

Beyond ERP
with
1KEY Business Intelligence

Executive Summary

Companies are investing millions of dollars in ERP solutions or have invested till date to improve the way they conduct their business. While ERP provides significant benefits organizations are finding that, in order to achieve critical decision making business goals, they often need to supplement it with additional external reporting capabilities for it end users. With the wealth of data entered and stored in ERP databases the ability to analyze and interpret the data is significant for management reporting. With Business Intelligence tool 1KEY it has greatly alleviated the backlog of report requests and has provided users with decision making information in a timely manner.

OPERATIONAL	INFORMATION SYSTEM
Detailed	Summarized
Can be updated	Snapshot records, no updates allowed
Accurate up to th second	Timestamp on each record
Used for clerical purpose	Used by management
Built based on requirements	Built without knowing requirements
Supports small uniform transactions	Supports mixed workload
Yields 2- to 3 second response time	Yields 30- to 24- hour response time
Data designed for optimal storage	Data designed for optimal access
Very current data	Mainly historical data
Data is application oriented	Data is integrated
Data designed aronud functional usage	Data designed aronud subejct areas
Referential integrity is useful	Referential integrity is not useful
High availability is normal	High availability is nice to have

Difference between and transaction system and information system

Companies that had previously relied on ERP or Excel spreadsheets for reporting indicated that using 1KEY BI enabled them to reduce personnel time associated with reporting by 50 to 90 percent.



Why do we need Business Intelligence when we have an ERP?

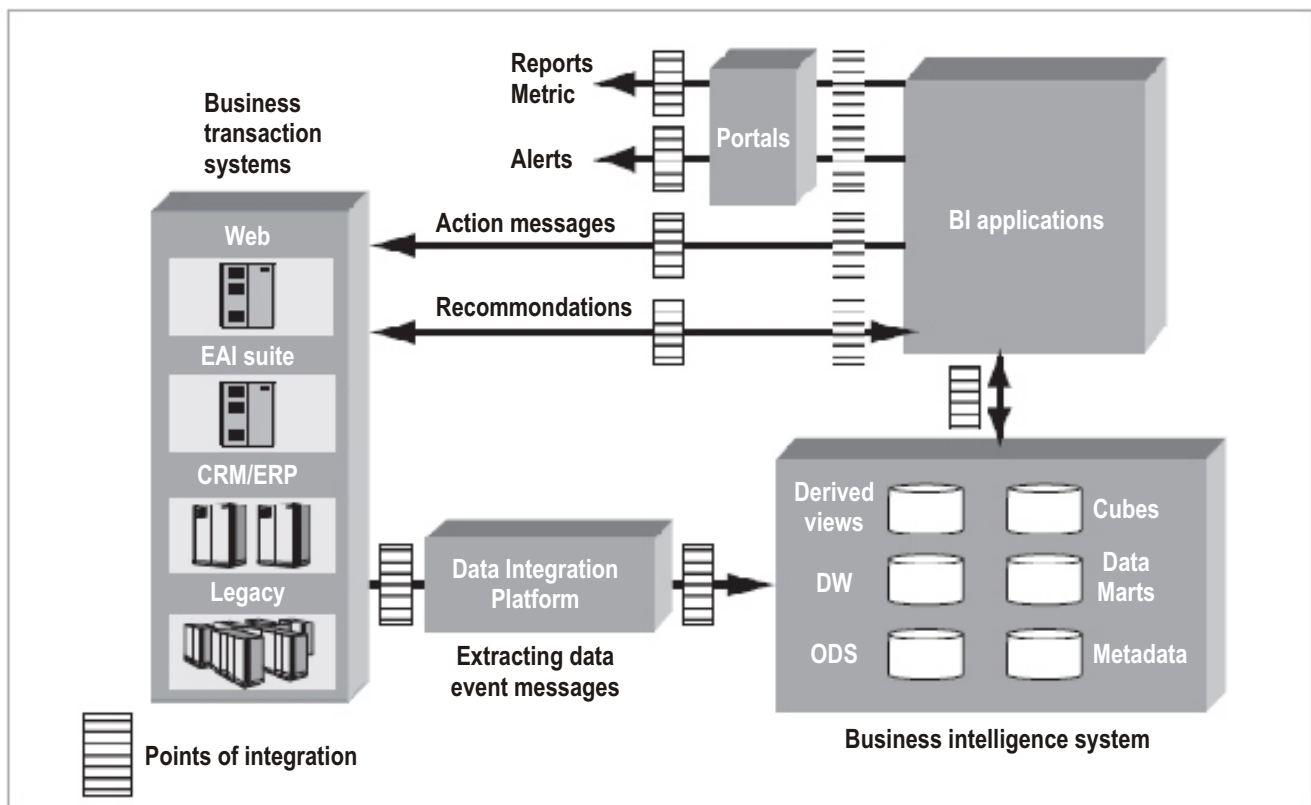
ERP systems are known to generate lots of data, but not a lot of information (data rich and information poor). 1KEY Business intelligence is the solution to this problem. ERP does not contain all the information that is needed for business and hence disparate data sources thrive in form of spreadsheets or applications.

