

Planning for Management Information and Business Intelligence

Recognizing that data and information should be easily accessible, integrated and of acceptable quality, many organization's are questioning whether they get the most out of their investment in data and information? A concern addressed by effective management information and business intelligence.

Common objectives for effective management information and business intelligence across a business are:

- to strongly align with and support key corporate initiatives;
- to improve the flexibility, consistency and accuracy of reporting, analysis and information processing;
- to provide easy access to clear quality data to whomever needs it; and
- to integrate data and information for a single version of the truth.

To achieve these objectives and others, an enterprise minded solution encompassing data, technology, business processes and new roles and responsibilities, is required. The degree and complexity of which varies greatly. More importantly, it is an evolutionary solution that addresses the corporate wide nature of the problem and integrates with the business goals, objectives and initiatives of the organization.

Defining readiness and having a vision and plan in place is the first major step towards achieving the goals of management information and business intelligence.

4 Steps to a Good Start

1. Conduct a Business Information Opportunity Discovery

Investigate and analyze information opportunities as they relate to the data in the organization, people, processes, priorities and vision of the business.

Define opportunities in terms of: related business objective, target users, priority, related functions and opportunities, prerequisites, data readiness, business readiness and technology readiness.

Link data and information needs with business priorities and key corporate objectives and define the readiness of the organization for such an endeavor.



2. Scope and Define High Priority Opportunities

Identify and describe priority opportunities focusing on those that address business needs. Define risks, costs, benefits, success metrics and high level plans for a business case for management information and business intelligence.

The business case sets the foundation for moving forward and sets the success metrics by which the initiative will be measured.



3. Establish a Vision and Strategic Plan

Determine an acceptable scope for the initiative and define a vision and strategies that will set the course for future activities and link the initiative to current and future business objectives and priorities.

Define strategies and objectives to service the short, medium and long term goals for information management and business intelligence. Strategies for: Architecture, Data, Application, Organization, Technology, Processes, Security, Evolution, Change Management, Communication and Migration.



4. Define Project Charters to start the development process

Formulate a road map of projects aligned with business objectives, defined opportunities, and targeted strategies - a road map that is agile and responsive to change.

Charter the mapped projects with 4 to 6 page documents defining project requirements, key scope items, proposed budget, deliverables, stakeholders, constraints, risks and success metrics.

