



Microsoft | Business Intelligence



Complimentary BI Consulting Day

Many software vendors and consultancies choose to spend marketing funds on event days, seminars etc. At Tagra we prefer to spend our marketing funds providing business improvement consultancy. By offering a complimentary consulting day to assist clients enhance their **Microsoft business intelligence (BI)** reporting, we help where you have a need. Use the day for a new report, metadata modelling, database design, OLAP cube development, ETL integration services, faster report execution etc.. The choice is yours, the day is yours.

We know the experience will add value to your existing Microsoft reporting capabilities. There is no catch or hidden cost, we are simply investing in you in the hope that the value we provide will encourage you to work with us in the future.

Our Microsoft Experience

Tagra has decades of experience creating management reports using Microsoft products. Business intelligence reporting is via SQL/Server and its free Reporting, Analysis and Data Mining Services, and optionally Sharepoint for Performance Analytics.

Tagra customers span both private and public sectors. Our industry and business knowledge, combined with extensive technical skills, has enabled us to implement a Microsoft based templated Financial, HR and Procurement data warehouse reporting application for key industries and line-of-business.

Technology

Our complimentary consulting day provides services in the UK covering both legacy and current Microsoft products used by customers. In summary we will assist and support your needs if you are using the core functions detailed by the following Microsoft products summaries.

Business Intelligence Development Studio (BIDS)

BIDS is used for developing data analysis and business intelligence solutions utilising Microsoft SQL/Server Reporting Services, Analysis Services and Integration Services. Based on Microsoft Visual Studio, BIDS is configured with business intelligence specific extensions for management reporting.

Microsoft Reporting Services

SQL Server Reporting Services (SSRS) is a server-based report generation software system from Microsoft. It can be used to prepare and deliver a variety of interactive and printed reports. The web based browser interface supports the development of custom and end-user self-service reporting. SSRS competes with other business intelligence tools (eg Cognos, Crystal, Business Objects) and is **included at no cost** in Developer, Standard and Enterprise editions of Microsoft SQL/Server as an install option. Reporting Services was first released in 2004 as an add-on to SQL/Server 2000. The second version was released as a part of SQL/Server 2005, the latest version was released as part of SQL/Server 2008 and will be further improved in SQL/Server 2012.

Microsoft Analysis Services

Microsoft SQL/Server Analysis Services (SSAS) is part of Microsoft SQL/Server and includes a number of services related to business intelligence & data warehousing and which incorporate both OLAP and data mining capabilities.

OLAP consists of three basic analytical operations: consolidation, drill-down and slicing and dicing. Consolidation involves the aggregation of data that can be accumulated and computed in one or more dimensions (ie. a data element that categorises each item



into a non-overlapping data set ("Customer", "Date" and "Product" are all dimensions). In contrast, drill-down is a technique that allows users to navigate through the various layers of detail. Slicing and dicing is a feature whereby users can take out (slicing) a specific set of data of the cube and view (dicing) the slices from different viewpoints.

Data Mining is the automatic or semi-automatic analysis of large quantities of data to extract previously unknown interesting patterns in groups of data records. For example, the data mining step might identify multiple groups in the data, which can then be used to obtain more accurate prediction results.

Microsoft PowerPivot

PowerPivot is a free add-in to the 2010 version of the spreadsheet application Microsoft Excel. It extends the capabilities of the PivotTable data summarisation and cross-tabulation feature by introducing the ability to import data from multiple sources. PowerPivot falls under Microsoft's business intelligence offering, complementing it with its self-service, in-memory capabilities.

PowerPivot complements the SQL Server core BI tools under the vision of a single Business Intelligence Semantic Model (BISM due in SQL/Server 2012). This integrates multi-dimensional analytics previously known as a Unified Dimensional Model (UDM), with a more flexible, in-memory "tabular" model.

As a self-service BI product PowerPivot is intended to allow users with no specialised BI or analytics training to develop data models and calculations, sharing them either directly or through SharePoint document libraries.

