

New Features in Oracle Business Intelligence Suite Enterprise Edition 10g Release 3

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New Features – Oracle Business Intelligence Suite Enterprise Edition 10g Release 3

Oracle Business Intelligence Suite Enterprise Edition offers the complete spectrum of BI capabilities such as advanced reporting, interactive dashboards, alerts, ad hoc analysis, and more; is designed for use by anyone, from management to front line workers; provides intelligence across virtually any data source; and is based on a proven, modern Web Services-Oriented Architecture that delivers next-generation business intelligence capabilities.

OVERVIEW OF ORACLE BI SUITE ENTERPRISE EDITION

Oracle Business Intelligence Suite Enterprise Edition (EE) offers an integrated, comprehensive suite of open, standards-based business intelligence (BI) products and provides the best foundation for building enterprise-wide BI solutions. The platform enables organizations to distill intelligence from existing applications and data sources and distribute it pervasively across the enterprise to optimize business processes, decisions, and actions.



Figure 1: Oracle Business Intelligence Suite Enterprise Edition

Enabling pervasive intelligence demands a new class of BI capabilities – information must be relevant to all users, delivered in time to affect business results, be accessible through a broad range of mediums such as dashboards, alerts, and reports, and be integrated seamlessly into business processes and workflow. The BI architecture must also provide a foundation that can scale economically over time to handle nearly limitless data growth and user demands.

Oracle Business Intelligence Suite EE 10g Release 3 significantly extends Oracle's unique capabilities across all of these dimensions. Enhancements and new features included with the release can be grouped into six major categories:

- **Information delivery enhancements** – new features and capabilities within Interactive Dashboards, Answers, Reporting and Publishing,

Delivers, and Disconnected Analytics, as well as enhanced support for alternative channels such as enterprise portals

- **BI Server enhancements** – improved performance, scalability, and availability of the core BI platform
- **Lower cost of setup and administration** – new features to lower cost of ownership and improve the simplicity of administration
- **Oracle Fusion Middleware and Database integration** – integration with key Oracle infrastructure products to lower cost and complexity while extending BI capabilities
- **New data source integration** – integration with and optimization for new data sources, enabling even greater business insight from virtually any enterprise data source
- **Security enhancements** – enhancements for security, identity management, and audit

INFORMATION DELIVERY ENHANCEMENTS

Extending the capabilities of the platform to deliver information in relevant easy to consume form factors across a variety of channels enables broader decision making capabilities across a larger more pervasive audience. Several enhancements are targeted to improve the user experience across Oracle Interactive Dashboards, Oracle Answers, Oracle Delivers and Oracle BI Publisher.

Oracle Interactive Dashboards

Presentation Variables

For BI to truly be pervasive and drive action, it must guide users toward the next right step of analysis or action. This release features new dynamic presentation variables, user or administrator defined variables that enable more dynamic, condition and threshold based intelligence – providing increased relevance for virtually any BI information.

Presentation variables are a new method of creating dynamic BI content. Their utility in enhancing dashboard interactivity is large, supporting the creation of sophisticated analytic applications. A powerful context passing mechanism, presentation variables make it easy to have reports, dashboards, charts and more customize themselves based on a user's selection of values. The end result is a more tailored user experience and more efficient report/dashboard development.

Conditional Chart Formatting

In addition to supporting conditional formatting within tables and pivot tables, new in this release is the ability for those same formatting controls to be reflected in charts based on the formatted tables and pivot tables. For example, the color of individual bars can now be set based on their value. So the bar for "Pepsi" can be

Oracle Interactive Dashboards provides any knowledge worker with intuitive, interactive access to information that is actionable and dynamically personalized based on the individual's role and identity.

made blue while the bar for “Coca Cola” can be made red. Colors can be changed dynamically based on threshold values, so “make all bars which exceed \$50,000 green” will color code a range of bars appropriately. The end result is Dashboards of information where the relevance and importance of information can be more quickly understood by the user.

This formatting also works with the presentation variables infrastructure, so charts can be modified based on threshold values set in a presentation value, once again leading to a more tailored user experience.

