Business Objects Integration Scenario 2
Xcelsius Dashboard on BI Query

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Abstract

This presentation provides a step by step description how to create an Xcelsius dashboard based on a BI Query (using the SAP NetWeaver BW connection).

Prerequisites

- SAP BusinessObjects Xcelsius Enterprise 2008 SP2
- SAP GUI 7.10 including BI AddOn 7.X patchlevel 901 or higher
- Microsoft Office 2003 or 2007

For Consuming Dashboards
- Flash Player 9 or higher

Server side NetWeaver Platform
- SAP EHP1 for SAP NetWeaver BW 7.01 SP5 Java and ABAP
You want to create an Xcelcius Dashboard based on a BEx Query ...
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Start the Xcelsius Designer...
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In a worksheet mark a range of cells corresponding to the query output. Add some comments for explanation.
Open the Data Manager to add a query connection …
Press „Add“ …

… and choose the connection type „SAP NetWeaver BW Connection“
Within the Definition Tab you can name your connection …

… and ask for the BEx Open Dialog to select a query
Select the BW server and logon to this system.
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Now you can select the query from the open dialog.
The query is taken over by Xcelsius providing all input and output values that can be used for the dashboard design.

Input Values comprise filters and variable values of the query.

Output Values comprise all information that can be retrieved from the query.

Select Cross-Tab Data which refers to the query result …

... and click the „Insert“ Button to assign a corresponding range of worksheet cells.
Assign your previously marked range to the query result.
You can see now that the Cross-Tab Data is linked to your marked worksheet area.
On the Usage Tab set the Refresh option. If you want the connection to be refreshed on Load check „Refresh Before Components Are Loaded“. 

Note that an initially refreshed connection could have assigned input values to be used for further refreshes (or even the initial refresh!). To make sure that such mappings do not overwrite query input values provided by BEx Web for the first refresh, set the flag „Use Default Query Data“. 

Of course there are other refresh options like „Refresh on Trigger“.
Before adding UI components you should select a theme. By doing so UI styles and properties of a dashboard can be controlled in an easy way.
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Select e.g. the Phase Theme.
Start your UI design by dragging a UI component from the Components Folder to the Canvas. In our example we start with a Column Chart object.
In the property box of the UI component you can set the title.

Note, always use a link to a worksheet cell instead of direct text input.

Using a link enables to principally provide multi language support. The multi language property from the BI query is automatically inherited, if the link already points to query result cells.

Pointing to text cells not mapped to query data will require additional work.

How to enable texts for translation will be described a few steps later.
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Actual and Plan Data shall be interpreted as two separate series to be shown in a common chart. Therefore please select „By Series“.

Press the „+“ Button to add the series for the Actuals and Plan Data.
Specify the appropriate links for the series name, the values and labels.

Link e.g. the series name to the „Actuals“ cell to leverage the multi language enabled query text field „Actual Costs“ (coming from the query later on).
Now we want to add Translation Settings for the dashboard specific texts

In the SAP menu choose „Translation Settings …“
In the upcoming dialog enable the support for translation ... 

... and press the „Add“ Button to add cell ranges which shall be translatable.
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1. Specify a name for the range ...

2. ... create a link to the original text cell.

   This Text will be translated via standard translation transaction SE63.

3. You may provide the maximum number of characters either directly in the sheet ...

4. ... or within in the separate dialog (see next slide).
In the „Number of Characters Settings“ dialog, specify the Max Number Of Characters for a text string without using extra cells in the worksheet.

You can provide this maximum number of characters in order to indicate to the translator the maximum space available for translation without disturbing the layout of the dashboard.
Once you have finalized your dashboard design or want to save your intermediate result, save the dashboard to the BW server by choosing „Publish“ from the SAP menu.
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In the Save Dialog

1. Specify a Technical Name and a Description and ...

2. Press “Save” to save the dashboard to the BW server.
The system now generates a SWF file and saves it together with the XLF file as BI content to the BW server.
Within the Xcelsius Designer you can run the dashboard from the SAP menu by pressing the „Launch“ menu item.
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Logon to the portal ...
... and you see your Xcelsius dashboard.

Of course this is a very simple „dashboard“ but these slides should give you only a first impression of how to create a dashboard based on the SAP NetWeaver BW Connection and not some sort of Xcelsius training.