

SAP NetWeaver BI and Business Objects



GETTING THE BEST OUT OF TWO WORLDS

The SAP acquisition of Business Objects came as a general surprise to the Information Management community. From a Platon point of view this new technology and business merger makes perfect sense within an IM context.

At Platon we typically address the IM market with a broad perspective. As such we see several interesting opportunities with the introduction of Business Objects into the SAP world but at the same time also a range of challenges which need to be addressed.

THE DRIVERS AND THE SAP/BOBJ TECHNOLOGY MIX

At Platon we believe that the following drivers make up the value proposition for the SAP/BOBJ technology mix.

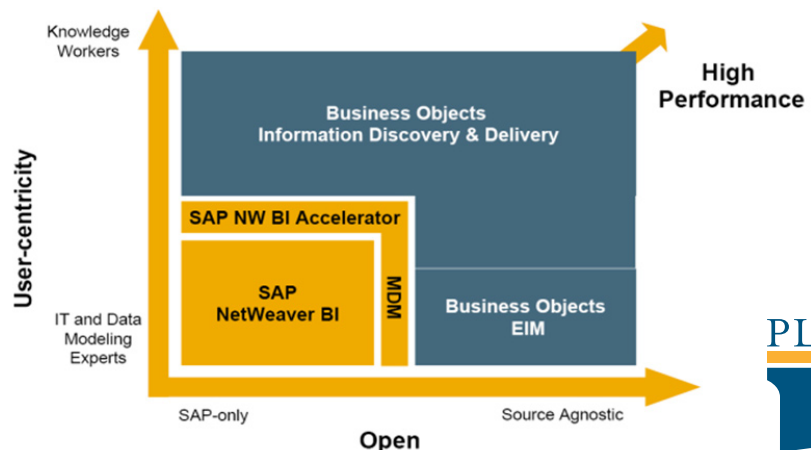
Until now the SAP BI suite has been focused very narrow on the Bex suite. Business Objects is recognized as the leading BI tool and the new XI3 suite introduces a very established front-end into the technology frame of NetWeaver BI. SAP is expected to deliver a more complete product suite to existing SAP NetWeaver BI custo-

mers. Tools such as BOBJ WebI, BOBJ Crystal, BOBJ Xcelcius and the coming SAP Pioneer OLAP client will for sure set new standard on how to do reporting on top of SAP BI.

Integration and ETL wise SAP has over the years introduced several different technologies with the aim of providing a full ETL suite with SAP BI. By integrating Business Objects into the SAP BI suite a new external ETL tool is offered as BOBJ Data Services are able to exchange data not only with the SAP BI suite but also ECC or R/3.

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- Define the right roadmap for using SAP NetWeaver BI and Business Objects
- Increase BI Agility
- Establish the right Architecture
- Integrate SAP and nonSAP data in the BI environment
- Address Master Data Management & Data quality Issues



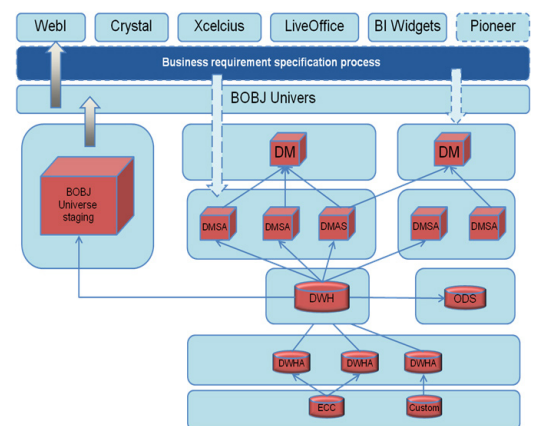
The introduction of Data Services will provide a significant more transparent way of integrating nonSAP data into SAP BI and as such utilized the SAP BI suite to it full extend. As Data Services further more includes a data quality profiling stage it makes sense to introduce Data Services as an external data staging and data quality layer within the SAP BI architecture.

Business Object provides not only the SAP BI platform but the entire SAP portfolio with new concepts and functionality which utilizes one or several parts of the Business Objects enterprise suite. An example is the new SAP data migration framework which introduces BOBJ Data Services, BOBJ Composer, BOBJ Xcelcius and SAP MDM as key components to be used during a SAP data migration projects.

WE BELIEVE that a concept such as SAP data migration framework will serve as a challenger to the traditional ETL tools which are typically used within data migration projects and other dedicated data migration and data quality suites.

NEW TECHNOLOGY OPTIONS REQUIRED NEW PROCESSES

All though that Business Objects brings a lot of new technology and functionality to the existing SAP BI suite at Platon we believe that the primary benefit of introducing this new reporting platform is aimed at a higher degree of flexibility within the various reporting scenarios. One common challenge has been identified in 80% of all the SAP based data warehouse implementation projects which Platon has been involved in – the challenge of aligning the business demand for flexibility and agility within enterprise and ad-hoc reporting with IT resources and knowledge of backend data models and data flow architecture.



With the introduction of the Business Objects reporting suite it is possible to extend this flexibility and agility to the business however to keep conformity and secure a continuous common and well-defined reporting environment we see the need to establish a common framework which business users and IT resources can act within.

Based on Platons experience with both SAP and Business Object we have developed a framework and a best practice data warehouse architecture which aligns IT based data warehouse development with business need for creativity and ongoing changes to reporting needs and requirements.

PLATON OFFERINGS

Platon has been working with Business Objects software for more than 10 years within several projects and combined with a total of more than 50 years of SAP BI experience we are as such familiar with both the strengths and weakness of the Business Objects suite and how it fits into the SAP context.

Based on our general experience with both SAP and Business Objects, Platon are capable of providing all types of consulting services ranging from SAP BI and Business Objects solution implementation assistance to data ware architecture design and methodology coaching. Our SAP/Business Objects consultants are besides being experienced SAP BI implementation consultants skilled within the areas of integrating SAP and Business Objects and are familiar with the common pitfalls in such projects. Furthermore Platon can provide a range of highly skilled and experienced Business Objects implementation consultants with knowledge within all areas of the Business Objects Enterprise suite.