Business Intelligence and Analytics A Comprehensive Overview

Presentation · April 2020

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Business Intelligence and Analytics
A Comprehensive Overview

IT 4713/6713 BI
Jack G. Zheng
Spring 2020 (since V1 2012)

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http://zheng.kennesaw.edu/teaching/it6713
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/327578485
https://www.edocr.com/v/r4dg6mjr/
Overview

This lecture notes provides a high level overview of business intelligence and analytics. This overview is comprehensive and covers as many aspects as possible, but it keeps them at a high level. More details are provided in more learning modules.

- What is business intelligence (BI) and analytics?
  - BI/Analytics as an information and decision process
  - BI/Analytics as an computing and information system

- General BI/Analytics process

- BI/Analytics systems and tools
  - Values, capabilities, and components
  - Technologies, architectures, platforms
  - Products, industries, and markets

- BI evolution and trend: traditional BI and modern BI

- BI/Analytics learning and career
Types of Information Processing

Transactional Processing
- Focus on data item processing (insertion, modification, deletion), transmission, and even some non-analytical query
- Change product price.
- Increase customer credit limit.
- Import data from another source

Analytical Processing
- Focus on queries, calculation, reporting, analysis, and decision support
- What are the top 10 most profitable products?
- Is there a significant increase of operational cost?

Notice the difference between these terms as general concepts vs. as particular technologies/systems.

For a more detailed comparison of OLTP and OLAP: https://techdifferences.com/difference-between-oltp-and-olap.html
The DIKW hierarchy depicts relationships between data, information, knowledge (and wisdom).
- Data: raw value elements or facts
- Information: the result of collecting and organizing data that provides context and meaning
- Knowledge: the concept of understanding information that provides insight to information, thus useful and actionable

The model can be loosely relate to the levels of transactional processing (OLTP) and analytical processing (OLAP)

Different opinion: [https://hbr.org/2010/02/data-is-to-info-as-info-is-not](https://hbr.org/2010/02/data-is-to-info-as-info-is-not)
Examples of Analysis

• Non-analytical query (search results based on certain conditions)
  – Get a list of students enrolled in the IT 6713 class.

• Descriptive analysis (summarizing)
  – How many students are enrolled in online IT graduate courses for the past year?

• What if analysis
  – If inventory levels are reduced by 10%, what is the new cost of inventory storage?

• Reasoning (why) and correlation
  – What is the reason for a decrease of total sales this year?
  – How do advertising activities affect sales of different products bought by different type of customers, in different regions? (synthesizing)

• Forecast and prediction
  – How many students are likely to change degree next year?

• Fuzzy decision
  – What new advertising strategies need to be undertaken to reach our customers who can afford a high priced product?
  – Should we invest more on our e-business?
What is Business Intelligence?

Business Intelligence is a set of methods, processes, architectures, applications, and technologies that gather and transform raw data into meaningful and useful information used to enable more effective strategic, tactical, and operational insights and decision-making.

Adapted from Forrester Report
“Topic Overview: Business Intelligence”, 2008
https://www.forrester.com/report/Topic+Overview+Business+Intelligence/-/E-RES39218
More BI from Forrester
https://www.forrester.com/business-intelligence
Data

• Different types of data
  – Numeric vs. textual
  – Structured vs. unstructured
  – Standard format vs. proprietary format
  – Internal vs. external data, system stored vs. file based data
  – Raw fact data vs. simulated/forecast/estimated data
  – Simple fact data vs. calculated metrics data

• Common data problems
  – Structured, unstructured, semi-structured
    • Information and knowledge management is the management of both structured data (15% of information) and unstructured data (85% of information), according to the Butler Group.
    • 80 percent of business is conducted on unstructured information (Gartner Group).
  – Information overloading
    • too much data and information with varied formats and structure
    • difficulty of data organization for effective access and retrieval
    • difficult to find useful information (knowledge) from them
    • Multiple copies of data exists sometimes with conflicts
  – Big data
    • Variety, Velocity, Volume, Veracity https://www.ibmbigdatahub.com/infographic/four-vs-big-data
  – Data everywhere
    • Data in separate systems and different sources; internal and external
    • Problem of spreadmart http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spreadmart
    • Over 43 percent of organizations have more than six content stores. (Forrester Research).
  – Difficulty of access
    • We may have that data but we cannot access it (or difficult to get it), because of technical issues or administrative issues.
  – Lack of data
    • The data is simply not available.
    • The collection of data may need additional process and is costly.
Decision Making

• Decisions can be made based on
  – Facts, or data
  – Simulation (models)
  – Intuition, perception, sense
  – Group negotiation

• Traditionally BI has been also understood as Decision Support System (DSS) – known as data driven DSS (data directly contributes to decision without intensive and advanced analytical techniques).