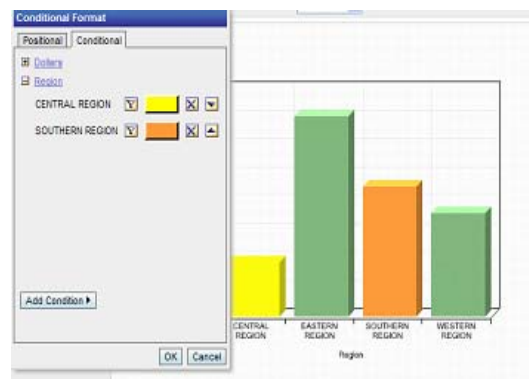


Figure 2: Example of conditional chart formatting.

Multiple Navigation Targets

One of the strengths and areas of design focus for the Interactive Dashboard has been to guide users down a path of discovery and ultimately to drive action, not just report results. Just as the resolution to any issue can take many paths, so too should a dashboard support the ability to branch to different options when interacting with information. The new release allows users to choose from multiple Navigation Targets in the Column Format tab, enabling multiple navigation paths from a given report or dashboard object. This will allow applications to support more complex interactions with users and support more complex decisioning environments through more streamlined analytic applications.

Layout Capabilities for Financial Reporting in Interactive Dashboards

New capabilities enable users to recreate certain common financial reports within Answers and Dashboards without having to resort to a more advanced highly formatted reporting component. These extensions include:

- Ability to total at various grouping levels within a pivot view
- Selectively suppress section headers
- Allow page breaks at section levels
- Ability to refer to column values in total rows
- Suppression of blank rows

For example, if a user wanted to construct a Profit and Loss statement or balance sheet, you can now closely mimic this report through use of the extensions by appropriately adjusting page breaks, suppressing section headers and so on. Even better, once created the report can be saved as a template, so other users can also benefit from the template and simply inject new data into it to suit their needs.

BalanceGroup1	BalanceGroup2	BalanceGroup3	AccountDesc	Amount
Assets	Current Assets	Cash	Cash-Checking	\$357,477
			Money Market Accounts	\$129,423
		Other Assets	Due from FWC	\$101,139
			Inventories	\$164,980
			Net Trade A/R	\$233,907
			Prepaid Other	\$21,123
	Fixed Assets	Fixed Assets	Furniture & Fixtures	\$160,300
			Less Accumulated Depreciation	(\$96,396)
	Investment	Investment	Investment in FWC	\$495,893



Assets	
Cash-Checking	\$357,477
Money Market Accounts	\$129,423
Total Cash	\$486,900
Net Trade A/R	\$233,907
Due from FWC	\$101,139
Inventories	\$1,649,803
Prepaid Other	\$2,123
Total Other Assets	\$1,895,972
Total Current Assets	\$2,382,872
Furniture & Fixtures	\$160,300
Less Accumulated Depreciation	(\$96,396)
Total Fixed Assets	\$63,904
Investment in FWC	\$495,893
Total Investment	\$495,893
Total Assets	\$2,942,669

Figure 3: Example of balance sheet information presented in traditional pivot table compared to how it could be presented using new financial layout capabilities.

The content of Oracle Interactive Dashboard pages can be saved into a "Briefing Book" viewable by anyone with a Briefing Book reader. This provides a way to create snapshots of dashboard pages, save the locally, view them offline, or share them with others. Multi-page Briefing Books have paging controls and are well-suited for presenting information to others.

Enhanced Printing of Briefing Books

Briefing Books are static snapshots of Interactive Dashboard pages. To date Briefing Books can be presented to the user in the "My Briefing Books" folder within Oracle Answers as well as within Dashboard pages, and subsequently printed via the users web browser. This feature will introduce a new "print book" capability which will download a high quality PDF version of the Briefing Book, which can subsequently be viewed or printed via Adobe Acrobat.

Bi-Directional Language Support

Bi-directional languages such as Hebrew are scripted right to left. This enhancement adds support for Hebrew to the Dashboard and Answers components.

Local Time Display

For reporting consistency it is desirable for users to interact with the reporting server (which could be located in a different geography) from the perspective of

their own local timezone. For example, an administrator can specify the timezone the server resides in and from that point users reporting against the system can specify when their reports are run, scheduled or are delivered by specifying local time values. This local time support is being made throughout the OracleBI EE stack, so not only will end users be able to interact with their reports using local time values, but administrators can view log and diagnostic information in local time as well.

Oracle Answers

Oracle BI Answers provides true end user ad hoc capabilities in a pure Web architecture. Users interact with a logical view of the information—completely hidden from data structure complexity while simultaneously preventing runaway queries—and can easily create charts, pivot tables, reports, and visually appealing dashboards. The results are new levels of business user self-sufficiency in an environment that is fully secure and controlled by IT.

