

SAP BusinessObjects Rapid Marts Overview - 1



Applies to:

SAP BusinessObjects XI 3.0, SAP BusinessObjects XI 3.1 all support packs, SAP R/3 4.6 and above, SAP ERP ECC 5.0 and above.

For more information, visit the [BusinessObjects homepage](#).

Summary

This document describes the overview of SAP BusinessObjects Rapid Marts, available Rapid Mart packages, how Rapid Mart packages helps and accelerates in Data Warehouse implementation process

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Author Bio

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Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Data Warehouse	3
Data Warehouse Implementation using SAP BOBJ Products	4
Efforts, Risk and Time	4
SAP BOBJ Rapid Marts	5
Definition	5
Available Rapid Marts	5
Rapid Mart Solutions for SAP ERP	5
Rapid Mart Versions.....	5
Supported Platform	6
Rapid Marts Content	7
Data Warehouse Implementation using SAP BOBJ Rapid Marts	8
Advantages of Using Rapid Marts in DWH Implementation	9
Limitations	9
Disclaimer and Liability Notice.....	10

Introduction

This article discusses SAP BusinessObjects Rapid Marts, how it helps Data Warehouse implementation, and available solutions for different ERPs. It is prepared based on my experience with business users and functional people, especially with SAP experts, who are new to BusinessObjects products, facing problem or difficulty in understanding BusinessObjects architecture on top of SAP, products and functionality of Rapid Marts.

The following concepts are discussed to make clear understanding of SAP BOBJ Rapid Marts:

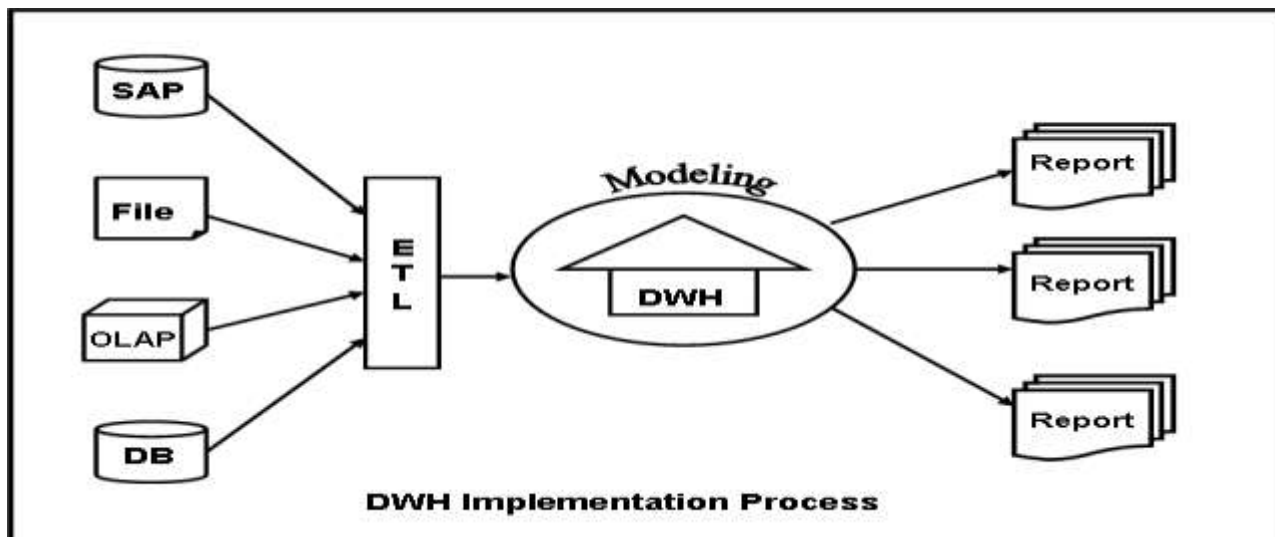
- Data Warehouse
- Data Warehouse Implementation using SAP BOBJ products
- Efforts, Risk and Time
- SAP BOBJ Rapid Marts and Architecture
- Available Rapid Marts solution for different ERPs
- Data Warehouse Implementation using SAP BOBJ Rapid Marts
- Advantages with SAP BOBJ Rapid Marts
- Limitations