  Extended reading: a brief history of DSS http://dssresources.com/history/dsshistory.html

• Problems in decision making
  – A gap between data and knowledge (useful information leading to a decision).
  – Management/operation by intuition
  – Lack of effective feedback and alignment systems, no improvement cycles
  – Need good analytical processing and models

• Evolving analytical needs in decision support
  – Real-time, most recent data
  – Business user driven, agile, instant
  – Exploratory and interactive
Additional Notes about BI

• BI is the an umbrella term for a set of methods, processes, applications, and technologies used to
  – gather, provide access to, analyze, and report data and information
  – support understanding and decision making
  – A common goal in BI is to drive performance

• The evolution of BI resides both in “business” and “intelligence”
  – The term “business” is more general and represents the application domain; not just related to profit driven businesses.
  – Traditionally BI is related to business or corporate operations, but can also extend to other types of organizational contexts, like non-profits, governments, institutions, etc.
  – Intelligence represents the resource and the techniques or methods

• Narrowly speaking, intelligence comes from data (facts). Traditional BI normally does not directly address other content types and formats (which usually falls under artificial intelligence).
  – In this sense, BI focuses on analytical data processing.

• Broadly speaking, intelligence, or knowledge, comes from human experience and tacit knowledge, in various format like text, image, video, etc.
  – In this sense, BI is also related to knowledge management (either BI under KM or vice versa)
    http://capstone.geoffreyanderson.net/export/19/trunk/proposal/research/Knowledge_management.pdf
## Evolution of BI

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Decade</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1980s</td>
<td>Executive information systems (EIS), decision support systems (DSS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990s</td>
<td>Data warehousing (DW), business intelligence (BI)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000s</td>
<td>Dashboards and scorecards, performance management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010+??</td>
<td>Analytics, big data, data science, augmented BI, …</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


“With each new iteration, capabilities increased as enterprises grew ever-more sophisticated in their computational and analytical needs and as computer hardware and software matured.”
Analytics

- Analytics has emerged as a catch-all term for a variety of different business intelligence (BI) and application-related initiatives. ... Whatever the use cases, “analytics” has moved deeper into the business vernacular.
  - https://www.gartner.com/it-glossary/analytics/

- Analytics refers to a more systematical, automated, and flexible process of data analysis for revealing insights and decision support in more extensive application areas (beyond organizational contexts), e.g. sports, disease, network traffic, etc.

- Analytics initially referred to advanced statistical modeling using tools like SAS and SPSS. ... Now, analytics refers to the entire domain of leveraging information to make smarter decisions. In other words, reporting and analysis.

- Analytics is geared more toward future predictions and trends, while BI helps people make decisions based on past data.

Depending on perspectives, Analytics
- is part of BI
- includes BI
- goes beyond (the traditional) BI
- = (the new) BI

Analytics can be viewed as the evolved, expanded, or improved BI

The Evolution of BI Semantics
Analytics or BI

• We tend to call analytics rather than BI in the following scenarios. But their processes and technologies are very similar.

• Non-business activities such as
  – Learning analytics
  – Talent analytics
  – Web analytics
  – Sports analytics

• Non-organizational contexts; mainly used by individuals or groups for public communication.
BI and Other Related Terms

• Big data
  – “Big Data is not a system; it is simply a way to say that you have a lot of data.” [https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/big-data-silver-bullet-tomas-kratky]
  – Big data covers non-structure and various data formats including text, blob, multimedia, etc.

• Data science
  – An interdisciplinary field about processes and systems to extract knowledge or insights from data in various forms
  – Focus on advanced analytics and presentation models and methods
  – Using autonomous or semi-autonomous techniques and tools, typically beyond traditional BI to discover deeper insights, make predictions, or generate recommendation.
  – A good data scientist = data hacker + programmer+ analyst+ coach+ story teller+ artist (http://analyticsindiamag.com/data-science-the-most-desirable-job-in-the-21st-century/)
  – “In some ways, data science is an evolution of BI.” [https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/data-science-business-intelligence-whats-difference-david-rostcheck/]

• All these new terms try to differentiate them from the (traditional) BI. However, if one considers BI is a dynamic and evolving field, then all these new terms are just extensions/expansions of BI; they all still fall under the umbrella of the general BI.
  – “In its more comprehensive usage, BI is all of the systems, platforms, software, technology, and techniques that are essential for the collection, storage, retrieval, and analysis of data assets within a given organization.” – Dataversity 2015 Report on BI vs Data Science

• More perspectives from the industry
BI/Analytics: A General Process

1. **Data Gathering**
   - The collection of raw data from different sources by different means, and in different formats.

2. **Data Cleanse**
   - Data can be analyzed immediately in many agile analytical cases, without a formal managed storage.

3. **Data Storage**
   - The refined data will be modeled (if needed) and stored in a particular place (e.g., a file or a data management system) and ready for analysis.

4. **Data Analysis**
   - The process involves analytical components, such as dimensional analysis, statistical analysis, data mining, and other advanced analytics to extract information and knowledge.

5. **Data Presentation**
   - Results are presented and delivered in different human comprehensible formats, to support decisions. It also includes data exploration and reporting.

   - Queries can also directly present results to users without intensive analysis. This is usually used for data exploration and descriptive reports.

   

**Data Preparation**

- The organization and transformation of data into clean and common models and formats.

- The collection of raw data from different sources by different means, and in different formats.
BI in the Decision Process

Another view from the corporate decision perspective
http://www.slideshare.net/junesungpark/business-process-based-analytics
This is consistent with the general BI or analytics process but more from an information behavior angle.

