

Reporting – Why Can't I Get What I Need?

NCOAUG

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Introduction

- Okey Bess, PMP
- Solution Beacon, LLC – Consultancy specializing in Oracle Applications technical and functional services
- 28 years in Information Technology
- Last 13 years in consulting, managing Oracle Application projects
- 8 years, hands-on, implementing Oracle's OLAP products

Types of Reporting

- Basic transactional information from business area
(total expenses, sales, receivables, etc.)
- Information on business operations
(Balance Sheet, P&L, trends, etc.)
- Business analysis
(top products, best locations, etc.)
- What-if analysis
(new product lines, new markets, reorganizations, etc.)

Source of Reporting Information

- Oracle Apps relational database tables
- Pre-defined extracts
- Reformatted / manipulated data

Scope of Reporting Products

- Standard Reports
- Financial Statement Generator (FSG)
- Oracle Reports
- Discoverer
- OLAP (Express, OEO, OEA, OFA, OSA)
- Business Intelligence System (BIS)
- Data Warehousing

Reporting Problems

- ERP system does not provide required data
- Reporting solution does not provide information desired
- Inappropriate reporting products
- ERP system not optimized to reporting solution

Causes of Problems

- Data requirements of ERP system for reporting not determined
- Information requirements not determined before reporting products implemented
- Reporting requirements did not drive selection of reporting products
- Reporting requirements not incorporated into ERP configuration or other source system

Real World Examples



Complex Queries

Company planned on using Discoverer after their ERP implementation for basic and ad-hoc reporting. However, the reporting needs were of such complexity that the execution time of the queries was unacceptably long and, thus, an alternative approach had to be pursued. Since the alternative approach was not considered during the ERP implementation, it was more time consuming and costly to provide the capabilities they needed.

Accounting FF vs. Descriptive FF

A segment is set up in a company's accounting flexfield because of a reporting need. However, it was discovered when Financial Analyzer (OFA) was subsequently implemented that a descriptive flexfield could have been set up and loaded into OFA providing the required information instead of adding the overhead to the accounting flexfield.

Erroneous Hierarchy

After setting up segment hierarchy structures in General Ledger during the ERP implementation, a company discovered during the install of OFA that the hierarchies were not compatible with OFA and were insufficient for the reporting and analysis desired.

Inappropriate Products

A company purchased several Oracle reporting products with Oracle Apps. During their subsequent reporting needs analysis and product implementation, the company determined that other Oracle products would have better satisfied their needs.

Rapid Implementation

Without performing any reporting analysis, a company sets up OFA in a basic, straightforward configuration. They then find that the product will not provide the information they want and cease using it.

Solution to Problems

Plan Ahead

Planning Ahead Involves

- Performing a reporting needs analysis
- Designing a reporting solution with the best products that will satisfy your reporting needs
- Incorporating the requirements of your reporting solution into your Oracle Applications

Start early – *the earlier the better*

Remember that each of the reporting products could have its own unique impact on the design and setup of your Oracle Application modules or even which modules you may need.

Reporting Needs Analysis

- Who, What, When
- Entire organization
(shop floor to executive floor)
- Identify needed data components and their source

Design Reporting Solution

- Based on information needs and business environment
- One product or array of products
- Orchestrated together into a common plan

Product Selection Overview

Which products should I select and why?

