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## **REPORTING**

## Real-time reporting and data analysis

## Reporting

- What do we mean by a "report"?

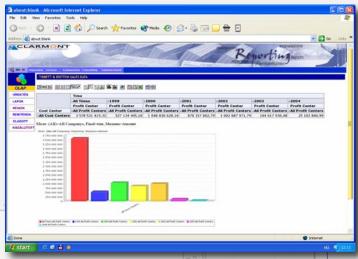
In todays business environment, no larger **company** can permit itself the luxury of making decisions without being fully aware of its current **position on the market**. A report can only provide decision making support if it is based on **up-to-date**, **dependable information**. The upshot is that while a company must deal with ever increasing amounts of data, you need to make correct, **informed decisions faster than ever**.

Only an easy to use, comprehensive and refined **BI** (**Business Intelligence**) system can be considered a suitable solution. Such a solution needs to be capable of extracting business data from multiple sources – both internal and external to the company, and capable of presenting multiple views of a snapshot the current situation – as described by the data. This is what is meant by a "report" - generated by a complex solution which is at the same time **easy to use** and constantly available, and is rounded out with a wide range of additional services and tools.



\* Report system screenshot

"imagine that certain trucks of a logistics company use tire A and others user tire B. With a well defined report that includes opertional costs and crossreferences the relationships, it might immediately be visible — after all it is also depicted graphically — that those trucks with type A tires have a significantly higher petrol consumption, and need replacement tires with a higher frequency. With this knowledge, you just have to make the appropriate decision to eliminate type A and move to using only the type B tires. The company thus saves money with a decision supported by a report which is based on actual business data and facts. Without the report, the correlations and so cost-saving possibility might have gone unnoticed"



\* Report system screenshot

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# Role of Reports in the enterprise

Why does your company need reports?

The world is developing at high speed, markets are changing almost overnight, and you need mature, effective IT systems to keep step with the challenges. Today, a company cannot allow itself to commit expensive human resources to simple adminstrative tasks which if automated are resolved much faster and with a signigicantly less possibility for error. For a company with significant turnover, even the most simple of monthly reports can take a long time to prepare (gather data, collate, format etc.), while the same report can be generated - on demand – by the REPORT<sup>™</sup> system, and in a fraction of the time. In addition to tables of numbers, graphical representation of this data (in the form of any of multiple chart styles) can bring to light relationships and facts that would require significant work to extract in a manual process and may even be overlooked completely. Modern data analysis is a key tool for remaining competetive on today's market, and the competition just keeps heating up. 415,1809

682,6036 8,164455 787,7296 222,5785 788,2157 348,8807 554,2295 669,6071 318,8699 84,40088 305,1156 596,1775 354,9176 1,6041



### **System Modules**

 The REPORT<sup>™</sup> system consists of the following elements and modules.

### Report editing module

When defining a report it is important that the information concerned be presented in a clear and understandable fashion. This is also true for the creation of report templates; Using the visual editor, which does not require much training, reports can be **quickly defined**, **and existing reports** can be modified. Editing basically consists of selecting the elements to display and positioning them on an empty "page". This is the base template. Specific datasources can then be configured and assigned to the elements whose appearance is then fine-tuned and style elements are applied. In a **short time all the report types required** by the company can be defined, and then changed over time as required.

#### **Features and Benefits**

- Reports display up-to-date data
- Reports are generated at the server and available on-line
- Reports can be planned using visual tools
- Multiple internal/external datasources can be defined
- WEB based, flexible report generation and viewing
- Multiple presentation styles can be defined
- Highly configurable access control (security) system
- Load balancing and scalable performance
- Drill-down functions easy data navigation
- Multilingual ready (interface)
- Standards based J2EE and Java Web Start technologies
- No client-side install
- modular construction extendable
- Easy to use
- 24/7 availability of data
- Guaranteed manufacturer and platform independence

#### Report query module

When a report is requested by a user, and the user's right to view the report has been confirmed, the template is filled with current data from the company's database (or whatever datasources are specified in the template). The report is then rendered to one of serveral formats (html, pdf etc.) and made available to the user. Access to the report is achived using an internet browser, and the files can be reached on the LAN, or remotely via the internet if required. This means that from **anywhere in the world**, users will – with **proper security** 75 receive fresh, up-to-date data in their preferred format.

#### Multidimensional Data Analysis – OLAP module

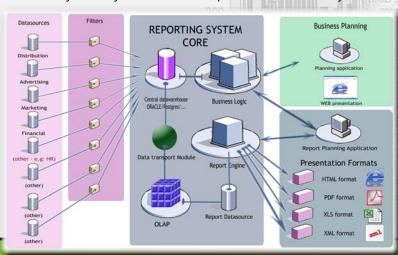
This **On-line Analytical Processing (OLAP)** module allows **complex and time consuming analyses** to be performed which would be difficult or very slow to execute on a normally structured, aggregate free database. The tools in this module will allow REPORT<sup>™</sup> system users to analyze and see behind the summarized numbers. Using the **OLAP** module they can easily drill-down (e.g. Through country-region-city-district levels), or they can select different data slices and view the data from different perspectives (e.g sales by region, or by product type, or region vs product type over time etc.).

#### Data import module(s)

The value of a report is defined by **how much and what quality** data it is based upon. The REPORT<sup>™</sup> system can be **integrated with your enterprise database**, or with **multiple databases**. The data import interfaces allow file-based data to be imported, which is then stored in the system's own database and made available to the analysis tools.

#### Report styles module

The **design** and style of a document is at least as **important** as the data it contains. When creating report templates you can also define multiple, complex styles. Standard items for an enterprise report would include the company logo, company colours for presentation items (e.g. Table headers), font type, page background, header and footer etc. Report styles allow you to easily and fully customize the output of the REPORT<sup>™</sup> system to meet your requirements



The REPORT<sup>™</sup> system allows you to gather and collate information from both internal and external sources. Management is provided with access to this key information, which is presented in understandable and easy to analyze standardized formats.

#### The goal:

Provide upper management with tools to find and analyze upto-date, well presented data to support their decision making processes.