Data Warehouse

A data warehouse (DWH) is a centralized reporting system, which integrates all legacy systems in enterprise, helps decision makers to make right decision at right time. The following are the functions of DWH:

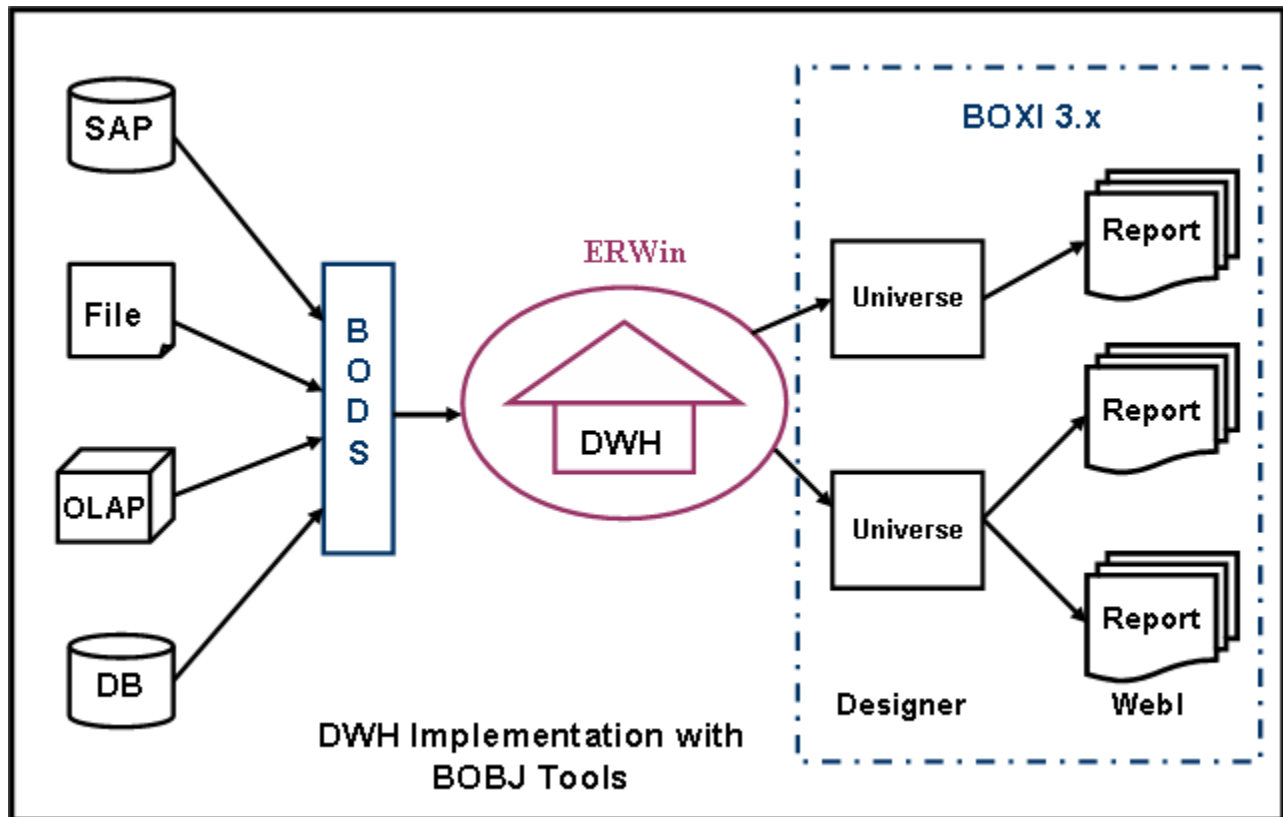
- **Modeling** (designing a warehouse i.e. database)
- **ETL** (Extract data from different legacy systems, Transform into structured format and Load into warehouse)
- **Reporting** (develop reports as per users need)

Designing a warehouse, extracting data from all legacy systems, transforming into target database format and loading into warehouse, to make the system ready for reporting is the implementation of DWH.



