SAP BW/4HANA, SAP HANA 2.0 & SAP BI 4.2 SP3
New SAP BI Features & Capabilities

SAP recently released an all new version of SAP BW called BW/4HANA, SAP HANA 2.0 and SAP BO 4.2 SP3. Below is a list of noteworthy features & capabilities:

a) SAP BW/4HANA: SAP BW/4HANA is the all new version of SAP BW data warehouse software specifically designed to run on SAP HANA database. One of the key aspects of SAP BW/4HANA is that it is not anymore dependent on the SAP Netweaver stack. This will enable a quicker upgrade process and have fewer data integration dependencies with SAP ECC flavors (S/4HANA, Enterprise / ECC on HANA, ECC on 3rd party databases such as DB2/Oracle, etc..). BW/4HANA has enhanced support for IBP (integrated business planning) for financial planning and business consolidations. The SAP BW 7.5 version will continue to exist as a separate data warehouse solution for customer running SAP BW on non-SAP HANA databases.

b) Types of Info Providers in BW/4HANA: SAP has consolidated the list of SAP BW Info Providers available in the earlier versions of SAP BW data warehouse application in BW/4HANA version. There are only 4 types of Info Providers available in BW/4HANA: 1 – Info Object , 2 – Advanced DSO (combines features of Info Cube, Standard DSO, PSA and Hybrid Provider), 3 – Open ODS View (combines features of Virtual Provider and Transient Provider) 4 – Composite Provider (combines features of InfoSet and MultiProvider).

c) Enhanced Advanced DSO with Multi-Temperature (Hot / Warm / Cold) & Dynamic Tiering Data Management: In BW/4HANA, you can configure and model Advanced DSO's with extended tables using SAP HANA Dynamic Tiering based on Advanced DSO table partitions. Using this feature, you can dynamically switch data from Hot to warm or cold mode as needed at the table data partition level. This feature will enable efficient use of SAP HANA in-memory use. The SAP HANA push-down processing is now fully supported **by default** for Multi-temperature data management, SAP BW OLAP reporting operations, and planning based functions for write optimization. Customization to change default push-down processing behavior is also available.

d) Front-end Tools: The preferred front-end reporting tools for BW/4HANA are: SAP BusinessObjects Analysis (aka OLAP for Web), SAP BusinessObjects Design Studio, SAP BusinessObjects Cloud. Other reporting tools such as SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence and SAP Dashboards are also supported.

e) New Developer & Admin Interfaces: In the BW/4HANA system the developers will model using the Java Eclipse Studio and the all new UI5 administration console which has enhanced with context assist features. The Java Eclipse Studio enables data modelling using the all new Graphical Data Flow interface. The all new Java Eclipse based Bex query designer now fully supports existing Bex queries built in previous version of SAP BW. The Bex query designer provides a more intuitive editor with context sensitive help to configure CKFs, RKFs, query structures, etc.. The new Bex query designer also supports Bex query user exit variables with AMDP (ABAP Managed Database Procedures) support to enable the best possible performance using push-down processing.

What's New In SAP HANA 2.0

1 – New Hierarchy Functions: From HANA 2.0, a new HANA SQL interface is available to create, maintain and expose Hierarchies to external reporting and other 3rd party external applications.

2 - SAP Enterprise Architecture Designer Tool : A new EA (aka Enterprise Architecture) designer tool is provided with advanced strategy modelling (incl. Business Process modelling, Process maps, etc,).

3 – Other Cool Stuff: a – Enhanced Web IDE with new HTML5 Editor ,
b – All new Problem View tool, c - User Defined Schema Names, and more…

What's New: BI-Webi 4.2 SP3

a – Enhanced HTML Mode: The HTML mode for Webi now supports several Java mode features such as: change data source , setup of excel data source, conditional formatting, etc. thereby reducing dependencies to Java Applet mode for Webi.

b - Parallel Execution for SAP BW BEx Queries: BW Bex Query parallel execution is now supported. Requires a one-time connection migration from BICS access to Universe access

c – Two Direct Access Connections to SAP HANA Views: 1 - SAP HANA Connection (preferred mode to exploit SAP HANA push-down processing) mode and 2 - SAP HANA Online mode to leverage on Webi cube capabilities. And more…

Rama Shankar
SAP CERTIFIED BI CONSULTANT