SUPERCHARGE YOUR BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE WITH SAP NetWeaver® BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE ACCELERATOR

To make the right decisions at the right times, you must quickly sort through an increasing volume of information while maintaining rapid response times. SAP NetWeaver® Business Intelligence Accelerator software delivers enhanced business intelligence functionality while connecting to your system landscape without extensive customization, development, or integration. Scalable, easy to use, and developed with Intel Corp. – an SAP technology partner – the accelerator helps you speed query executions and data loading as you maximize the returns on your investments.

Making timely business decisions has never been easy, but the increasing volume of available information makes it more difficult than ever. As a business manager, you face several challenges:

- You want to base your decisions on the full range of information available, but that range is growing exponentially as computer systems become more powerful.
- You rely on increasingly sophisticated analytical tools, which increase the challenge of maintaining adequate response times.
- You are moving toward a service-oriented architecture (SOA) with a flexible information infrastructure – a major benefit, but one that results in less predictable user queries and report requests.

All these challenges drive organizations to improve the performance of their business intelligence (BI) systems.

Business Analytics Challenges

Not that long ago, knowledge workers had to request analytical reports from their IT departments and wait for days and even weeks to receive them. Today, users typically generate their own reports, use their dashboards, and control processes embedded into business applications from their desktops through standard Web browsers, enterprise portals, or office applications such as Microsoft Excel.

The support burden rests with your IT department, which must manage today's desktop analytics as well as new information, users, and query techniques. The volume of data that businesses generate grows by an estimated 50% annually while the number of BI users increases by an estimated 100% per year. The sophistication of BI technology is also on the rise, with many users able – and expecting – to perform contextual, ad hoc analysis.

In an ideal world, your IT team would support change rather than act as a bottleneck. It would deliver these functions while enabling self-service capabilities and using rapid-prototyping approaches to test newer generations of tools and applications.

But in the real world, IT managers must deal with two conflicting demands. They must provide users with advanced BI tools to maximize adoption while keeping costs within budget. These demands, combined with a growing number of users and an expanding volume of data, present serious challenges.

The Solution: SAP NetWeaver® Business Intelligence Accelerator

To meet these challenges, the SAP NetWeaver® platform offers SAP NetWeaver Business Intelligence Accelerator (SAP NetWeaver BI Accelerator) software, developed in conjunction with Intel Corp., an SAP technology partner. This process-embedded software combines high-performance technology from SAP NetWeaver and an advanced hardware design from Intel to boost the performance of your analytical services and applications. It also reduces IT support time by performing on-the-fly data aggregation and eliminating the need for query tuning. And it significantly shortens load times by eliminating adjustments (or change runs) to data aggregates.

The software delivers SAP NetWeaver–based accelerator functionality within standard, 64-bit, Intel blade servers. To activate the accelerator, plug the combined hardware/software appliance into your existing SAP NetWeaver Business Intelligence component infrastructure and determine which SAP NetWeaver information cubes to supercharge. SAP NetWeaver BI is available on dedicated hardware platforms (see sidebar).

Intel collaborated with SAP in the development of the BI accelerator by using advanced Intel software and hardware technology optimizations to maximize performance and scalability in solutions based on enterprise services architecture on innovative 64-bit Intel platforms. Intel offers a broad range of open and flexible platforms with leading performance, security, manageability, and reliability features. It also hosts the industry's largest ecosystem of platform providers. Currently, more than 74% of new SAP® installations are deployed on Intel platforms.

SAP NetWeaver BI Accelerator indexes the information cubes to create a highly compressed index structure that loads into memory whenever users request the data. The accelerator uses high-performance aggregation techniques to process queries entirely in memory. It then delivers the results to the SAP NetWeaver BI analytic engine for output to users. Its advanced architecture enables the accelerator to enhance the performance of your analytical services and applications in two ways:

- It eliminates the need to preaggregate data for storage in the information cubes because aggregation occurs when users execute queries.
- It lets users browse detailed SAP NetWeaver information cube data — based on their own business and time requirements — without having to wait for IT departments to fine-tune back-end databases.

Enterprise-Wide Benefits

IT departments and business units obtain significant advantages with SAP NetWeaver BI Accelerator.

IT Benefits

The accelerator helps reduce operational overhead, preserve capital investment, and minimize implementation costs. It helps reduce overhead substantially by eliminating the need for performance tuning, enabling faster prototyping of new BI tools and analytic applications, and minimizing the volume of calls to IT departments because users no longer experience slow responses to their queries.

SAP NetWeaver BI Accelerator helps preserve capital investment by fully complementing your existing hardware and software. In addition, it helps reduce load times by eliminating change runs, while its simple installation helps keep implementation costs low. The accelerator also permits linear scaling to accommodate more users, data, and BI tools, so you can add new groups of users at relatively low costs.

Business Unit Benefits

Line-of-business managers gain advantages as well. The software speeds user queries significantly while providing users access to full historical data. It gives users greater flexibility in the types and depths of their queries, which encourages creativity as users analyze business problems. It also hastens user adoption of BI functions, which accelerates deployment of an enterprise SOA.

Users and managers in all industry segments — including retail, telecommunications, utilities, manufacturing, and public services — can gain substantial enhancements with SAP NetWeaver BI Accelerator. The following are examples of how the software can benefit just two of those industries:

SAP NetWeaver® Business Intelligence Accelerator software runs on selected hardware platforms:

- **IBM BladeCenter and IBM TotalStorage**
- **HP BladeSystem and HP StorageWorks**

These Linux-based systems employ high-performance, 64-bit Intel processors and modular blade technology. Self-configuration and self-management functionality make upgrading easy. Linear scalability of the accelerator means you can expand in economical increments as your processing needs increase.

- Retail chains — SAP NetWeaver BI Accelerator helps managers and executives navigate into all management areas — including drilling down to individual point-of-sales transactions — to monitor real-time key performance indicators (KPIs). The software lets them maintain real-time updates of KPIs at the same time.
- Utilities — The accelerator helps utilities compare individual meter readings with actual user-consumption data to determine anomalies and take quick correction action.

SAP NetWeaver BI Accelerator offers the following overall benefits as well:
- Off-the-shelf hardware, easy installation, and reduced administration requirements result in lower total cost of ownership.
- On-the-fly data aggregation eliminates the need for query tuning and helps users create their own queries without requiring technical assistance.
- Data-partitioning and other techniques help you optimize the use of scalable hardware.

- Performance benefits include an average 10-times to 100-times speed increase in ad hoc analysis and as much as 80% faster load times.
- Accelerated and increased user adoption of BI and analytical functions yield maximum returns on investment, while better, timelier insights and decisions result in productivity gains.

Find Out More

If you would like to know more about SAP NetWeaver Business Intelligence Accelerator – and learn what it can do for your company – visit www.sdn.sap.com.

Powered by SAP NetWeaver

SAP NetWeaver BI Accelerator is powered by the SAP NetWeaver platform. SAP NetWeaver unifies technology components into a single platform, allowing organizations to reduce IT complexity and obtain more business value from their IT investments. It provides the best way to integrate all systems running SAP® or non-SAP software.

SAP NetWeaver also helps organizations align IT with their business. With SAP NetWeaver, organizations can compose and enhance business applications rapidly using enterprise services. As the foundation for enterprise service-oriented architecture (enterprise SOA), SAP NetWeaver allows organizations to evolve their current IT landscapes into a strategic environment that drives business change.