Data Warehouse Implementation using SAP BOBJ Products

In the above picture, it shows the general functional architecture of Data Warehouse. To implement the solution, the following are the Data Warehouse tools from SAP BusinessObjects (showed in below picture). SAP BusinessObjects providing ETL tool i.e. Data Services (BODS) and Reporting Tools i.e. BusinessObjects Enterprise XI 3.x (BOE). From SAP BusinessObjects, modeling tool is not available. Here I am talking about ERWin as data modeling tool.



Efforts, Risk and Time

The above picture shows the list of tools from SAP BusinessObjects and other tools used in implementing a complete Data Warehouse solution. For the complete Data Warehouse solution implementation, the following are the areas where the effort and risk are involved.

Data Modeling – Before loading data from different legacy systems into Data Warehouse, the warehouse must be designed to the enterprise reporting requirements. Designing data model using the modeling tool (i.e. ERWin) involves risk and efforts, need data model architects.

ETL – To extract data from different legacy systems in enterprise, transform and load into data warehouse, an ETL project to be designed using ETL tool (i.e., Data Services) involves risk and efforts.

Reporting – Once data model and data load is done, reports are to be developed as per business user's requirement using reporting tool (i.e., BOE). Developing reports in BOE, involves efforts and risk in two areas i.e. schema designing on top of data model and reports development.

Time – To implement End-to-End Data Warehouse solution using SAP BOBJ products, the total time is calculated based on the risks and efforts involved in all above areas. For example,

$$\text{DWH Implementation Time} = t(\text{Data Modeling}) + t(\text{ETL}) + t(\text{Schema Design}) + t(\text{Reports})$$

SAP BOBJ Rapid Marts

Definition

- Prepackaged and flexible Data Mart solution (Readymade solution) on ERPs
- All Rapid Marts are ERP specific and Application specific
- Can be implemented in weeks instead of months and quarters
- Accelerates Data Warehouse implementation process with low cost
- Not required expertes on Business Analysis, Data Modeling, SAP R/3, ABAP/4, Data Warehouse

Available Rapid Marts

SAP BusinessObjects Rapid Marts solutions are available for the following ERPs:

- SAP
- Oracle Applications
- PeopleSoft
- Siebel

Rapid Mart Solutions for SAP ERP

The following are the different SAP BOBJ Rapid Mart solutions for SAP ERP:

- SAP Sales Rapid Mart
- SAP Purchasing Rapid Mart
- SAP Inventory Rapid Mart
- SAP Production Planning Rapid Mart
- SAP Plant Maintenance Rapid Mart
- SAP Project Systems Rapid Mart
- SAP Accounts Receivables Rapid Mart
- SAP Accounts Payable Rapid Mart
- SAP Cost Centre Rapid Mart
- SAP G/L Rapid Mart (*available from XI 3.2 version)
- SAP Human Resource Rapid Mart

Rapid Mart Versions

All Rapid Mart packages are available in the following version

- SAP BOBJ Rapid Marts XI R2 Version
- SAP BOBJ Rapid Marts XI 3.0 Version
- SAP BOBJ Rapid Marts XI 3.2 Version