Drag and Drop Layout Editing

Oracle Answers provides tools to quickly assemble multiple report objects such as tables, pivot views and charts in order to create sophisticated reports. New in this release is a drag and drop interface to make it simpler to position/reposition report components for best effect, increasing both productivity and reporting interactivity.

Calculation Editor

The column formula editor in Oracle Answers has been enhanced to make it easier to create expressions that contain operators, variables, filters and functions simply by clicking buttons. These changes also take into account the new "presentation variables" infrastructure which will make it easy to create formulas which take into account this new dynamic user specified information.

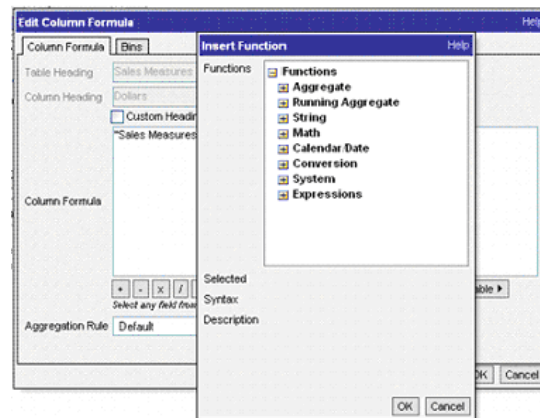


Figure 4: New calculation editor available in Answers.

Oracle Reporting and Publishing

Oracle BI Publisher Integration for High Fidelity Reporting

Oracle BI Publisher provides a single solution for all reporting and document output needs, enabling organizations to produce a wide array of documents including financial statements, government forms, high-fidelity reports, invoices, labels, checks, electronic documents (EFT/EDI), purchase orders, and sales orders.

The new release delivers sophisticated, pixel-perfect publishing and reporting capabilities via Oracle BI Publisher, formerly Oracle XML Publisher. Oracle BI Publisher provides a single solution for all reporting and document output needs, enabling organizations to produce a wide array of documents including financial statements, government forms, high-fidelity reports, invoices, labels, checks, electronic documents (EFT/EDI), purchase orders, and sales orders. The integration of Oracle BI Publisher with Oracle BI Suite EE enables organizations to leverage the same unified metadata model and Oracle BI Server infrastructure. And rather than rely upon a proprietary report design tool, the product enables report builders to format reports using a variety of familiar applications such as Adobe Acrobat, Microsoft Word or Excel. Documents and reports can be scheduled and delivered to email, fax, printer, WebDAV, or incorporated into interactive dashboards. Oracle BI Publisher is available standalone or as an integrated component of Oracle Business Intelligence Suite EE, providing a complete BI and reporting solution to meet all enterprise needs.

The image displays a collage of various financial and business documents generated by Oracle BI Publisher. The documents include:

- Invoice:** An invoice from "My Toy Supplier" (300 Oracle Parkway, Redwood Shores, CA 94065) to "Vision Corporation". It lists items like "AT&T Universal Card" and "Standard" with quantities and prices, totaling \$2,100.00.
- Check:** A check from "Oracle Corporation" (500 Oracle Parkway, Redwood Shores, CA 94064) dated 11/22/2004, payable to "Vision Corporation" for \$2,100.00. The check features a watermark of a building and a signature.
- Financial Statement:** A "General Ledger" report showing a balance sheet for "Vision Corporation (PRLA)". It includes a table with columns for "Category", "Debit", and "Credit", showing various financial metrics and totals.
- Ordering Document:** A document from "Vision Corporation" with a "Purchase Order Number" and a "Report Date".

The documents are presented in a layered, overlapping fashion, showcasing the diverse output capabilities of Oracle BI Publisher.

Figure 5: Sample documents created using Oracle BI Publisher.

Oracle Delivers (Automated Detection and Alerts)

Oracle Delivers is a proactive intelligence solution that provides automated monitoring of business events across data sources and alerting that can reach users via multiple channels such as email, dashboards, and mobile devices. Oracle Delivers includes a full Web-based self-service alert creation and subscription portal. This next-generation product can initiate and pass contextual information to other alerts to execute a multi-step, multi-person, and multi-application analytical workflow.

