they need, when they need it, so they can get insights and take action. ●

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.blinklogic.com

FOUNDED: 2000

SUMMARY: Blink Logic is a secure, easy-to-use, self-service business intelligence tool that includes: dashboards, analytics, collaboration, annotation, KPI monitoring, notifications to smartphones, location intelligence, Web reports and export to Excel and PDF. Blink Logic's intuitive tools and interface ensure that end users are self-sufficient from Day 1, creating their own charts, graphs, tables, views and Web reports with less than 30 minutes of training. Because it is delivered via Software as a Service (SaaS), Blink Logic takes the burden of installation and management off IT, and it is available via a monthly subscription model to fit every budget. ⊙

PRICING: Vendor declined to provide pricing.

BOARD INTERNATIONAL

Board Toolkit

Board International is a well-integrated BI platform focused on developing and deploying custom analytic applications. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.board.com/IN/Home

FOUNDED: 1994

SUMMARY: Board's "toolkit" approach to BI application allows users to update, present and analyze data and process modeling in a single graphical environment without programming. Board Management Intelligence Toolkit is designed to help organizations improve the effectiveness of their management decision-making processes. The BOARD platform effectively unifies Business Intelligence and Corporate Performance Management in a single integrated product, including applications for planning, budgeting, forecasting, profitability analysis, what-if scenarios, scorecarding, dashboards and consolidation. Functionality includes reporting, monitoring, data navigation, data distribution, and ETL/data integration. BOARD can be used to source your data from disparate systems (ETL), consolidate it (MOLAP/ROLAP) and rapidly build custom BI and CPM applications. ◉

PRICING: The Board Toolkit begins at $10,000, with user licenses starting at $350.

IBM COGNOS SOFTWARE

IBM Cognos 8 Business Intelligence

IBM Cognos 8 Business Intelligence delivers a range of BI capabilities on a single, service-oriented architecture (SOA). ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.cognos.com

FOUNDED: 1969

SUMMARY: IBM Cognos 8 Business Intelligence offers organizations a Web-based, complete tool for all components of the reporting lifecycle: collaborative reporting; enterprise-wide report types; reports that can be authored once and consumed anywhere; and a system that is adaptable to other data sources. Users can author, share, and use reports that draw data across all enterprise sources to aid better business decisions. IBM Cognos 8 BI Analysis is based on IBM Cognos PowerPlay, an OLAP and analysis software. The new analysis capability with IBM Cognos 8 BI expands this functionality to cover a complete range of data sources and to provide seamless movement among reports, queries and analysis. ◉

PRICING: IBM Cognos has a role-based pricing model for IBM Cognos 8 Business Intelligence. Price per role varies, depending on whether the license is for a consumer, author or administrator role. License pricing is subject to volume discounts, so pricing for the product can vary depending on the scope of the client implementation.

INETSOFT TECHNOLOGY

Style Intelligence

InetSoft Style Intelligence is an operational business intelligence platform that uses a visualization-driven approach to address reporting, analysis, and dashboard needs, in a unified, easy-to-use business intelligence tool. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.inetsoft.com
FOUNDED: 1996
SUMMARY: InetSoft's business intelligence software leverages a powerful patent-pending Data Block foundation for real-time data mashups and presents information through interactive dashboards, enterprise reporting, scorecards, and exception alerts. In contrast to other business intelligence applications that provide only reporting, or only dashboards, or require an intermediate data access layer, InetSoft's business intelligence system includes analytics software and sophisticated reporting capabilities plus direct access to almost any data source. The SOA and Java architecture delivers an embedding and integration-ready platform that delivers business intelligence within business processes. The latest release features several powerful advances in visualization capabilities, so that business users can get more powerful, visually attractive interactive dashboards.

PRICING: Server-based pricing models starting at $20,000.