FIGURE 2.5  Inputs and Outputs of the Four Business Intelligence Capabilities

Figure from: Business Intelligence, Rajiv Sabherwal, Irma Becerra-Fernandez, John Wiley & Sons, 2011
http://books.google.com/books?id=T-JvPdEcm0oC
BI Systems and Platforms

• A BI system is a computer information system that implements (part or whole) BI capabilities and processes

• The values of BI Systems
  – Provide an integrated data (analytical) processing platform
  – Enable easy and fast access of data and information at all levels (raw data, analysis results, metrics, etc.)
  – Streamline a controlled and managed process of data driven decision making

• Enterprise level vs. personal level
  – An enterprise level BI system emphasizes more on control and performance.
  – While a more user-oriented analytics platform enables nontechnical users to autonomously execute full-spectrum analytic workflows from data access and preparation to interactive analysis and the collaborative sharing of insights.
BI System Components at a Glance

Data Management: Gathering and Storage
- Relational database
- Data warehouse
- Data lake
- Data modeling
- Data governance
- Data integration
- ETL
- Data quality
- Metadata
- Master Data
- Data virtualization

Analytical Processing
- Query
- OLAP
- Business analytics
- Statistics
- Data mining
- Text mining
- Advanced analytics

Presentation
- Reports
- Data visualization
- Dashboard
- Scorecards
- Strategy map
- Visual analytics
- Free form results

Applications
- Local files
- Website
- Reporting server
- Application server
- BI server
- Portal
- Excel services

Users with software (browser, desktop app, mobile app, email, etc.) and devices (computer, tablet, phone, print-outs, etc.)

* Data management usually includes a data sourcing and gathering component. This component may be integrated with or independent from a data storage system.
Critical Capabilities of a BI and Analytics Platform

Gartner Magic Quadrant Report 2018/2019

- **Infrastructure**
  - **BI Platform Administration.** Capabilities that enable scaling the platform, optimizing performance and ensuring high availability and disaster recovery.
  - **Cloud BI.** Platform-as-a-service and analytic-application-as-a-service capabilities for building, deploying and managing analytics and analytic applications in the cloud, based on data both in the cloud and on-premises.
  - **Data Source Connectivity.** Capabilities that allow users to connect to the data contained within various types of storage platforms.

- **Data Management**
  - **Governance and Metadata Management.** Tools for enabling users to share the same systems-of-record semantic model and metadata. These should provide a robust and centralized way for administrators to search, capture, store, reuse and publish metadata objects, such as dimensions, hierarchies, measures, performance metrics/key performance indicators (KPIs) and report layout objects, parameters and so on.
  - **Self-Contained ETL and Data Storage.** Platform capabilities for accessing, integrating, transforming and loading data into a self-contained storage layer, with the ability to index data and manage data loads and refresh scheduling.
  - **Self-Service Data Preparation.** The drag-and-drop, user-driven data combination of different sources, and the creation of analytic models such as user-defined measures, sets, groups and hierarchies.
  - **Scalability and Data Model Complexity.** The degree to which the in-memory engine or in database architecture handles high volumes of data, complex data models, performance optimization and large user deployments.

- **Analysis and Content Creation**
  - **Advanced Analytics.** Enables users to easily access advanced analytics capabilities that are self-contained within the platform itself or available through the import and integration of externally developed models.
  - **Analytic Dashboards.** The ability to create highly interactive dashboards and content, with visual exploration and embedded advanced analytics.
  - **Interactive Visual Exploration.** Enables the exploration of data via the manipulation of visual properties and visual forms representing aspects of the dataset being analyzed. These tools enable users to analyze the data by interacting directly with a visual representation of it.
  - **Augmented Data Discovery:** Automatically finds, visualizes and narrates important findings such as correlations, exceptions, clusters, links and predictions in data that are relevant to users without requiring them to build models or write algorithms.
  - **Mobile Exploration and Authoring.** Enables organizations to develop and deliver content to mobile devices in a publishing and/or interactive mode, and takes advantage of mobile devices’ native capabilities, such as touchscreen, camera, location awareness and natural-language query.

- **Sharing of Findings**
  - **Embedding Analytic Content.** Capabilities including a software developer’s kit with APIs and support for open standards for creating and modifying analytic content, visualizations and applications, embedding them into a business process, and/or an application or portal. These capabilities can reside outside the application (reusing the analytic infrastructure), but must be easily and seamlessly accessible from inside the application without forcing users to switch between systems.
  - **Publish and collaborate Analytic Content.** Capabilities that allow users to publish, deploy and operationalize analytic content through various output types and distribution methods, with support for content search, storytelling, scheduling and alerts.

- **Overall:** Ease of Use, Visual Appeal and Workflow Integration.
A Practical System Architecture in MSBI

Image from https://bipointblog.wordpress.com/2014/05/28/implementation-of-a-bi-system-using-microsoft-bi-stack-introduction/

Note: this is only one example of a typical and traditional BI system architecture. We will see some more self-service oriented architecture later.
Data Management/Storage

• In traditional BI, a special database system called data warehouse or data mart is often used to store enterprise data
  – The purpose of a data warehouse is to organize lots of stable data for ease of analysis and retrieval.