Customizable Alert Subscriptions

Oracle Delivers has been enhanced to allow for further personalization of alerts. Authors can now enable end-users to customize their alert subscriptions. Users can now further customize the columns and column values that appear in an alert, without any intervention by the iBot creator. This makes BI more pervasive, as individuals can tailor the content to be generated when exceptional business events occur. Other enhancements include a redesigned and simplified user experience, simplified directory structure to make it easier for users to find important content, and iBot creation from within Answers to streamline report and alert creation.

Subscription Options

☐ Publish for subscription
Specify who can subscribe

☐ Allow subscribers to customize iBot

Customize iBot

Define the filter values for columns in the request that can be customized for this subscription

Customizable Columns

To customize the filter values for a column select customize and define the operator and value(s) to be used for column filter when the request is executed.

Customize	Column	Operator	Values
☐	Status	is equal to / is in	11
☐	Reported By	is LIKE (pattern match)	ST%

Figure 6: This new Delivers interface enables users to subscribe to and customize iBots originally defined by other users or administrators.

Other Oracle Delivers Enhancements

As part of Oracle Delivers, iBot's are flexible alerts which trigger based on user specified conditions. With this release users will be able to create and send iBot alerts as Excel attachments, or send them to a specified location on a file system. Users can also configure iBots to be sent to Oracle BPEL process manager, which can in turn message and activate other workflow activities in your system, thereby automating business workflows based on events triggered by BI reporting. Other enhancements to Oracle Delivers include:

- Allow administrators to configure the list of supported mobile devices.
- Permit users to search for alerts stored within the catalog.
- Permit iBot (Alert) creation from within Oracle Answers, streamlining report and alert creation

- Creation of a metadata driven subject area that dynamically access personal profiles such as devices and e-mail addresses stored in a customer or employee database.

Knowledge are becoming increasingly mobile and the speed of decision making more real-time, Through Oracle Delivers end users can get information where and when they need it most. These enhancements significantly ease the creation, maintenance and distribution of alerts throughout an organization.

Other End User Information Channels

Portal Integration via JSR 168

With support for JSR-168, organizations can embed BI portlets into any JSR-168 compliant portal.

While the Interactive Dashboard is a convenient out of the box means to integrate analytic BI content many customers find it useful to also embed this content into their enterprise portals. To this end we offer HTTP, URL and SOAP web services to facilitate this form of integration.

Built on the foundation of the previous version 7.8 implementation and compliant with the Java specification, the new portlet can be deployed in any JSR-168 compliant portal. A prime example of a portal of this type is Oracle Portal and integration between Oracle Portal and Oracle Answers is a well known commodity: users can now embed analytic BI content within Oracle Portal as a portlet, increasing the reach of BI across the organization if Oracle Portal is your choice for an enterprise portal. Users can single sign on to Portal pages and the embedded Answers reports run as that user. Interactive drilling on the embedded Answers portlets is also possible directly within Oracle Portal. Just like the Dashboard experience, BI content embedded within Oracle Portal will have the "Refresh," "Print" and "Download" links available for each portlet.



Figure 7: Oracle BI Enterprise Edition report content integrated with Oracle Portal.

RSS feeds

RSS is an increasingly popular protocol that allows users to subscribe to and stay current with content. New in this release is support for RSS which will permit users to receive the latest updates to BI content they have subscribed to directly in their RSS reader. Specifically, both iBots and Folder content will be RSS enabled and accessible via any RSS reader. This means that users can conveniently digest new or updated reports as well as exception conditions from within their RSS reader. Of course, this new subscription channel is still secured, as users will be required to authenticate themselves in order to access BI content.