INFORMATION BUILDERS

WebFOCUS

WebFOCUS is an enterprise business intelligence platform. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: WWW. informationbuilders.com
FOUNDED: 1975
SUMMARY: The WebFOCUS platform, deployed on premise, includes self-optimizing autonomic servers with workload, traffic management, and capacity planning designed to eliminate complexity, improve system performance and reduce TCO. The platform also provides a unifying integration infrastructure that accesses, reconciles, cleanses, and prepares data; service-oriented architecture support with the ability to create, consume, and publish Web services; and simplified developer and end-user interaction tools. WebFOCUS offers a complete suite of integrated tools: reporting, dynamic information, delivery with real-time alerts, an email distribution, report archiving, unique data visualization, query/analysis capabilities, and performance measurement dashboards and scorecards. It also boasts a simplified developer and end-user interaction, with advanced visualization and deep integration with desktop products such as Microsoft Excel and Adobe PDF.

PRICING: Starts at $48,090 on Windows, and scales up depending on the platform.

IQUBZ

Hospitality Business Intelligence

IQubz Hospitality Business Intelligence is designed to provide a consolidated and consistent view of hospitality key performance indicators (KPIs) for revenue management, sales and marketing analysis. ● ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.iqubz.com

FOUNDED: 1998

SUMMARY: With easy-to-navigate dashboards, comprehensive scorecards, and familiar analysis tools, IQubz BI helps you plan, monitor and act with improved insights to maximize revenue, reduce costs, and gain competitive advantage. IQubz BI is accessible directly from Outlook and the Web. You can create and publish your own reports with a drag-and-drop ease using Excel. It integrates with your existing on-property and central systems, and scales as your business grows. IQubz Hospitality BI includes consolidated multi-property reporting for a side-by-side comparison of properties, brands and chains; sales and business on the books analysis with year-over-year, budget, and forecast comparisons; booking pickup and pace reporting; and predictive sales modeling. The tool is also designed to help users with customer segmentation, prospect recommendations and customer lifetime value predictive modeling. ◉

PRICING: Vendor declined to provide pricing.

JASPERSOFT

JasperSoft Business Intelligence Suite

JasperSoft BI Suite is an end-to-end commercial open source BI platform that provides integrated reporting, analysis and data integration for business users. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.jaspersoft.com

FOUNDED: 2001

SUMMARY: JasperSoft's BI Suite provides Web 2.0 technologies coupled with advanced metadata functionality. Product features include an interactive Web 2.0 interface built on an AJAX framework, dynamic HTML and other technologies that deliver the ability to mash-up BI features. The suite also includes built-in chart types, the ability to create and apply themes to customize chart appearance, and easy integration with third-party visualization engines. Non-technical users can drag-and-drop to make ad hoc queries and create reports on the fly, and users can access any data source—relational, XML, Hibernate, EJB, POJO, or custom—without knowing formal query language. They can connect directly to a data source or through business meta data layer; and schedule and automatically distribute reports. Jaspersoft's ETL product comes with a wide range of connectors and transforms so you can respond to virtually any data integration request. With Jaspersoft, business users have the flexibility of using Excel or Web-based browser interfaces—including mobile device browsers—or their analytical tasks. Jaspersoft's reporting, data analysis, and data integration are available either as an integrated suite or as discrete applications that can be deployed incrementally over time.

PRICING: Annual subscriptions begin around $15,000 for a 2-CPU Server. OEM pricing is based on the number of customers in the OEM.

LOGIXML

Logi Info

Logi Info is a flexible development environment for creating Web-based dashboard, reporting and analysis applications. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.logixml.com
FOUNDED: 2000
SUMMARY: Logi Info offers users Web-based dashboards, heat maps, GIS maps, animated charts and graphs, automatic report generation and alerts, actionable KPIs and much more. It enables users to generate bigger reports faster and to deploy them to more concurrent users. It also gives report developers the power to extend data to the Web and beyond, and gives users ways to visualize information interactively. Users can find out who the company's best salesperson is or where the most profitable store is located, by placing relevant markers on a Google map, and drill down for a breakdown of the details. Logi Info allows users to use reporting formats familiar to them, like PDF, Word and Excel, plus the ability to export and email their reports in the format they prefer. Logi Info has features like widgets that users can embed in their reports, a Web scraper to easily gather data from other Web pages, text clouds to add to reports, and more. Logi Info also can connect to Oracle, SQL, Web Services, Excel, and other data sources. ◉

PRICING: Vendor declined to provide pricing.