• Traditional (operational) relational databases facilitate data management and transaction processing. They have two limitations for data analysis and decision support
  – Performance
    • They are transaction oriented (data insert, update, move, etc.)
    • Not optimized for complex data analysis
    • Usually do not hold historical data
  – Heterogeneity
    • Individual databases usually manage data in very different ways, even in the same organization (not to mention external data sources which may be dramatically different).

• The data warehouse approach is a centralized and structured approach for analytical data management. For more recent personal BI/analytics, data is also kept locally for easy access and manipulation, without much technical support.

Data warehouse/mart will be covered in IT 4713 module 4.
Data Gathering and Integration

- Enterprise level data are coming from multiple different sources, but need to be combined and associated
  - Operational databases
  - Spreadsheets
  - Text, CSV
  - PDF, Paper

- The need to bring together different data/information
  - Autonomous (may not have the control and management of data)
  - Distributed (from different systems and places)
  - Different (in data model, format, or platform)

- General processing steps - ETL
  - **Extraction**: accessing and extracting the data from the source systems, including database, flat files, spreadsheets, etc.
  - **Transformation**: data cleanse, change the extracted data to a format and structure that conform to the destination data.
  - **Loading**: load the data to the destination database, and check for data integrity

- Traditional BI focuses on upfront separate ETL processes that load the data in a centralized storage. In modern BI and analytics, data cleanse and transformation may happen just-in-time with analysis.

Data is never clean!
You will spend most of your time cleaning and preparing data!

ETL will be covered in IT4713 milestone 2 (module 5 and 6). Self-service data preparation will be covered in IT 6713 module 6 and 7.
Analysis Techniques/Technologies

• Descriptive reporting
  – Structured and fixed format reports
  – Based on simple and direct queries
  – Usually involves simple descriptive analysis and transformation of data, such as calculating, sorting, filtering, grouping, and formatting
  – Ad hoc query and reporting

• OLAP (Online Analytical Processing)
  – Focus on descriptive reporting
  – An optimized multi-dimensional analysis technology

• Business analytics
  – Business analytics (BA) is the practice of iterative, methodical exploration of an organization’s data with emphasis on statistical analysis.

• Advanced and computation intensive: data mining, deep learning, etc.
  – Data mining techniques are a blend of statistics and mathematics, and artificial intelligence and machine-learning.
OLAP

• OLAP is a function/operation that is optimized to answer queries that are multi-dimensional
  – OLAP solutions traditionally heavily rely on backend processing and dedicated IT personnel

• Multi-dimensional queries
  – A dimension is a particular way (or an attribute) of describing and categorizing data
  – Such queries are usually arithmetic aggregation operations (sum, average, etc.) on records grouped by multiple dimensions (attributes) at different aggregation levels.
  – A pivot table or crosstab is usually used for OLAP result view (aggregated data)

• Example analysis
  – "What is the total sales amount grouped by product line (dimension 1), location (dimension 2), time (dimension 3) and … (other dimensions)?"
  – "Which segment of business provides the most revenue growth?"

OLAP server will be covered in IT 4713 milestone 3 (module 7 and 8).

Descriptive and operational report

More open and exploratory analysis

Dimensional queries and analysis will be covered in IT 4713 milestone 4, and in IT 6713 module 8 and 9.
Basic Techniques in Business Analytics

- **Regression**
  - Reasoning, estimating the relationships among variables
- **Forecasting**
  - Trend analysis, based on extrapolation of historical data
- **Correlation**
  - Relationship discovery between factors (but not causal relationship)
- **Factor analysis**
  - Determine impacting variables and their variability
Advanced Analytics

- Advanced Analytics is the autonomous or semi-autonomous examination of data or content using sophisticated techniques and tools, typically beyond those of traditional business intelligence (BI), to discover deeper insights, make predictions, or generate recommendations.
  - [https://www.gartner.com/it-glossary/advanced-analytics/](https://www.gartner.com/it-glossary/advanced-analytics/)

- Advanced analytic techniques include those such as
  - Data/text mining: using sophisticated statistical and mathematical techniques to find patterns and relationships among data
  - Predictives
  - Machine learning
  - Complex statistical methods
  - Pattern matching, forecasting, visualization, semantic analysis, sentiment analysis, network and cluster analysis, multivariate statistics, graph analysis, simulation, complex event processing, genetic algorithm, neural networks
Levels of Analytical Processing

Advanced Analytics and Business Intelligence
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNNk9-tmsZY
Presentation

• The last mile of BI is the presentation of data or analysis to human users

• Data presentation is the method by which people summarize, organize and communicate information using a variety of tools, including tables, diagrams/charts, and other visualization techniques

• Multiple ways to present results
  – Regular/periodical static reports
  – Interactive and exportable reports
  – Live and real time dashboard
  – Free form ad hoc analysis
  – Edited PowerPoint

• Presentation commonly utilizes data visualization techniques to assist interpreting and presenting data in a visual way.

