JD Software Pvt Ltd

SAP BI - POWER OF UNIFIED INFORMATION

FOR **CENTUM FOUNDATION**

KENYA

THE POWER OF DATA WAREHOUSE

Ever-increasing globalisation and, at the same time, the increasing decentralisation of organisations has created the need to recognise market trends and to collect information about themselves and competitors. This allows the company to swiftly react to changes in market conditions. You can see that in this Internet age, efficient information processing is a decisive factor in maintaining an advantage over one's competitors. Decision makers in modern, globally operating enterprises frequently realise that their survival depends on the effective use of this information. Unfortunately this information is often spread across many systems and sometimes many countries, thus making effective use of information extremely difficult.

This is precisely the challenge that modern Business Intelligence systems attempt to meet. Extensive solutions are required to cover the entire process, from the retrieval of source data to its analysis. Enterprises must be concerned with metadata (business and technical attributes and descriptions of objects) across the enterprise as the core in building a warehouse. In addition, they need to consolidate and create homogenous global master data, as well massive amounts of transaction data in differing degrees of aggregation. The questions that analysts are asking now are much more sophisticated than those asked 20 years ago. This is because they know the data exists to answer these questions.

Need of the Information System

As a result of the issues described above, information systems need to meet the following requirements made by decision makers:

Immediate, single-point access to all relevant information, regardless of source. Coverage of all business processes: cross-system and cross-process analyses are becoming increasingly important. High quality of information, not only in terms of data content, but also in terms of the ability to flexibly evaluate data.

Decision Support System

The BI system must support the requirements of both operative and strategic management; only then is it possible to support decisions fully. Short implementation time with less resources: As well being quick to implement, a Data Warehouse must enable simple and quick access to relevant data, avoiding the labor-intensive preparation of heterogeneous data. In heterogeneous system landscapes, a particular challenge lies in the extraction and preparation of consolidated transaction data and master data different applications and source systems from other providers.

The demand for Business Intelligence solutions that incorporate all of these features is immense. More recently, Business Intelligence systems and the underlying Data Warehouse components have been called on to perform both an analysis role and an operational reporting role, facilitating the need for near-real-time data collection. Transaction-orientated OLTP and analysis-orientated OLAP environments must be considered a single entity. The data for the business processes produces a multitude of information that cannot easily be used for targeted analysis. Therefore, the source data is initially cleansed, then technically and semantically prepared (homogenised). From the analyses of this data comes knowledge. This helps the organisation define its business strategy and supports the business processes derived from it.

SAP BI - EMPOWERING BUSINESSES WITH INSIGHTS

Properties of a Data Warehouse

Read-only access: Users have read-only access, meaning that the data is primarily loaded into the Data Warehouse via the extraction, transformation and loading (ETL) process.

Cross-organisational focus: DataSources from the entire organisation (production, sales and distribution, controlling), and possibly external sources, make up the basis of the system. Data Warehouse data is stored persistently over a particular time period. Data is stored on a long-term basis.

Designed for efficient query processing: The technical environment and data structures are optimised to answer business questions not to quickly store transactions.

So, What's the Objective of BI

A modern Business Intelligence system must meet the following requirements.

Standardised structuring and display of all business information: Decision makers urgently need reliable information from the production, purchasing, sales and distribution, finance, and human resources departments. They require an up-to-date and comprehensive picture of each individual business area and of the business as a whole. This results in high demand being put on the data collection process from the underlying DataSources. The data is defined uniquely across the entire organisation to avoid errors arising through varied definitions in different sources.

Simple access to business information via a single point of entry: Information must be combined homogeneously and consistently at a central point from which it can be called up. For this reason, modern Data Warehouses usually require a separate database. This database enables a standalone application environment to provide the required services.

Highly developed reporting for analysis with self-service for all areas: In terms of presentation, efficient analysis and meaningful multimedia visualisation techniques are essential. The system must be able to cope with the information needs of varied user groups.

Quick and cost-efficient implementation: When implementing the Data Warehouse, an influential cost factor is its integration into an OLTP system and the straightforward loading of heterogeneous data. Alongside robust metadata management, delivered business-based Business Intelligence content also has an important role here.

High performance environment:

Data modelling from heterogeneous sources: Data analyses cannot be carried out via Data Warehouse without integrating heterogeneous sources. This is usually done with time-consuming read processes. Scheduling tools are necessary to allow the data to be loaded in separate batch jobs at performance-friendly times.

Relieving OLTP systems: In the past, OLTP systems were strongly overloaded by having to store data and analyse it at the same time. A separate Data Warehouse server now allows you to carry out data analysis elsewhere.

The Power Of SAP BI

With SAP NetWeaver BW, you can integrate, transform, and consolidate relevant business information from productive SAP applications and external data sources. SAP NetWeaver BW provides you with a high-performance infrastructure that helps you evaluate and interpret data.

Data warehousing in SAP NetWeaver BW enables the integration, transformation, consolidation, cleanup, and storage of data. It also incorporates the extraction of data for analysis and interpretation. The data warehousing process includes data modelling, data extraction, further processing of data, and the administration of the data warehouse management processes. The central tool for data warehousing tasks in SAP NetWeaver BW is the Data Warehousing Workbench.

SAP NetWeaver BW provides open architecture in many areas: You can extract data from various systems into a SAP NetWeaver BW system and evaluate this data for your reporting using various front-end tools.

❖ Integrated Enterprise Data Warehouse

❖ Single Source of Truth

❖ SAP Best Practices for Extraction & Aggregation

❖ Online Analytical Processing (OLAP)

❖ End-to-End Integration with SAP ECC and SAP BO

❖ Data sourced from SAP and Non-SAP system

References

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