LOGIXML

Logi Ad Hoc

Logi Ad Hoc is designed to be an intuitive Web-based ad hoc reporting, analysis and dashboard tool for business intelligence users. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.logixml.com
FOUNDED: 2000
SUMMARY: : Easy to connect and to work with, Logi Ad Hoc gives end users the power to create and share their own Web-based ad hoc reports without burdening IT, and without knowing complex query language. Logi Ad Hoc can be deployed to unlimited users without paying additional fees. System administrators can easily connect Logi Ad Hoc to whatever data source you are using, including most of today's databases, plus Excel, XML, Web Services, RSS feeds and much more. End users will find ad hoc report creation intuitive thanks to a wizard-driven process with live report preview, and they will find it easy to save, share and export their reports in a variety of common formats. ◉

PRICING: Vendor declined to provide pricing.

LUCIDERA

LucidEra Enterprise

LucidEra is designed to enable VPs of Sales to increase revenues and forecast predictably by delivering Software as a Service (SaaS) business intelligence visibility and actionable insight. ●

COMPANY WEBSITE: www. lucidera.com/
FOUNDED: 2005
SUMMARY: LucidEra is designed to deliver fast, easy-to-use and affordable SaaS applications that enable VPs of Sales to achieve dramatic sales improvement today. With a specific focus on Salesforce.com customers, LucidEra applications have enabled VPs of Sales to identify the 20% of deals in the pipeline that are at risk and take action, determine that 80% of their resources are not allocated to the right deals to maximize revenue, and correctly assess historical win rates and cycle times and focus on the deals that are moving the fastest through the pipeline. LucidEra Enterprise may be purchased as a suite or as individual applications—Lead Insight, Pipeline Insight, and Order Insight.

PRICING: LucidEra SaaS BI application pricing begins at $999/month with $100 and $30 per user pricing.

MICROSOFT CORP.

SQL Server 2008

Microsoft SQL Server provides a scalable business intelligence platform optimized for data integration, reporting, and analysis—enabling organizations to deliver intelligence where users want it. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.microsoft.com
FOUNDED: 1976
SUMMARY: Microsoft SQL Server features the ability to create high-performance Analysis Services solutions with optimized cube designers, subspace computation, and MOLAP-enabled writeback capabilities. Users can implement enterprise-scale Reporting Services solutions through new on-demand processing and instance-based reporting; build flexible and effective reports with the new Tablix data structure and rich formatting capabilities; and expand their reach and empower more users through optimized integration with the 2007 Microsoft Office System. SQL Server enables applications to store unstructured data, such as documents and images, directly in the file system, yet retrieve them with the same query access as relational data, so users can now manage multiple data types from within the database, including these newly supported formats: geographical/spatial, XML, filestream, date/time, and spatial indexes. New features include: data compression, backup compression, partitioned table parallelism, star join query optimization, resource management, grouping sets, MERGE SQL statements and scalable integration services.

PRICING*: Processor: $24,999 Example**: $23,911; Server Plus CAL: $13,969 with 25 CALS; $162 per each additional CAL

*All prices reflect pricing for purchases within the United States and are in U.S. dollars. The prices listed are estimated retail prices; reseller pricing may vary. **This is representative pricing for a company purchasing a small number of Processor or Server licenses through Microsoft Volume Licensing.