Reports and dashboards will be covered in IT 4713 in millstone 4 (module 9 to 11) and IT 6713 module 10.
Data Visualization

• Data visualization is the graphical representation and presentation of data for the purpose of perception and understanding.

• Visualizing is basically a human physiological and psychological capability, and plays an important role in human information behavior and decision making:
  – Recall or memorize data more effectively
  – Enable fast perception based on instinct (see the figure on the right)
  – Helps data comprehension and enhance problem solving capabilities (cognition)
  – Extract/provoke additional (implicit) perspectives and meanings
  – Ease the cognitive load of information processing and exploration
  – Help to shape the attention and focus
  – Effective communication (story telling)

• Data visualization in BI
  – Data visualization is an important part of data exploration and decision making. Given the power of visualization, it is only natural to apply the rich communication techniques in the field of BI and analytics.
  – As organizations seek to empower non-technical users to make data-driven decisions, they must consider the powers of data visualization in delivering digestible insights.
  – Visualization tools have become increasingly important to business intelligence, in which people need technology support to make sense of and analyze complex data sets and all types of information.
  – Visualization can also be part of the analysis process (visual analytics)

Data visualization will be touched briefly in this course. For more coverage, take a look at IT 7113 Data visualization [http://zheng.kennesaw.edu/teaching/it7113](http://zheng.kennesaw.edu/teaching/it7113) and the overview at [https://www.edocr.com/v/yqwmqeba/jgzheng/Business-Data-Visualization](https://www.edocr.com/v/yqwmqeba/jgzheng/Business-Data-Visualization)
Reports

- A report is the presentation of detailed data arranged in defined layouts and formats.
- Based on simple and direct queries: usually involves simple analysis and transformation of data (sorting, calculating, filtering, grouping, formatting, etc.).

- Traditional reports contain detailed data in a tabular format and typically display numbers and text only.
  - It is geared towards people who need data rather than a direct understanding or interpretation of data.
  - Its purpose is mainly for printing (with styling) or exporting (raw data).

- Modern reports can be interactive and visual but the focus is still on detailed data. Sometimes the distinction is a bit blurred with dashboards in some practical cases.
  - A report style “dashboard” (or more like a visual intensive interactive report):
  - Magic Quadrant report vs. [https://www.g2.com/categories/data-visualization?segment=all](https://www.g2.com/categories/data-visualization?segment=all)
A dashboard is a visual-oriented display of the most important data and information needed to achieve defined goals and objectives; consolidated and arranged on a single screen so the information can be viewed at a glance. Adapted from: Dashboard Confusion, Stephen Few, http://www.perceptualedge.com/articles/ie/dashboard_confusion.pdf

### Elements of a dashboard

- **Data/information**: the most important element
- **Visual**: data visuals (charts, etc.) provide an high level at-a-glance view
- **User interface**
  - a clean UI that unifies all elements to work together as a whole
  - supporting interactions as needed

### The Values of Dashboard

- Dashboards are a data visualization tool that allow all users to understand the analytics. For non-technical users, dashboards allow them to participate and understand the analytics process by compiling data and visualizing trends and occurrences.
- Provides a one-place presentation of critical information
- Allow decision makers to see a variety of data that affects their divisions or departments
  - This allows decision makers to focus only on the items over which they have control
  - The dashboard is generally customized for each user
- Quickly understand data and respond quickly at one place
  - Save time over running multiple reports

For more details, visit IT 7113 module on dashboard: [https://www.edocr.com/v/oekl31vr/jgzheng/Dashboard](https://www.edocr.com/v/oekl31vr/jgzheng/Dashboard)
Delivery Medium

• Delivery is about managing and delivering data and analysis results to users
  – Traditional: portal, web app, email, FTP, etc.
  – Modern channels: social sharing, cloud hosting, etc.

Figure from Database Processing 13th Edition, by David Kroenke and David Auer
BI Users

Producers vs. Consumers (at different levels)

Technical vs. Business users

Users Have Different Needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Users</th>
<th>Functions</th>
<th>Data Architecture</th>
<th>Tools</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Casual Users</strong> 80% of employees</td>
<td>Monitor</td>
<td>Data warehouse with certified data</td>
<td>Interactive dashboards and reports</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Analyze</td>
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<td>Text- and voice-based search tools</td>
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<td>Detail</td>
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<td>Managed by IT</td>
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<td>Executives</td>
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<td>Top-down BI</td>
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<td>Managers</td>
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<td>Front-line workers</td>
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<td><strong>Power Users</strong> 20% of employees</td>
<td>Explore</td>
<td>Data warehouse</td>
<td>Mashup Tools</td>
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<td>Statisticians</td>
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<td>Super Users</td>
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<td>NoSQL Systems</td>
<td>Data Mining Tools</td>
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<td>Business users who use information to do their jobs</td>
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<td>SQL</td>
<td>Programming tools</td>
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<td>Sourced by BUs</td>
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<td>Managed by BUs</td>
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Figure from [http://eckerson.com/articles/part-iv-seven-keys-to-a-united-bi-environment](http://eckerson.com/articles/part-iv-seven-keys-to-a-united-bi-environment)
The Fit between Tools and Users

Gartner Report,
Select the Right Business Intelligence and Analytics Tool for the Right User
Published: 23 May 2016 Analyst(s): Cindi Howson
BI Trends

Traditional enterprise BI based on data warehouse and OLAP

From Wayne Eckerson talk
https://vimeo.com/68143902

The Modern/New BI

• A modern BI platform supports IT-enabled analytic content development. It is defined by a self-contained architecture that enables nontechnical users to autonomously execute full-spectrum analytic workflows from data access, ingestion and preparation to interactive analysis and the collaborative sharing of insights. It moves from passive collection and use of data (reporting driven) to proactive generation of data (business development driven).