Supported Platform

The supported platforms for different version of Rapid Marts are as follows

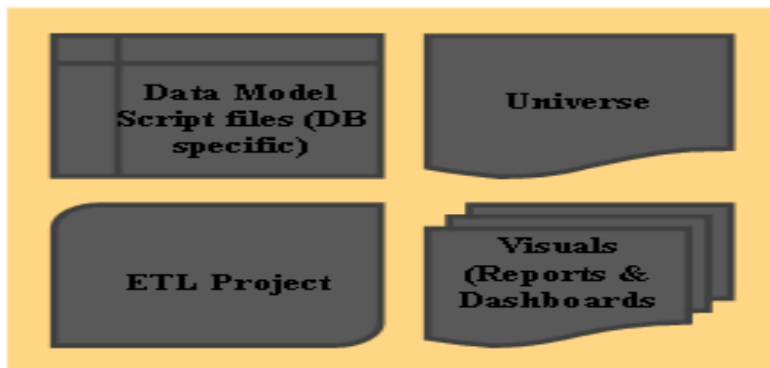
Functions	Software	SAP RM XI R2	SAP RM XI 3.0	SAP RM XI 3.2
ETL	Data Integrator (BODI)	Data Integrator XI Release 2 Accelerated (version 11.7)	Data Integrator XI Release 2 Accelerated (version 11.7)	Not Supported
	Data Services (BODS)	BusinessObjects Data Services XI 3.0 (version 12)	BusinessObjects Data Services XI 3.0 (version 12)	SAP BusinessObjects Data Services XI 3.2 SP1 (version 12.2.1.0) or above compatible versions
Data Source	SAP R/3 / SAP ERP	SAP R/3 3.1i, 4.6 or 4.7 or SAP ERP ECC 5.0 or ECC 6.0	SAP R/3 3.1i, 4.6 or 4.7 or SAP ERP ECC 5.0 or ECC 6.0	SAP R/3 (4.6 or 4.7) or SAP ERP ECC (5.0 or 6.0)
Reporting	BusinessObjects Enterprise (BOE)	XI R2 SP2 / XI R2 SP3 / XI 3.0	XI R2 SP2 / XI R2 SP3 / XI 3.0	XI R2 SP4 / XI R2 SP5 / XI 3.0 / XI 3.1 / XI 3.1 SP2
Target Database	Oracle	8.1.7 / 9.2 / 10g R1 (10.1) / 10g R2 (10.2) / 11g	8.1.7 / 9.2 / 10g R1 (10.1) / 10g R2 (10.2) / 11g	9.2 / 10g R1 (10.1) / 10g R2 (10.2) / 11g
	MS SQL Server	2000 SP4 / 2005 2005 SP1 2005 SP2	2000 SP4 / 2005 2005 SP1 2005 SP2	2005 2005 SP1 2005 SP2 2008
	IBM DB2/UDB	8.1 / 8.2 /	8.1 / 8.2 /	8.2 / 9.1 /

		9.1	9.1	9.5
	Teradata	Not supported	Not supported	12.0
Limitations		No Master data schema No Master data reports No Meta data management tool – RMWord Utility No sample Xcelsius Dashboards	No Master data schema No Master data reports No Meta data management tool – RMWord Utility No sample Xcelsius Dashboards	Readymade Master data schema Sample Master data reports RM World utility, meta data management tool Readymade sample Xcelsius Dashboards
Operating System	Minimum supported operating system			
Hardware	Minimum hardware			