MICROSTRATEGY

MicroStrategy 9

MicroStrategy supports a full range of business intelligence applications from a single, integrated platform, providing integrated reporting, analysis, and monitoring software. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.microstrategy. com
FOUNDED: 1989
SUMMARY: MicroStrategy 9 delivers technology and features designed to extend enterprise BI with enhancements for greater scalability, performance and more efficient BI. MicroStrategy 9 includes new adaptive caching technology called in-memory ROLAP (relational OLAP), which takes advantage of the large addressable memory now available on 64-bit Unix, Linux and Windows computer servers. It offers the ability to present reports, dashboards or OLAP analyses in the local language of business users viewing the information. MicroStrategy 9 enables departments to set up BI applications quickly, providing end users with the ability to create reports and dashboards and to distribute information with little or no IT support. Using the new multi-source ROLAP capability, metadata and reports from departmental BI islands can be gradually merged into larger enterprise BI metadata, without moving any of the original data into data warehouses or data marts. MicroStrategy 9 also enables companies to move their data from disparate databases into the data warehouse simply by 're-pointing' the metadata to access the same data, but at its new location, with no disruption to reports and no redesign required.

PRICING: Vendor declined to provide pricing.

MYDIALS

myDIALS

myDIALS is designed to provide real-time visibility into key performance indicators (KPIs) via online dashboards. ●

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.mydials.com
FOUNDED: 2006
SUMMARY: myDIALS' intuitive, interactive online dashboards present key performance indicators (KPIs), specific to an individual's position and industry, enabling decision makers to easily visualize, analyze and understand operational performance. KPIs are presented in real-time as metrics change and span multiple functional areas including finance, sales and production. KPIs support "value streams" aligned with business processes. Metric information is extracted continuously from business applications and operational systems and is delivered to the myDIALS hosted application server. KPI and KPD metrics are calculated and made available to users. myDIALS is delivered via Software as a Service (SaaS) and enables you to continuously pursue performance improvement opportunities—identify problems before they manifest; analyze and interpret information to understand the problem; know how to rectify the situation, set actions and monitor the outcome. ◉

PRICING: Vendor declined to provide pricing.

NOETIX

The Noetix Solution

Noetix provides software and services for instant operational and ad-hoc reporting from Oracle E-Business Suite, PeopleSoft Enterprise and Siebel CRM. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.noetix.com
FOUNDED: 1994
SUMMARY: Noetix's patented, metadata-driven technology and lean architecture are designed to deliver immediate access to data. Noetix's BI solution is designed to be low-cost and easy to acquire, implement and maintain.

NoetixViews: Noetix's flagship product, NoetixViews, greatly simplifies report development against Oracle enterprise applications by automatically creating hundreds of easy-to-use business views of the underlying database organized by functional area. Available for Oracle E-Business Suite (including Release 12), Siebel CRM and PeopleSoft Enterprise.

Noetix Platform: Noetix Platform is an end-to-end BI reporting solution—complete with seamless integration to NoetixViews, secure query routing and management and a web-based query tool for report creation and modification.

Noetix Generator: Noetix Generator automatically generates NoetixViews into popular business intelligence (BI) reporting tools such as SAP Business Objects, IBM Cognos BI, Oracle BI and Oracle Discoverer to accelerate access to Oracle E-Business Suite application data.

PRICING: NoetixViews starts at $25,000; **Noetix Platform** starts at $15,000; **Noetix Generator** starts at $10,000.

OCO INC.

Oco BI Solutions

Rapidly deployed Software-as-a-Service (SaaS)-based business intelligence and data warehousing solutions designed to help customers achieve ROI within 90 days, while tripling their investment (3X ROI). Oco offers the option to deploy SAP BusinessObjects OnDemand tools through its strategic partnership with SAP. ●

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.oco-inc.com/
FOUNDED: 1999
SUMMARY: Oco's SaaS-based BI solutions take a unique, business-centric approach to business intelligence that provides a business relevant solution that leverages a library of leading-edge, best-practices analytics. The solution includes data integration, data warehousing and data visualization capabilities, including interactive dashboards, what-if analysis tools, drillable reports, graphical key performance indicators, formatted reports and alerts that are tailored to each customer's specific needs.

Oco's rapid deployment methodology accelerates the deployment time by leveraging proprietary tools, patented technology and pre-built data models to achieve live production deployments in six to 10 weeks. Its BI solutions are delivered with Oco taking the deployment risk with fixed-price, fixed-time contracts.

Oco has the option of providing SAP BusinessObjects' BI tools, deployed in the same On Demand model.