• By contrast, traditional BI platforms are designed to support modular development of IT-produced analytic content, and specialized tools and skills and significant upfront data modeling, coupled with a predefined metadata layer, are required to access their analytic capabilities.


Technology Insight for Modern Business Intelligence and Analytics Platforms
Gartner Report, October 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analytic Workflow Component</th>
<th>Traditional BI Platform</th>
<th>Modern BI Platform</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Data source</td>
<td>Upfront dimensional modeling required (IT-built star schemas)</td>
<td>Upfront modeling not required (flat files/flat tables)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Data ingestion and preparation</td>
<td>IT-produced</td>
<td>IT-enabled (business-led)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Content authoring</td>
<td>Primarily IT staff, but also some power users</td>
<td>Business users;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analysis</td>
<td>Predefined and regular reporting, based on predefined model</td>
<td>Free-form exploration, ad hoc analytics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insight delivery</td>
<td>Distribution and notifications via scheduled reports or portal; passive collection and use of data (reporting driven).</td>
<td>Sharing and collaboration, storytelling, open APIs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notable Trends/Features of the Modern BI

1. Self-service BI/Analytics: Business led, IT enabled

2. Advanced analytics (machine learning, deep learning, AI, etc.)


4. Search driven analytics: (aka clickless analytics) aims to build a report and charts on the fly, using web search style.
   - Incorporating natural language processing
   - A quick intro: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=868-pR-cxZo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=868-pR-cxZo)

5. Augmented analytics: uses machine-learning automation to supplement human intelligence across the entire analytics life-cycle.
   - Other notable trends and developments
     - New data gathering techniques and technologies. New data sources and capability to capture more data. From passive collection and use of data (reporting driven) to proactive generation of data (business development driven)
     - Mobile BI/Cloud BI: new delivery method
     - Visual BI or visual analytics Visual oriented, - [http://www.perceptualedge.com](http://www.perceptualedge.com) visual-based data discovery capabilities
     - Information/data portal
     - Expanding application areas at all levels: in more extensive application areas, e.g. sports, disease, network traffic, etc.
   - More trends
Self-Service BI

• [A solution for] end users designing and deploying their own reports and analyses within an approved and supported architecture and tools portfolio.

• Key features
  – Shifting focus from IT back to user: enables all kinds of users with varied skill levels to autonomously execute full-spectrum analytic workflows. These users include traditional power users, data professionals or data scientists, managers and business analysts.
  – Fits a more distributed and collaborative environment.
  – The process is more flexible and agile, and responds to user needs quickly. Supporting ad hoc analytic needs, hence more interactive and explorative.
  – Self-service BI tools still have fundamental BI components and provide BI capabilities, but they are more integrated (in one software package) than separated.
  – Independent but very often work with enterprise systems.
  – Good for individuals or non-corporate environments.

• Different levels of self-service
  – Started from client oriented report building and data visualizations, and eventually extended to analysis models, and finally to data discovery, preparation, and cleanse.

• Dashboards, reporting, end-user self-service, and advanced visualization are the top four most important technologies and initiatives strategic to BI in 2018.

• The global self-service business intelligence market to grow from USD 3963.04 million in 2016 to USD 10992.96 million by 2023, at a CAGR of 15.69%.
IT Support in Self-Service BI

• The goal of self-service BI
  – NOT to eliminate the need for IT
  – Instead, to put data and results in the user’s hands and reduce the burden on the IT department.

• “Self-service BI does remove much of the reporting burden from the IT department. The IT department must control the data and the user access. They’re responsible for keeping the data clean, and ensuring that users can only access data they’re authorized to see. The self-service BI tool only acts as a doorway for users to access the IT-controlled data.”
  – [https://www.mrc-productivity.com/blog/2015/08/6-common-misconceptions-of-self-service-bi/](https://www.mrc-productivity.com/blog/2015/08/6-common-misconceptions-of-self-service-bi/)

• IT’s role
  – Data management and governance, including security, access control, data quality and accuracy, compliance, etc.
  – Technical support for the systems and platforms, especially cloud based
A Changing BI Platform

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Gartner Report, October 2015
BI/Analytics Application Areas

- BI/Analytics can be applied in all “businesses” (industries, functional areas, or domains) to drive “business” performance
  - Companies (for profit) and financially related
    • Retail, manufacture, real-estate, financial, sports, media, advertising, entertainment, healthcare, publication, energy, etc.
  - Public (non-profit)
    • Organization, institution, association, community, etc.
  - Government: citizen service, city planning, crime, immigration, etc.
  - Personal: personal health, exercise, learning, eating, power consumption, etc.