Microsoft Integration Services

SQL/Server Integration Services is used to integrate data from different data sources. It uses the ETL (Extract, Transform and Load) capabilities of SQL/Server for data warehousing needs. Integration Services

includes a graphical interface tool to build data extraction workflows. Functionality includes extracting data from various sources, querying data, transforming data (including aggregating, duplication and merging data, and then loading the transformed data into other target data sources) or sending e-mails detailing the status of the operation as defined by the user.

Sharepoint

SharePoint is a set of products from Microsoft that allows businesses to meet their diverse needs in collaboration, social networking, information portals and public web sites, enterprise content management, business intelligence and management information reporting, dashboards and web based business applications.

SharePoint lets everyone access the business information they need to make good decisions. With powerful features like interactive dashboards and scorecards



delivered by PerformancePoint people can use the information in databases, reports and business applications to address specific needs. Because SharePoint uses well-known applications and interfaces, people are comfortable from the start; meaning they know how to get the data they need. For example, anyone can use Excel Services to publish Excel workbooks in SharePoint 2010. An entire organisation can access and analyse the same data assured that everyone has the right information. SharePoint provides building blocks that you can use to assemble, connect and configure collaborative solutions.



SQL/Server

SQL Server is a Microsoft product used to manage and store information. Technically, SQL Server is a “relational database management system” (RDMS). Broken apart, this term means two things. First, that data stored inside SQL Server will be housed in a “relational database”, and second, that SQL Server is an entire “management system”, not just a database. SQL/Server extends the value of databases by also supporting OLAP services, where unusually it supports three architectures - MOLAP (Multi-dimensional OLAP), ROLAP (Relational OLAP), and HOLAP (Hybrid OLAP). This ensures the end user always has the ideal functionality for their needs delivered in a single product.

SQL/Server has a legacy going back to 1989, but the most popular versions are SQL/Server 2000, 2005, 2008 and Microsoft will shortly provide SQL/Server 2012. Tagra supports all of these versions; the business intelligence functionality has increased with each release culminating in a specific new version titled ‘SQL/Server 2012 Business Intelligence Edition’.

SQL/Server bundles business intelligence tools with the database, as such no additional costs accrue when deploying to your users. The 2012 release is licenced on a ‘per Core’ basis for unlimited users, or by ‘named Client user (CAL)’. Key capabilities embedded with the database are SSRS (Reporting Services), SSAS (Analysis Services) and SSIS (Integration Services), all of which are discussed above.

Additional capabilities include:-

- a) Notification Services: A mechanism generating data-driven notifications to alert subscribing users that a specific event has occurred.
- b) Full Text Search: Specialised indexing and querying service for unstructured text stored in SQL/Server databases.
- c) Master Data Services: Helps your enterprise standardise the data people rely on to make critical business decisions. With Master Data



Services, IT organisations can centrally manage critical data assets company wide and across diverse systems, enabling more people to securely manage master data directly and ensure the integrity of information over time (from SQL/Server 2008).

Tagra Microsoft BI Applications

Financial, HR, Sales & Procurement Analytics

Our Microsoft based packaged analytic reporting warehouse comprises over 300 reports with 750 measures, it leverages all the Microsoft technologies described above.

Our key performance indicators provide financial, human resource, talent, sales and procurement analysis and give specialists insight into the health, effectiveness and performance of your organisation. Pre-built interfaces are available for Oracle e-Business Suite, SAP, JD Edwards, Peoplesoft, Microsoft Dynamics (Great Plains).

Fiscal Planning & Budgeting

Fiscal Planning leverages Microsoft database technology to enable traceability, audit and roll-back data recovery within a multi-user Excel based planning, budgeting, and forecasting process. For the first time you no longer have to maintain old copies of Excel for audit and tracking purposes. You can roll-back your data to a precise point in time as everyone is working on a single, collaborative, secure data source.



Fiscal leverage the technologies you already own, such as Excel and SQL/Server to deliver **a licence free**, effective, shared access application which fully incorporates interfaces to MS-Office and Sharepoint.