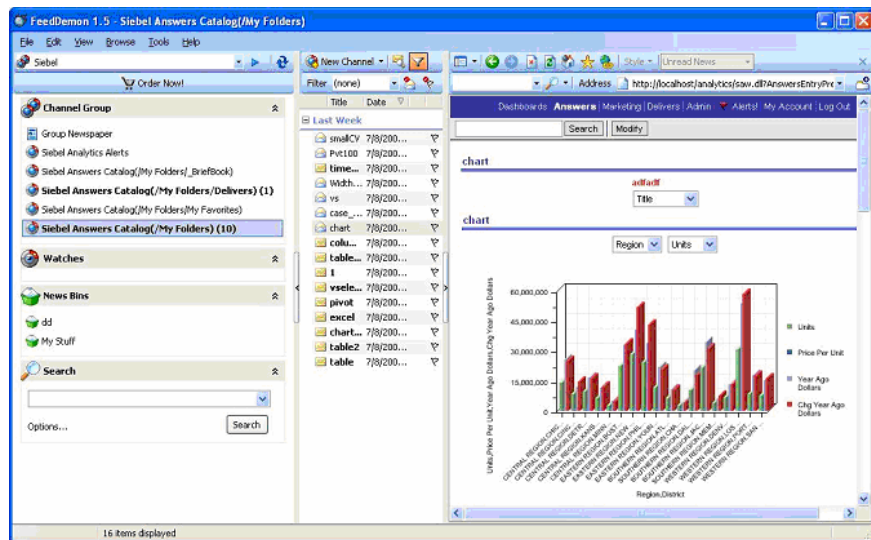


Figure 8: Example of BI content accessible within the FeedDemon RSS Reader.

ORACLE BI SERVER ENHANCEMENTS

The Oracle BI Server is a highly scalable, highly efficient query and analysis server that provides services that enable the other components of the Business Intelligence Suite EE such as Answers, Dashboards, Reporting, as well as prebuilt BI Applications.

Oracle BI Suite EE 10g Release 3 includes numerous enhancements to the core BI Server to improve performance, scalability, and availability of the overall IBI platform, while making it easier to administer and manage.

Data Mart Automation

Most companies begin a data warehouse project from the bottom up – starting with the schema and then building reports on top of them.

The new data mart automation capability enables organizations to do “model first” development, starting with the business model and leveraging new capabilities in the Oracle BI Server to automatically generate, persist, and transparently utilize aggregate tables in a database. This is a top down approach. First we analyze what reports are most important for the business. Then the data mart automation tool can generate platform agnostic DDL to create warehouses and data marts to support these important reports. In other words, model first development.

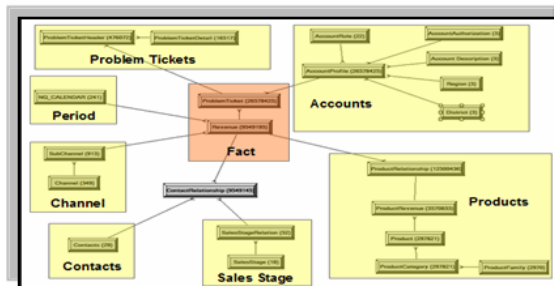
Additionally, one of the key strengths of the Oracle BI EE solution is its ability to work against disparate heterogeneous data sources, from Oracle to non-Oracle databases, pre-packaged applications, Excel files, XML files and more. From a performance standpoint when running reports against such a disparate set of sources it becomes increasingly advantageous to have an aggregation and summary mechanism available which works across data sources. The data mart automation capabilities in this release provide a new tool to dramatically improve end user response time by automatically creating, managing and summarizing aggregation tables from multiple, disparate data sources.

Business Model Performance					
Presentation Catalog	Presentation Table	Presentation Column	Query Count	Avg Total Time In Secs	Std Total Time In Secs
Paint	Forecast Measures	Actual Dollars % of Forecast	73	1	1.46
		Forecasted Dollars	73	1	1.46
		District	108	0	0.99
	Markets	Market	84	0	1.15
		Region	182	1	1.50
		Month	122	1	1.56
	Periods	Year	121	1	1.41
		Color	60	0	0.77
	Products	Dollars	266	1	1.34
		Month Ago Dollars	49	1	1.71
		Price Per Unit	84	0	0.73
	Sales Measures	Units	145	0	1.24
		Year Ago Dollars	12	1	1.44
	Share Measures	Share of District Dollars	12	1	1.44
		Share of Market Dollars	45	1	1.34

Fully Qualified Presentation Column is equal to Paint.Sales Measures.Dollars

[Return](#)

Most used areas of a Business Model



Physical Data Mart created by BI Server

Figure 9: Data Mart Automation enables new aggregate tables to be created automatically by the BI Server based on heavily queried areas of the business model.

Improved Caching Infrastructure

Customers using a cluster of BI Servers will now benefit from enhanced caching which can be configured to proactively seed report content across all servers in the cluster. Further, a new internal mechanism to cache data permits for improved sorting and aggregation performance against all but the largest queries.

In addition, new diagnostic and logging information is provided in this release to allow administrators to determine when and why a given cache entry is created (or accessed). This information could prove invaluable to overall performance tuning.

Delivers iBot requests from multiple users now leverage the cache more effectively and make greater reuse of cached data. This improves cache hits which results in lower storage requirements for the analytic server and improved response for users.