- BI can be applied at different levels
  - Strategic: focused on high level organizational strategies and directions
  - Tactic: focused on goals of a organization unit
  - Operational: focused on streamlining day-to-day operations.
Sample BI/Analytics Applications

- **Business management**
  - Strategic planning
  - Performance management
  - Process intelligence
  - Competitive intelligence

- **Marketing and sales**
  - CRM
  - Customer behavior analysis
  - Targeted marketing and sales strategies
  - Customer profiling
  - Campaign management
  - Inventory management

- **Human resource/capital**
  - HR analytics
  - Talent management

- **Project and program management**

- **Power and energy management**

- **Healthcare management**

- **IT management**
  - Web analytics
  - App analytics
  - Security management

- **Supply chain and Logistics**
  - Supplier and vendor management
  - Shipping and inventory control

- **Insurance**

- **Government**
  - City planning
  - Traffic management
  - Urban Analytics
  - Power usage

- **Education**
  - Learning analytics
  - Student engagement and success
  - Institutional effectiveness

- **Social analytics**

- **Sports and games analytics**
Major Vendors/Products

- **Mega vendors** provide complete solutions that cover full spectrum of BI processes and applications, and hold major market shares.
  - Microsoft: SQL Server, Power BI, SharePoint, Excel
  - SAP: SAP BusinessObjects BI, Lumira
  - IBM: Cognos, Watson
  - Oracle: Oracle BI 12c
  - SAS: SAS Enterprise BI

- More Other top BI tools, including self-service tools
  - [https://www.gartner.com/reviews/market/analytics-business-intelligence-platforms](https://www.gartner.com/reviews/market/analytics-business-intelligence-platforms)
  - [https://www.g2.com/categories/business-intelligence](https://www.g2.com/categories/business-intelligence)
  - Others
    - [https://www.softwareadvice.com/bi/](https://www.softwareadvice.com/bi/)
    - [https://www.betterbuys.com/bi/reviews/](https://www.betterbuys.com/bi/reviews/)
    - [https://www.bitool.net/business-intelligence.html](https://www.bitool.net/business-intelligence.html)

- Open source tools, including BIRT, Pentaho, etc.
## BI Market

### Major vendors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vendor</th>
<th>Revenue ($M)</th>
<th>Market Share (%)</th>
<th>Growth (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Microsoft</td>
<td>1,989.0</td>
<td>2,189.5</td>
<td>2,550.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAP</td>
<td>1,873.5</td>
<td>2,033.3</td>
<td>2,065.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBM</td>
<td>1,603.0</td>
<td>1,709.7</td>
<td>1,877.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAS</td>
<td>1,470.9</td>
<td>1,469.2</td>
<td>1,507.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oracle</td>
<td>1,112.0</td>
<td>1,162.3</td>
<td>1,292.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tableau Software</td>
<td>792.4</td>
<td>830.5</td>
<td>1,095.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 19,992.6 | 21,676.4 | 24,091.5 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 8.4 | 11.1


### IDC Worldwide Business Intelligence and Analytics Tools by Vendor, 2016-2018


Vendor Positioning

Gartner Magic Quadrant for Analytics and Business Intelligence and Platforms

Notice this year Gartner put analytics before BI.

[Image: G2 Grid® for Business Intelligence Platforms]

[Image: Grid diagram]

[https://www.g2.com/categories/business-intelligence-platforms](https://www.g2.com/categories/business-intelligence-platforms)
BI/Analytics Careers

• Typical BI positions
  – BI solution architects and integration specialists
  – Business and BI analysts
  – BI application developers and testers
  – BI system support specialists
  – Data warehouse specialists
  – Database analysts, developers and testers

• BI jobs in Atlanta
Critical Knowledge and Skills

• Three competencies
  – Technical, Business (management), Analytical

• Technical knowledge
  – Knowledge of database systems and data warehousing technologies
  – Ability to manage database system integration, implementation and testing
  – Ability to manage relational databases and create complex reports
  – Knowledge and ability to implement data and information policies, security requirements, and state and federal regulations
  – Knowledge of client tools used by business users
  – Knowledge of data models
  – Knowledge of programming tools used in analytics

• Solution development and management
  – Working with business and user requirements
  – Capturing and documenting the business requirements for BI solution
  – Translating business requirements into technical requirements
  – BI project lifecycle and management

• Business and Customer Skills and Knowledge
  – Effective communication and consultation with business users
  – Understanding of the flow of information throughout the organization
  – Ability to effectively communicate with and get support from technology and business specialists
  – Ability to understand the use of data and information in each organizational units
  – Ability to train business users in information management and interpretation

• [https://www.datapine.com/blog/bi-skills-for-business-intelligence-career/](https://www.datapine.com/blog/bi-skills-for-business-intelligence-career/)
**Sample Roles (from real world job ads)**

**Business Intelligence Specialist**
- Maintain or update business intelligence tools, databases, dashboards, systems, or methods.
- Provide technical support for existing reports, dashboards, or other tools.
- Create business intelligence tools or systems, including design of related databases, spreadsheets, or outputs.