PRICING: Pricing begins at about $5,000 per month. Oco does not have specific, per-user licensing.

ORACLE

Oracle Business Intelligence Applications

Oracle Business Intelligence Applications are pre-built BI tools that deliver role-based intelligence to enable better decisions, actions and business processes. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.oracle.com
FOUNDED: 1979
SUMMARY: Oracle BI Applications are complete, pre-built BI tools. They enable organizations to gain greater insight and value from a range of data sources and applications, including the Oracle E-Business Suite, PeopleSoft Enterprise, Siebel CRM, and third-party systems such as SAP. The BI tools are built on Oracle BI Suite EE, which enables organizations to realize the value of a packaged BI application such as rapid deployment and lower TCO. Oracle BI Applications are available for Financial, Human Resources, Marketing, Procurement and Spend, Sales, Service, Supply Chain and Order Management, and a range of specialized industry analytics.

PRICING: Starting at $5,800 per user with a 25-user minimum. Terms, conditions and restrictions apply.

ORACLE

Oracle Business Intelligence Suite Enterprise Edition Plus

Oracle Business Intelligence Suite Enterprise Edition Plus (Oracle BI EE Plus) is a suite of BI products that delivers broad analysis and reporting capabilities. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.oracle.com
FOUNDED: 1979
SUMMARY: Oracle BI EE Plus features a unified, modern architecture, and provides intelligence and analytics from data spanning enterprise sources and applications. The product also bundles key Oracle Hyperion reporting products for integrated reporting with Oracle Hyperion financial applications. Oracle BI EE Plus also includes interactive dashboards, full ad hoc query and analysis, proactive intelligence delivery and alerts, enterprise and financial reporting, online analytical processing (OLAP) analysis and presentation, high-volume production reporting, real-time predictive intelligence, and disconnected analytics, as well as integration with Microsoft Office. Featuring a "hot-pluggable" infrastructure, the product integrates with any data source extract, transform and load (ETL) tool, major business application, application server, security infrastructure, portal technology, or other front-end and analytical tools.

PRICING: $2,000 per named user or $295,000 per processor.

ORACLE

Oracle Essbase

Oracle Essbase is an OLAP server providing an environment for quickly developing custom analytic and enterprise performance management applications. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.oracle.com
FOUNDED: 1979
SUMMARY: With a rapid application development environment, Oracle Essbase enables users to quickly model complex business scenarios. For example, Oracle Essbase makes it easy for line-of-business personnel to develop and manage analytic applications that model complex scenarios, forecast the business, and perform "what-if" analyses in order to look into the future. Oracle Essbase supports fast query response times for vast numbers of users, for large data sets and for complex business models. It is hot-pluggable across any data source. Oracle Essbase delivers "speed-of-thought" query response time so users can quickly understand the metrics that influence business performance, ask questions and make informed decisions. A single point of maintenance makes it easy for administrators to manage business rules. It also enables line-of-business personnel to drive application design and rapid iterations. The highly graphical "outline" technology makes it easy to build dimensions, hierarchies, metrics, and scenarios. Oracle Essbase supports both 32- and 64-bit computing across both Windows and Unix operating environments—capable of massive scalability for enterprise-wide deployments.

PRICING: $184,000 per processor. Terms, conditions and restrictions apply.

PANORAMA SOFTWARE

Panorama NovaView

Panorama NovaView is designed to be a comprehensive, proactive business intelligence product suite with functionality including analytics, reporting, dashboarding, scorecarding, advanced visualization and modeling. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.panorama.com
FOUNDED: 1996
SUMMARY: NovaView Analytics allows quick and easy query and analysis with an easy-to-use interface. Alerts and bubble-up exceptions can be distributed automatically to help determine, for example, who is falling behind in payments, what product line isn't selling well, or what's selling better than expected and needs to be quickly restocked. NovaView Flash Analytics was designed in partnership with Google to deliver an intuitive analytics user interface and user experience to allow casual information workers to do what once used to be the task of the experts: navigate through large amounts of data to generate important business insights. NovaView Smart Reporting creates and formats boardroom-ready reports with a few clicks of the mouse. NovaView reports remain fully interactive and provide powerful visualization objects that can be embedded in your report. NovaView Dashboards yield a quick view of the health and trend lines of your business, based on a powerful KPI function that you can customize. Adding to their utility is the dashboards' ability to be integrated into commonly used portals, including SharePoint and mySAP Portal. ◉

PRICING: Vendor declined to provide pricing.

