Business Intelligence in Microsoft Dynamics AX® 2012

Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 provides a flexible pre-built business intelligence (BI) solution for mid-market organizations. The use of built-in content—including Role Centers, analytic reports, and analysis cubes—eliminates the need to build a solution from the ground up, and therefore saves time and money. The Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 business intelligence solution can be configured and extended to suit your specific needs with the help of Microsoft Business Intelligence development tools.
A PRE-BUILT BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE SOLUTION

The Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 business intelligence solution offers a complete set of features for mid-market organizations that use Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 software. The solution consists of the following built-in features:

- **Role Centers (dashboards).** Thirty-two default home pages that pertain to the work needs of various user profiles in an organization.
- **Analysis cubes.** Eleven analysis cubes that address the analytic requirements of the major functional areas within Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012—including finance, supply chain, manufacturing, professional services, and business processes.
- **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).** More than 60 of the most commonly used KPIs that help users evaluate the success of business activities.
- **Analytic reports.** More than 150 analytic reports that provide insight into business data.

The pre-built BI solution can be deployed when you implement Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 in your organization. A new intuitive, wizard-driven interface guides the user through deployment of the solution without requiring the user to have expert business intelligence skills.

By deploying the pre-built business intelligence solution as you implement Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012, your organization can start using BI capabilities as soon as the new business functionality is operational.

EASILY CONFIGURE THE BI SOLUTION FOR YOUR ENVIRONMENT

The BI solution in Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 can be configured to meet your specific installation and business needs by using the new wizard-driven interface.
The Analysis Services Project Wizard enables you to easily perform common configuration tasks such as these:

- Configure the BI solution for a reduced set of Microsoft Dynamics AX licenses and configuration keys. For example, you can remove analysis cube content that is no longer relevant, given your current licenses and configuration.
- Define additional calendars and include them in analysis cubes to enable slicing.
- Apply changes in Microsoft Dynamics AX languages and Microsoft Dynamics AX Dimensions to analysis cubes.

FULLY CUSTOMIZE THE BI SOLUTION
As your business requirements change, you can customize the content of your BI solution by using the model-driven development approach adopted by Microsoft Dynamics AX.

The BI solution is modeled within the Application Object Tree (AOT) and supports Microsoft Dynamics AX development concepts such as layer-based customization, application models, configuration, and cross-referencing. In-house, ISV, or partner developers who are already familiar with previous versions of Microsoft Dynamics AX will be able to undertake most of the customization and/or upgrades, which can help reduce costs to your organization.

The Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 BI solution can be further customized by using Microsoft BI development tools like Business Intelligence Development Studio. As your customization requirements extend beyond the concepts and models available in Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012, you can use BI development studio as your primary customization environment.
READILY EXTEND THE BI SOLUTION
As your requirements grow, you can extend the Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 BI solution by integrating it with BI content from other tools and applications:

- Include analytic content from other applications in predefined Role Centers to enable business users to gain a complete view of the business.
- Enrich analytic reports and analysis cubes with data from third-party applications.
- Implement a robust corporate performance management solution by integrating content with Microsoft PerformancePoint® Server.
- Enable end users to create and share powerful data analytics by using Microsoft PowerPivot for Microsoft Excel®.

In addition, the BI solution can be extended by integrating it with widely available ISV solutions and tools.

INTEGRATE THE BI SOLUTION WITH A DATA WAREHOUSE
Consider setting up a data warehouse if your environment has complex business intelligence and data integration needs that cannot be met with the built-in features found in the Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 BI solution. Components and artifacts of the pre-built business intelligence solution can be leveraged for a data warehouse environment. This strategy reduces the total cost of ownership (TCO) associated with building and maintaining a data warehouse.

BUILT USING MICROSOFT SQL SERVER BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE
The Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 business intelligence solution is built on the industry-leading Microsoft SQL Server® BI platform. The server components used by the business solution include:

- SQL Server Reporting Services
- SQL Server Analysis Services
- Microsoft Office SharePoint Server
- Microsoft Office
SUMMARY

Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 provides a comprehensive business intelligence solution that can be implemented concurrently with Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 software to provide immediate value at a fraction of the cost associated with traditional BI solutions.

Microsoft’s BI solution provides a powerful set of features for organizations that rely on Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 functionality for key business processes. These features include Role Centers, analysis cubes (for finance, supply chain, expenses; CRM, projects, environmental sustainability; and business process analyses), commonly used KPIs, and analytic reports.

The solution can be configured to reflect changes to the Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 environment by using an intuitive, wizard-driven user interface. This capability eliminates the need to hire specialists with extensive BI expertise to implement the most common configuration scenarios.

Built on the industry-leading Microsoft Business Intelligence platform and in the Microsoft Dynamics AX 2012 development environment, the new BI solution can be customized and extended by developers and the partner community to meet your complex business needs.