ERP systems force firms to re-engineer current practices to fit within the processes described by the ERP modules. Letting one ERP vendor provide most or all of a firm's enterprise systems is an attractive but risky proposition. "If you depend on a single vendor, you get a common architecture, lower support costs and cheaper seats," argues one analyst "On the other hand, upgrades become a bear because you have to do everything at once and maintain relationship with them constantly.

Often the accountants struggle for weeks to consolidate multiple levels in their organization using their ERP. Adjusting entries are booked in ERP and need to be replicated multiple times for each level. Inter-company eliminations cause delays while the accountants reconcile the differences between the companies using spreadsheets. The spreadsheets are fragile and only one person in the company is entrusted with them. But even that person breaks into a sweat when there is reorganization and the consolidation spreadsheets need to be redone. There are lots of links between all the spreadsheets

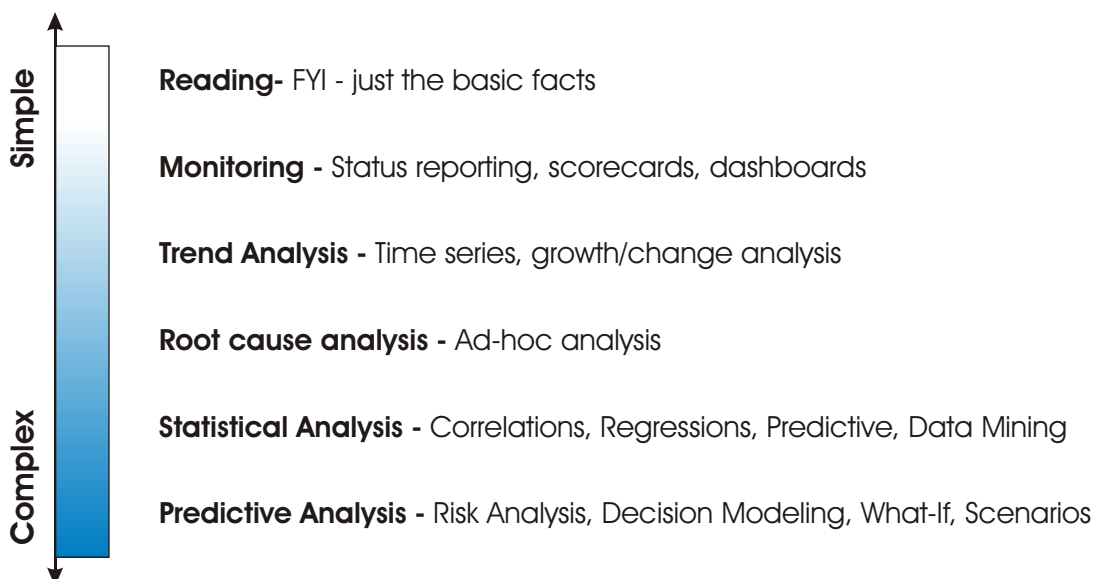
and one change could cause cascading errors in unsuspected places.

ERP comes with a reporting toolset and predefined set of reports with general purpose query tools to generate reports with data within ERP database. These tools are difficult and confusing to use and rely on IT team to deliver the on demand report which will take time where only thing that matters user is answer question of the moment. ERP provides acceptable day to day operations reporting but if business requirement changes these static ERP reports needs to be changed. Business is ever dynamic with new product lines, new production methods, new distribution channels and ever demanding customer needs cannot be fitted in a rigid ERP system. Since it is impossible to predict the business it is impossible to define reporting needs for next coming years today. By using 1KEY BI and getting reporting done from an external system you are giving power to user to define and generate ad hoc reports while freeing valuable IT resources. It will quench the ever demanding thirst of users and empower them to turn data into meaningful business decisions.



Model IT Infrastructure of an Business Enterprise

1KEY BI empowers business users, information users and decision maker to extract the data from disparate data sources when they want it, how they want it with ability to turn data into information and information into knowledge. It allows users with a tool where it can format the data into analytic for helping take decisions without help of skilled programmer. 1KEY can stimulate users due to its intuitiveness and remove the price barrier of developing analytics and ad hoc reports. It is flexible and forgiving enough so users does not experience frustration and inadequacy for generation of MIS. Speed with Accuracy in reporting make users do more analysis and take decision on data rather than gut feelings. The smart ones will take the opportunity not just to address compliance issues but to improve efficiency, strategy, corporate alignment and, ultimately, decision making.



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