PARACCEL

The ParAccel Analytic Database

The ParAccel Analytic Database is a DBMS platform for BI, data warehousing and analytics, designed for speed and simplicity. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.paraccel.com

FOUNDED: 2005

SUMMARY: The ParAccel Analytic Database (PADB) is designed to help solve your BI and analytic performance problems quickly. BI processing can be a DBMS challenge, especially if the DBMS wasn't built for it. Why put a traditional database behind your BI tool? To speed up performance, PADB uses proven techniques like massive parallelism, columnar orientation and compression, plus a slew of other features like compiled query, a customized interconnect protocol and a patent-pending optimizer, to deliver fast analytic query performance on industry-standard hardware, without tuning. PADB's load-and-go simplicity and schema-neutral design are designed to allow you to "lift and shift" your application to eradicate poor performance in a matter of hours. The product can be deployed as enterprise software, or a hardware and software appliance on your favorite brand of servers.

PRICING: PADB is priced per terabyte of user data and is licensed as enterprise software or an appliance, or by subscription. Subscription pricing starts at $5,000 per month.

PENTAHO

BI Suite Enterprise Edition Version 3

Pentaho BI Suite Enterprise Edition is a commercial open source alternative for business intelligence. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.pentaho.com

FOUNDED: 2004

SUMMARY: Pentaho Open BI Suite provides comprehensive reporting, OLAP analysis, dashboards, data integration, data mining and a BI platform that have made it one of the world's most widely deployed open source BI suites. Pentaho's commercial open source business model eliminates software license fees, providing support, services, and product enhancements via an annual subscription. In the years since Pentaho's inception as the pioneer in commercial open source BI, its products have been downloaded more than 3 million times, with production deployments at companies ranging from small organizations to The Global 2000. Pentaho BI Suite Enterprise Edition provides additional capabilities including a comprehensive professional technical support program, software maintenance, enhanced software functionality, certified software, product expertise and software assurance. ◉

PRICING: Vendor declined to provide pricing.

PIVOTLINK

PivotLink

PivotLink is a Software as a Service (SaaS) analytics product that is designed to give every department the power, flexibility and simplicity to answer critical business questions and make the most profitable decisions for their company. ●

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.pivotlink.com/
FOUNDED: NA
SUMMARY: PivotLink is designed to make it easy to add data from anywhere, and publish and share reports and analysis with anyone. This is possible because of PivotLink's Cloud Computing architecture, robust security, and granular sharing options that let users control who can see and share data so that collaboration is done safely. Delivered as a SaaS product, PivotLink offers a simple pay-as-you-go model with no up-front costs, secure access from any Web browser and a solution that is intuitive to use and easy to deploy. PivotLink integrates data from multiple enterprise applications and databases so users get powerful insights into company operations and a single version of the truth. PivotLink does not require the upfront design effort and cost associated with data cubes or pre-aggregated data, and users have the flexibility to design reports at any time, along any dimension. ◉

PRICING: Vendor declined to provide pricing.

QLIKTECH

Qlikview

QlikView is a business-analysis tool designed to simplify analysis for all departments with access to business reports. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.qlikview.com
FOUNDED: 1993
SUMMARY: QlikView is a business analysis tool that offers all of the capabilities that traditionally required a complex and costly suite of products, on a single unified platform. QlikView provides flexible, ad hoc analysis capabilities, powerful analytic applications and simple, printable reports. This allows organizations to deploy QlikView for everyone – highly skilled analysts doing ad hoc detailed reporting, executives requiring a dashboard of critical business information, and plant supervisors analyzing output performance. QlikView utilizes patented in-memory association technology to make sophisticated analysis and reporting dramatically easier to deploy, use and maintain. QlikView takes advantage of 64-bit multi-core hardware platforms to allow thousands of users to access billions of records of data. The QlikView in-memory data model is designed to allow an integrated view of information through dashboards, ad hoc analysis, and reports – all from a single platform. ◉

PRICING: QlikView is priced per server and offered under two pricing bundles: QlikView Small Business Edition and QlikView Enterprise Edition.

