

Business intelligence: More than a dashboard



Nearly every ERP system on the market now also offers a Business Intelligence (BI) module to provide more flexibility and advanced data visualization (graphics). BI is mostly recognized as the source of the executive dashboard that contains graphical displays of major high level measurements like sales, production statistics, inventory level and the like, with alarms and drill-down capabilities.

More than simply arranging data into convenient and attractive formats, however, BI includes analytics as well as data warehouse/data mining capabilities. BI provides the tools that can turn data into knowledge and insight.

Here's how smart businesses can tap into this incredible resource.

How it works

Data in your ERP system is arranged for efficient storage and management, which is not necessarily the best arrangement for reporting and analysis. BI can pull information from across the ERP environment plus other data sources – multiple ERPs, non-integrated auxiliary systems, customer databases – into a data warehouse, a separate storage facility designed to consolidate the data and arrange it specifically for analysis and reporting.

Beyond simple reporting

Business Intelligence goes beyond simple reporting to provide critical measurements, analytical tools, and convenient access to:

- Details behind summarized indicators
- Consolidation of data from multiple sources
- The opportunity to detect emerging issues (for early resolution) and opportunities for excellence

In today's world of Big Data, analytical and data visualization tools are increasingly important to remaining competitive in fast changing markets.

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Combine related data into meaningful metrics

With modern in-memory BI tools like Power BI from Microsoft, the engine behind Acumatica BI, very large amounts of data can be gathered from different systems to be organized and analyzed and explored in combinations not otherwise available. Self-service design allows the user to organize the analysis to fit their specific role and interest, combining related data into meaningful metrics. Each analysis can also include comprehensive range of data types and measures to provide lightning fast and flexible views of Finance, Sales, Purchases, Accounts Payable, Inventory, and Accounts Receivable, for example.

Create your own analysis for a deeper understanding of key data

BI allows the users to create their own dashboards, scorecards, KPIs, and analysis reports to deliver a deeper understanding of key data across the whole organization. The dashboard is merely a graphical display of high-level (consolidated and summarized) information that provides an overview of key performance measures, usually with indicators (red/yellow/green) to call executive's attention to situations that are outside of normal limits. KPIs are key performance indicators – the specific measurements that relate to important aspects of performance for your company. The user can click on the measure in question and see the next level of detail, and the next, and the next (drill-down).

Acumatica BI tools are truly self-service and user-oriented, putting incredible analytical capabilities within easy reach of everyday users – no data scientist or programmer required. Information can be tailored to the role and interests of the individual user for fact-based decision-making.

Acumatica delivers cloud-based business applications for small and medium size companies around the world. From on-line accounting to feature rich ERP, our flexible solutions help you accelerate your business growth. **Learn more at acumatica.com.**

