SAP BI 4 (SAP Business Objects 4): What's New?

Upgrade Now or Snooze!! – PART 1

Architectural changes:

–
 a) 24 BOE services consolidated into 2 services (WAR files):
  One service for all BOBJ services and one service for web services. This enables easy troubleshooting and maintenance for administrators
 b) Enhanced Content Search: new open search API that can interface with external search engines such as google, yahoo, etc.
 c) Workflow based alerting services based on subscription model (power user driven)
 d) Enhanced system usage tracking, auditing and out of the box reporting for usage data
 e) Upgrade Tool: Out of the box upgrade tool to upgrade from BOE 6.x / 2.x to BOE 40 and BOE XI 3.x to BOE 40 directly
 f) Native 64 bit Microsoft Share Point Portal Integration: full support to backend and front-end integration (MS bread crump's support and look feel inheritance from MS portal)

UPGRADE NOW OR SNOOZE !!

Below are the key driving factors to explore in detail which will assist you in making a decision as to whether or not to upgrade to BOE XI 40 now:

1 – **Wait for SAP Advanced Analytics (aka Pioneer / All new version of BEx, WAD and Voyager) to mature, SAP BW 7.3 & BI 4.1?**
2 - Corporate Strategy for ERQA (Enterprise Reporting Query and Analytics)?
3 – Existing Landscape in Context to BOE Versions (6.x / 2x / XI 3.x) with or without SAP ECC and BW?
4 – Current landscape pain points (performance issues, lack of user satisfaction with existing report interface and dashboards) with or without BOE?
5 - Budget available for the project (Big Bang vs. Phased Implementation)?

A FEW STEPS FORWARD IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION: ADVANCED ANALYTICS (aka Pioneer), ENHANCED INTERGRATION WITH SAP AND NON-SAP ENVIRONMENTS. BETTER REPORT USER, DEVELOPER AND ADMINTRATOR EVIRONMENT.

Key Enhancements by Tool:

1 – Product Branding: SAP BOBJ now called as BI 4 with the all new BI Launch Pad (formerly known as BO Info View Portal):

 a) fully customizable look and feel (aka portal branding) triggered by roles and/or group profiles dynamically

 b) customizable http://URL by application – can have custom URL for server

 c) recent report list by user profile (customizable)

2 – Crystal Reports 2011:
 a) enhanced IDE (integrated development environment) for developers
 b) improved BW connectivity with better support for hierarchies, crosstab reporting and analysis view (helps simulate adhoc reporting within crystal) using crystal open access API

2 – Crystal Reports 2011 (Continued):
 c) full support for SAP BW **Pioneer queries** and objects (both web and office versions)
 d) re-usable templates for creating rapid reports
 e) out of the box reports (aka content) with prebuilt reports ready to configure and use
 f) full support to web services using web services API
 g) full support to high volume publishing for non-SAP and SAP environment
 h) enhanced group data wizard with out of the box grouping proposal
 i) enhanced integration with SAP BOBJ universes in addition to using SAP BOBJ Live Office
 j) new translation manager for multi-lingual reports

Advanced Analytics in Part 2..

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