SAP

SAP Business Objects XI

SAP BusinessObjects XI tools include SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise software, as well as software for information discovery and delivery; information management; and query, reporting and analysis. ● ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.sap.com

FOUNDED: 1972

SUMMARY: With SAP BusinessObjects XI, users can establish a business intelligence platform that provides immediate access to trusted business information. The product is designed to benefit end users by bringing together all the information required for confident decision making; to achieve alignment across people, teams, and the company's business ecosystem; and to leverage a single, integrated platform for meeting BI and information management needs. By providing a platform for heterogeneous environments, a refined user experience for analysts and business users, and real-world BI deployment flexibility, SAP BusinessObjects XI delivers insight through a single, trusted BI platform and it redefines the way information empowers users. SAP BusinessObjects XI is designed to deliver a true intelligence platform – one that gives customers the best of execution and the best of strategy. It also provides the means to align and connect strategies in a closed-loop system.

PRICING: Vendor declined to provide pricing.

SAP

SAP BusinessObjects Edge

SAP BusinessObjects Edge Business Intelligence (BI) is designed to be a powerful business intelligence choice for midsized companies that want to improve business processes, discover new opportunities, and gain a competitive advantage. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.sap.com

FOUNDED: 1972

SUMMARY: SAP BusinessObjects Edge BI is a comprehensive, versatile midmarket suite that delivers solutions that address any business intelligence requirement— from flexible ad hoc reporting and analysis, to dashboards and visualization, to powerful data integration and quality, as well as prepackaged data mart tools. SAP BusinessObjects Edge BI brings together the simplicity and speed of search with the trust and analytical power of BI to provide immediate answers to your business questions. Users can leverage familiar keyword searches to find information hidden in data sources, then navigate and explore directly on data – without the need for existing reports or metrics. Through the pre-packaging of SAP BusinessObjects Polestar, end users benefit from easy-to-use search capabilities that can enable them to enter a few search keywords and view and explore results via an exploration panel; auto-generate charts for optimal results; and share results via email and other familiar formats.

PRICING: Vendor declined to provide pricing.

SAP

SAP NetWeaver Business Warehouse

SAP NetWeaver Business Warehouse unites a powerful business intelligence platform, a comprehensive set of tools, planning and simulation capabilities, and data-warehousing functionality—delivered through user-centric enterprise portal technology to provide a coherent, comprehensive solution. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.sap.com
FOUNDED: 1972
SUMMARY: SAP NetWeaver BusinessWarehouse brings together powerful analysis tools, planning and simulation capabilities, and data-warehousing functionality—delivered through user-centric enterprise portal technology. SAP NetWeaver Business Warehouse is designed to help users integrate data and transform it into practical, timely business information to drive sound decision making, targeted action and solid business results. SAP NetWeaver Business Intelligence includes capabilities for online analytical processing, data mining and alerts, and provides a foundation for accessing and presenting data, searching for patterns, and identifying exceptions. The SAP NetWeaver BW Accelerator uses compressions, parallel in-memory processing, and search technologies to improve the performance of queries, reduce administration tasks, and shorten batch processes. Developed as an appliance on Intel processors, the accelerator provides consistently fast response times, even as data volumes, number of users, and analytics increase.

PRICING: Vendor declined to provide pricing.