Product Selection Overview

■ Standard Reports

- ◆ *Pre-defined*
- ◆ *Packaged with Oracle Apps*
- ◆ *Static*

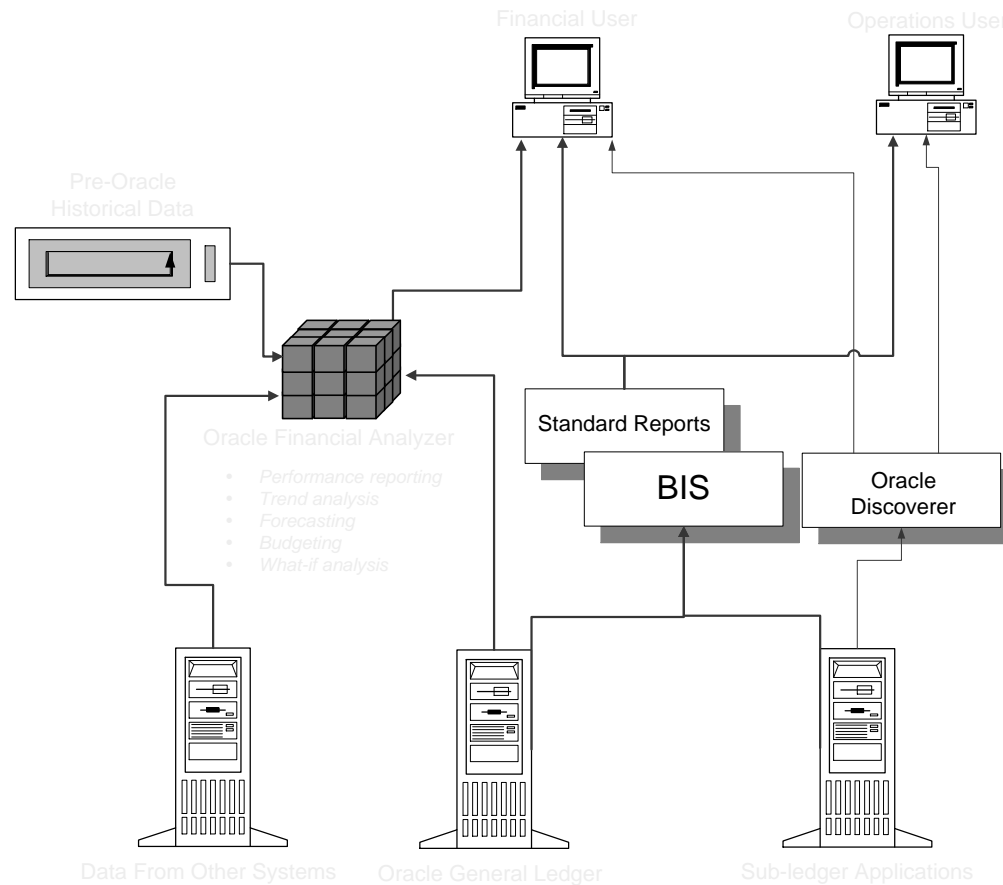
■ Financial Statement Generator (FSG)

- ◆ *Must develop*
- ◆ *Technical knowledge required*
- ◆ *Works from bottom up (summarizes detail)*

■ OLAP (Financial Analyzer)

- ◆ *End User oriented*
- ◆ *Increased data analysis & programming capabilities*
- ◆ *Not real-time*

Design Reporting Solution



Remember.....

if data is not available, no matter which reporting product you select, you cannot generate the information you want.

Incorporate Design into ERP

- Accounting Flexfield
- Descriptive Flexfield
- Cross Validation Rules
- Segment Hierarchies
- Modules Implemented

Late Approach

- Midst of Oracle Applications Implementation
 - ◆ Starting late will still lead to better results than waiting until the end
 - ◆ Late alterations could be difference in data availability

- Post Oracle Apps Implementation
 - ◆ Reporting objectives still possible but could cost more, take longer, and may not be most optimum design

Still need to go through the first two steps

Keys To Success

- Sr. Management and Business Area Support
- Quality Data
- Good Foundation for Growth
- Expending Sufficient Time and Effort
- Reporting as Separate Project

Conclusions

- Getting the most out of your ERP system requires planning
- Plan up front what type of information you need, who needs to see it, and when it needs to be seen
- Determine where and how to get the information you need
- Develop a foundation from which you can continue to satisfy your needs as they change over time

Conclusions

- Reporting should not be an after-thought and is not automatic
- Implementation should not be minimized

You reap what you sow

Q & A