Rapid Marts Content

The following readymade content are delivered along with Rapid Mart packages

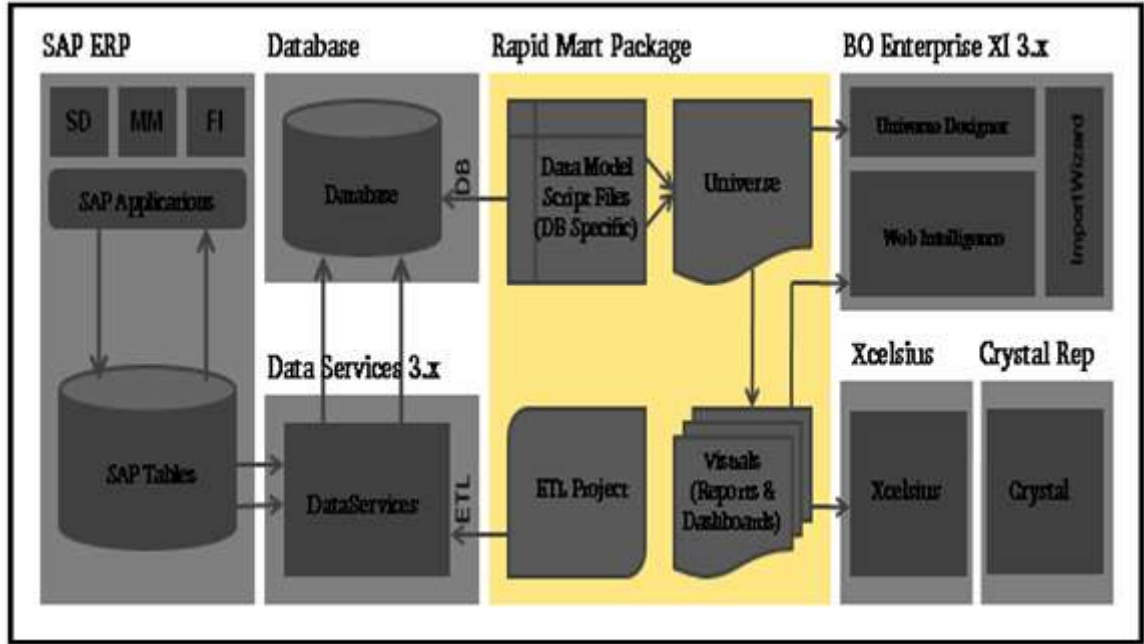
- Data Model
- DDL for Schema creation
- Recommended Joins and Indexes
- ETL workflows for initial and incremental data
- Job Recovery framework
- Sample Universes, SQL and Reports
- Technical and Business Analysis Documentation



Data Warehouse Implementation using SAP BOBJ Rapid Marts

In general, Data Warehouse implementation using process SAP BOBJ products, the total time is depend on time involved in putting efforts and risks in each function of a Data Warehouse i.e. data modeling, ETL design, Schema designing and reports development.

By using SAP BOBJ Rapid Marts in Data Warehouse implementation process using SAP BOBJ products, we can reduce the implementation time and accelerates the implementation process. The following picture shows the position of SAP BOBJ Rapid Marts in Data Warehouse implementation process and how it accelerates the implementation process.



Advantages of Using Rapid Marts in DWH Implementation

SAP BOBJ Rapid Mart packages come with readymade business content, which minimizes the sources system analysis time and development activities. There is no need to have data model design experts. There is up to an 80% reduction in time and resources in DWH implementation. The following are the areas where the efforts and risks are minimized.

Data Model – Rapid Marts provides readymade DLL files, by which we can create target data model by simply executing the DLL files on database. Only custom tables in source, to be create and maintain relationship manually in target database.

ETL – Rapid Marts provides a readymade ETL project by importing the project into Data Services, a job with all the workflows are created automatically, then immediately start extracting data. Only for custom tables in source, the logic must be developed in a Data Services ETL project.

Schema and Reports – Rapid Marts provides readymade schema and sample reports and dashboards. Deploy the objects using import wizard into BOXI server, maintain the connection and refresh the reports to see the updated data in reports.

Time – The total time in this process (DWH implementation using SAP BOBJ Rapid Marts) depends on deploying the Rapid Mart readymade content. You can use the robotic Universe to develop multiple numbers of custom reports as per business users. The standard Rapid Mart content almost supports 80 - 85% of business requirements, and it supports enhancement of the standard content to adopt the custom requirements.

$$\text{DWH Implementation Time} = t(\text{Deployment of Rapid Mart Content}) + t(\text{Customization})$$

Limitations

- No industry-specific Rapid Marts are available.
- No readymade Dashboards are available (except Sales Rapid Mart for SAP ERP).

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