

SAP BusinessObjects XI3.1

New Features and Enhancements

OVERVIEW

This datasheet provides a high-level overview of the latest new features and enhancements released in BusinessObjects XI 3.1.

It covers the following product areas:

- Business intelligence tools
- Dashboards and visualisation
- Information Delivery (including Microsoft Integration)
- Development and administration.

BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE TOOLS

There have been a large number of enhancements to WebIntelligence, designed to improve the user experience and provide an even more powerful analytic capability:

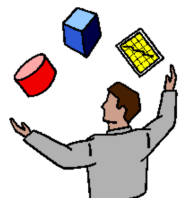
- Input Controls such as radio buttons and sliders make reports easier to use by non-technical end-users
- Track Data Changes uses colour coding to highlight where data has changed between report refreshes
- A new Rich Client facility allows WebIntelligence reports to be used offline, and supports the use of personal data sources such as spreadsheets. Reports are synchronised when users connect back to WebIntelligence
- Fold/Unfold function on reports allows reports to hide detail data, which can then be exposed by unfolding the relevant section of the report, just like in Excel
- Query-on-Query functionality allows users to define a query condition based on an object resulting from another query, allowing "train of thought" analysis
- Tables and charts can be published as Web Services, delivering key content into dashboards and visualisations.

BusinessObjects Explorer is a new module with an innovative "search and explore" interface. Explorer features a Google-style search facility to help business users to find the data they are looking for and an intuitive analysis function, which automatically generates best-fit tables and charts.

DASHBOARDS AND VISUALISATION

Enhancements to Dashboard Builder introduce more analytical power and improved navigation, making this essential management tool even more intuitive:

- Creation of multi-tiered dashboards, featuring a variety of different content types (e.g. WebIntelligence charts and tables, Xcelsius dashboards, custom analytics)
- Dashboard analytics can be linked together so that clicking on one analytic will control the display of another analytic on the dashboard.



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INFORMATION DELIVERY

Improved Publication features include:

- Personalised WebIntelligence reports can now be distributed via email in a variety of different formats (e.g. PDF, HTML, URL)
- Publications can now make use of dynamic recipient lists.

Support for Mobile devices, e.g. Blackberry, iPhone has been enhanced:

- Windows Mobile has been re-written in XI 3.1 providing more functional, robust support for these mobile devices.

A number of enhancements have been made to exploit the latest developments from Microsoft:

- A new Integration Option for Microsoft SharePoint enables BusinessObjects content to be managed within a SharePoint 2007 portal. Users can access all business intelligence resources such as WebIntelligence, Crystal Reports, Xcelsius Dashboards and Dashboard Analytics, as well as Microsoft Office documents in the Central Management Server. Users can navigate by their personal favourites folder, public folders, BusinessObjects inbox, personal categories and corporate categories. Power users can modify reports or create new reports and Administrators can schedule reports and organise content directly within SharePoint.
- Live Office has been enhanced to provide better performance, as well as integration with Outlook 2007.

DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Several new and improved facilities make development more productive and ease system administration:

- Life-Cycle Manager is a new tool which gives vastly improved development life-cycle management. It includes version control software to control report and universe management, including roll-back, and aids the process of promoting from development, to test, to production environments
- The Central Management Console has been updated to make it easier to manage and administer the Business Objects environment
- The Instance Manager allows complete control over report schedules from one place – previously administrators had to check each schedule individually
- The security system has been re-designed to more closely resemble the Windows security model. Custom access profiles allow administrators to save common security configurations for re-use amongst users
- The XI servers are now managed through a new Server Intelligence Agent process, providing much greater flexibility in managing the servers.

UPGRADE SERVICE

Comset are a long-standing SAP BusinessObjects Platinum Partner, and have already helped a number of our clients through the upgrade to XI 3.1. Our long heritage of delivering powerful, but cost-effective, business intelligence solutions means you can be confident that we can help your key business users to exploit the new functionality, enhancing and expanding the application to meet the ever changing needs of your business, and thereby maximising the return on your investment in SAP BusinessObjects.

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