SAS

Enterprise BI Server

SAS Enterprise BI Server is a comprehensive, easy-to-use business intelligence software product that integrates the power of SAS analytics and data integration to share insights that power better business decisions. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.sas.com/
FOUNDED: 1976
SUMMARY: SAS Enterprise BI Server includes role-based, self-service interfaces for all types of users within a well-defined IT governance framework and a centralized point of administration, helping organizations simplify and speed business intelligence deployment. Through centrally managed data, shared metadata and security, Enterprise BI Server is designed to deliver consistent representation and control of information by providing reliable results that can be easily traced back to the source. This alleviates the repetitive task of validating which reports or results are correct. In addition, integration with Microsoft Office allows IT to retake control of ad hoc Excel use without impeding users' desire for this familiar environment. SAS offers some vertical industry solutions in an SaaS model.

PRICING: Vendor declined to provide pricing.

SAS

SAS Visual BI

SAS Visual BI, powered by JMP software, provides dynamic business visualization, enabling business users to interactively explore ideas and information, investigate patterns and discover previously hidden facts through visual queries. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.sas.com/
FOUNDED: 1976
SUMMARY: With SAS Visual BI, business users gain instantaneous insight into relationships and patterns in data by viewing and interacting with information in ways that static charts and Excel spreadsheets cannot match. Instead of developing complex data queries in SQL or a prompter, users can simply drag across points in a graph or click subsets in a mosaic plot. Because querying is designed to be simple, fast and dynamic, users can visually ask and answer questions to derive additional value from their information assets, without requiring IT services. With the ability to process up to 2 billion rows and an unlimited number of columns and records, the tool is designed to enable users to explore vast amounts of data and handle large, real-world problems. See long-term trends instead of year-to-date views and create graphics with many distinct variables, and with motion-enabled graphics you can watch as trends become clear.

PRICING: Vendor declined to provide pricing.

STRATEGY COMPANION

Analyzer

Analyzer is a front-end product for Microsoft SQL Server BI, including reporting, analytics and dashboards. ● ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.strategycompanion.com/home.asp
FOUNDED: 2001
SUMMARY: Strategy Companion Corporation is a provider of BI products focused solely on the Microsoft SQL Server Platform. Analyzer provides a powerful front-end tool for the latest SQL server BI capabilities. It provides one integrated tool including reporting, analytics and dashboards and supports multiple deployment options, including 100% zero footprint Internet Explorer, SharePoint, OEM, and Software as a Service (SaaS). Analyzer empowers business users with an easy-to-use set of analytical tools, dramatically increasing the quality of their analysis and understanding of key business issues. Analyzer's advanced visualization, presentation and collaboration capabilities are designed to allow analysts and decision makers to quickly see and communicate information that is relevant and intuitive, leading to better decisions. Users can be empowered to create their own reports, do their own analysis, and build their own scorecards, allowing them to manage corporate performance as it happens.

PRICING: No cost for user end licenses. Report Designer licenses start at $7,700 for one, with lower costs at higher quantities, and an unlimited number of Report Designer per production instance.

TIBCO

Tibco Spotfire

The Spotfire Enterprise Analytic platform allows users to quickly discover new insights in the information they work with every day. Spotfire's interactive, visual capabilities for data analysis empower individuals to easily see trends, patterns, outliers and unanticipated relationships in data with unprecedented speed and adaptability. ◆

COMPANY WEBSITE: www.tibco.com

FOUNDED: 1997

SUMMARY: The TIBCO Spotfire Enterprise Analytics platform offers a fast business intelligence experience that is designed to be more adaptable to specific industry and business challenges than traditional alternatives. IT organizations benefit by deploying a standardized yet highly customizable analytics infrastructure—reducing operational costs and improving scalability—that takes their business intelligence investment to the next level and delivers more value to the user community. The Spotfire Enterprise Analytics platform allows organizations in numerous industries and across countless business processes and applications to deliver new and actionable insights from information. TIBCO Spotfire 2.2 delivers big enhancements for users on the desktop and Web, as well as administrators and developers, including analysis and reporting enhancements, improvements in performance and scalability, developer enhancements and a new add-on product called Network Analytics for those looking to gain new insights into complex networks of interactions. ◉

PRICING: Vendor declined to provide pricing.

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