Native 64 Bit Support

This release of Oracle BI EE will add support for the Sun Solaris, HP-UX 11 and IBM AIX 64 bit platforms, giving more choice of deployment environments which take advantage of 64 bit hardware for better performance.

Linux Support

As part of the Fusion Middleware Platform the BI Server is now also available on both RedHat and SuSe Linux platforms, ensuring customers with a solid cost effective platform on which to run their BI solution.

Legless Applications through View Deployment

Typical deployments of prebuilt BI Applications require extracting, transforming, and loading existing data in the organization into a prebuilt data warehouse structure that comes with the particular BI Application. Once the data is loaded into this prebuilt warehouse, the BI Server metadata that comes with that BI Application will work automatically.

The new release enables organizations to start with the prebuilt Oracle BI Server metadata included with Oracle BI Applications, and map that prebuilt “best practice” metadata against existing data sources and data warehouses, enabling “legless” BI applications. This is enabled through new view deployment capabilities which enable administrators to deploy views structures to the underlying database, meaning they will be created as native views in the underlying data source. Using this capability in tandem with a “legless” BI Application now provides our customers with the ultimate flexibility in the deployment of BI Applications and pre-built best practices analysis.

Repository Consistency Check Scorecard

Consistency checking of the repository has been made easier with a number of new capabilities. Administrators can now check consistency on a per object basis and the user interface streamlined to allow quick access to inconsistent objects for correction. These features will result in faster development of reporting areas and less time spent debugging reporting issues for users.

Automated Estimation of Dimension Levels

The BI Server’s ability to generate the most performant queries is dependent in part on knowing the correct number of levels for a given dimensional hierarchy. This feature automatically interrogates the underlying data source for this information from within the administrative tool.

ENHANCEMENTS TO LOWER COST OF SETUP AND ADMINISTRATION

Enhanced Load Balancing Services

New in this release is a BI Presentation Server load balancing mechanism that more effectively enables the use of IP load balancers across many presentation servers. Customers using multiple BI Presentation Serves can now load balance web traffic to ensure workload parity across each server.

Oracle Disconnected Analytics provides full analytical functionality for the mobile professional, providing the same intuitive interface for users whether they are connected or offline.

Enhanced Oracle Disconnected Analytics

Oracle Disconnected Analytics provides a full featured BI solution for mobile users with a laptop, delivering a user experience that is identical to that of a connected Enterprise user even when offline from the corporate network. This new release of Oracle BI EE enhances Disconnected Analytics in the following areas:

- Enterprise users will be able to generate Dashboard alerts which can be synchronized with a disconnected user's environment.
- Disconnected process management has been improved reflect the diverse user security environments typical in enterprise deployment.
- Single sign on capabilities will be available for silent synchronization.
- The BI Server cache enhancements will be leveraged to improve processing for disconnected data sets.
- Improvements have also been made to incrementally synchronize disconnected clients.

Project Management Enhancements

New features have been introduced to enable easier collaborative development of reporting subject areas. When several administrators are working on developing metadata areas they can now take advantage of enhanced logging information which will detail all changes made by whom over a period of time. Projects can now also be defined on the base facts alone, reducing the number of project combinations that need to be defined. Since projects are typically "verticalized" for specific audiences, it is now possible to extract presentation columns accessible to at least one user or group, which reduces the project complexity for that audience.

ORACLE FUSION MIDDLEWARE AND DATABASE INTEGRATION

Oracle BI Suite EE 10g Release 3 includes pre-integration with Oracle Database and Oracle Fusion Middleware, extending the value and capabilities of the product while lowering total cost and complexity for customers. In addition to the integration with Oracle BI Publisher and Oracle Portal outlined above, the following key Oracle product integrations are planned:

Intelligent Workflow through SOA and Oracle BPEL Process Manager Integration

Virtually seamless integration of intelligence with workflow processes should enable organizations to link insight to action, a large opportunity for value realization as organizations expand BI more broadly. Oracle Business Intelligence Suite EE will leverage Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) techniques and integration with Oracle BPEL Process Manager to support multiple modes of analytics-driven workflow. This includes invocation of a Business Process Execution Language (BPEL) process from the BI environment, either through automated BI alerts or directed by BI users; BI that directs a BPEL process with intelligent decision points

Extended Web services support and integration with Oracle Fusion Middleware further enables Oracle Business Intelligence Suite EE to drive Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) business processes defined with Oracle BPEL Process Manager.

and conditional process steps based on analytics; and BPEL processes invoking analytic workflows through Web services.