**Business Intelligence Analyst**
- **Technical skill requirements**
  - Works with business users to obtain data requirements for new analytic applications, design conceptual and logical models for the data warehouse and/or data mart.
  - Develops processes for capturing and maintaining metadata from all data warehousing components.
- **Business skills requirements**
  - Transform data into analytical insight and desire to leverage the best technique to arrive at the right answer.
  - Generate standard or custom reports summarizing business, financial, or economic data for review by executives, managers, clients, and other stakeholders.
  - Analyze competitive market strategies through analysis of related product, market, or share trends.
  - Collect business intelligence data from available industry reports, public information, field reports, or purchased sources.
  - Maintain library of model documents, templates, or other reusable knowledge assets.

**Business Intelligence Developer**
- Business Intelligence Developer is responsible for designing and developing Business Intelligence solutions for the enterprise.
- Key functions include designing, developing, testing, debugging, and documenting extract, transform, load (ETL) data processes and data analysis reporting for enterprise-wide data warehouse implementations.
- Responsibilities include:
  - working closely with business and technical teams to understand, document, design and code ETL processes;
  - working closely with business teams to understand, document and design and code data analysis and reporting needs;
  - translating source mapping documents and reporting requirements into dimensional data models;
  - designing, developing, testing, optimizing and deploying server integration packages and stored procedures to perform all ETL related functions;
  - develop data cubes, reports, data extracts, dashboards or scorecards based on business requirements.
- The Business Intelligence Report Developer is responsible for developing, deploying and supporting reports, report applications, data warehouses and business intelligence systems.
BI/Analytics Education at KSU

- **MSIT/BSIT**
  - IT 6713 Business Intelligence [http://jackzheng.net/teaching/it6713/](http://jackzheng.net/teaching/it6713/)
  - IT 7113 Data Visualization [http://jackzheng.net/teaching/it7113/](http://jackzheng.net/teaching/it7113/)

- **BSIT**
  - The new concentration on “data analytics and technology” (starting fall 2020)
  - IT 4713 Business Intelligence Systems [http://jackzheng.net/teaching/it4713/](http://jackzheng.net/teaching/it4713/)

- **Other departments**
  - Data Science Institute Ph.D. in Analytics and Data Science [https://datascience.kennesaw.edu](https://datascience.kennesaw.edu)
  - ACS 8310 Data Warehousing
  - IS 8935 Business Intelligence - Traditional and Big Data Analytics

- **Lecture notes on BI and Data Visualization**
  - [https://www.edocr.com/user/jgzheng](https://www.edocr.com/user/jgzheng)
Core Readings

- A quick, more conceptual and practical introduction of BI by Jared Hillam (Intricity): [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LFnewuBsYiY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LFnewuBsYiY)

- BI intro video by LearnItFirst (focused more on the traditional BI; there are some good points which I do agree): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhZX0MAYKp8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhZX0MAYKp8)

- Distinguishing Analytics, Business Intelligence, Data Science: [https://www.dataversity.net/distinguishing-analytics-business-intelligence-data-science/](https://www.dataversity.net/distinguishing-analytics-business-intelligence-data-science/)

- [https://learn.g2.com/business-intelligence](https://learn.g2.com/business-intelligence): this is a very practical but not very comprehensive view of BI

- Others
  - Advanced Analytics and Business Intelligence: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNNk9-tmsZY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNNk9-tmsZY)
  - History of BI (casual video with wacky visuals): [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_1y5jBESLPE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_1y5jBESLPE)
  - [https://www.datapine.com/blog/bi-skills-for-business-intelligence-career/](https://www.datapine.com/blog/bi-skills-for-business-intelligence-career/)
  - [https://www.1keydata.com/datawarehousing/datawarehouse.html](https://www.1keydata.com/datawarehousing/datawarehouse.html)
Good General BI/Analytics Resources

• General BI resource web sites
  – BI and DW resource directory: http://www.bi-dw.info
  – BeyeNetwork: http://www.b-eye-network.com
  – https://solutionsreview.com/business-intelligence/
  – DSS Resources: http://dssresources.com/
  – ACM techpack: http://techpack.acm.org/bi/

• General learning resources
  – https://www.1keydata.com/datawarehousing/datawarehouse.html

• Organizations and communities
  – Dataversity: http://www.dataversity.net/
  – The Data Warehousing Institute: http://tdwi.org

• Paid industry reports: you may get some free reprints from some vendors after registration.
  – Gartner annual report on “Magic Quadrant for Analytics and Business Intelligence Platforms”
  – Gartner report “Technology Insight for Modern Analytics and Business Intelligence Platforms”
  – The Forrester Wave™: Enterprise BI Platforms (two versions, one for on-premise and one for cloud)
  – Forrester Playbook: https://www.forrester.com/playbook/The+InsightsDriven+Business+Playbook/-/E-PLA940

• Industry experts and influencers
  – Howard Dresner: http://dresneradvisory.com
  – Gregory Piatetsky: http://www.kdnuggets.com