Oracle Enterprise Manager Integration (JMX Configuration Services)

The configuration of the overall environment has now been exposed via JMX stubs that enables the use of any JMX compliant administration console such as Oracle Enterprise Manager Console in the initial configuration of the BI environment. This significantly eases the installation of Oracle BI EE to a single point of administration when installing the application.

Oracle VPD Integration

Oracle Virtual Private Database feature enables the fine grain control of information access down to the row-level when accessing Oracle Database tables. Oracle BI EE seamlessly leverages this security preserving the visibility rules contained within the database.

Oracle Internet Directory and SSO Support

Like the integration with Oracle Portal, the BI Server is now also integrated with the security infrastructure provided out of the box with the Fusion Middleware platform (while still continuing to work with many popular 3rd party authentication and single sign on services as part of Oracle's commitment to delivering "hot-pluggable" BI which works with your existing investments). If you choose, you can now also provision user security for access to Dashboard, Answers and Delivers via Oracle Internet Directory, as well as relying on Oracle Single Sign-On Services for convenience out of the box. Oracle SSO support means that users will be able to navigate between Oracle Dashboards, Answers, Portal and any other Oracle SSO enabled applications seamlessly after a single initial authentication prompt.

Oracle EBS Security Model Integration

Support for the e-Business Suite security model will be added, which means that users can access Oracle Dashboards and Answers while authenticating with Oracle Applications userids and responsibilities. The e-Business Suite security model will automatically be applied to all query and reporting transactions.

NEW DATA SOURCE INTEGRATION

Oracle Business Intelligence Suite EE is built on open standards and designed to fit into any existing IT architecture, efficiently interoperating with existing data sources, applications, security models, and end user tools. With its ability to provide semantic integration of information across Oracle and non-Oracle sources, Oracle Business Intelligence Suite EE enables customers get a complete view of performance across multiple, diverse information silos.

**Oracle Business Intelligence Suite EE
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SAP BW

Expanding support for multi-dimensional data sources, the new release delivers native, direct access to SAP Business Information Warehouse (SAP BW). Support for SAP BW's InfoCubes includes import of SAP BW structures and hierarchies metadata directly into Oracle Business Intelligence Suite EE, providing users with a powerful tool for analyzing SAP BW data alongside other data sources. In addition, users can enjoy single sign on capabilities which leverage SAP security.

Oracle Database 10g OLAP Option

The Oracle OLAP option is one of the most powerful OLAP engines available, and best of all is simply a part of the Oracle database, which tremendously simplifies its implementation and administration. Plans to support the OLAP option from the BI Server mean that you can take advantage of the powerful OLAP option capabilities the Oracle Database provides, while delivering results in the flexible and easy to use Answers and Dashboard environments to end users.

Analysis Services 2005

As a continuation of XMLA support previously supported AS2000, administrators can now import the structure of Microsoft Analysis Services 2005 cubes into the Oracle BI Suite EE repository.

Continued "Hot-Pluggability" with Other Data Sources

Release 3 expands certification and native, optimized support for third-party data sources and infrastructure products including the latest releases of IBM DB2, Teradata, Microsoft SQL Server and ODBC as a lowest common denominator.

SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS

Dashboard Proxy User Authentication

A proxy user is a user that has been granted access privileges equivalent to another user on the system, and as such can interact with the dashboard as if they were that other user.

With this new feature, users will be able to grant "proxy" user access to others so that they can view dashboards as if they were that user. For example, in a large organization which has deployed multiple dashboards an employee may have trouble with a particular report on a specific dashboard. By calling the company helpdesk to troubleshoot, the helpdesk technician can be temporarily granted proxy user access to that dashboard so that they may view it as the employee sees it, thus facilitating the troubleshooting process.

SSL Everywhere

Administrators can configure message traffic between the analytic server, clients and delivers server to be SSL enabled, ensuring that industry standard encryption protects the flow of information between the components of the solution.

Custom Authentication Modules

New services are being exposed in this release to permit customers to write and use their own custom authentication modules. The analytic server will simply make a request to the custom module to authenticate (and with what level of privilege) a given user and accept the return values to determine if and what level of access to grant a user. This feature will make it even easier to integrate Oracle BI EE with your existing or future security infrastructure.



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