SAP BW Version 7.3 – Why Upgrade?

BW 7.3 SUPERCHARGED FOR BETTER PERFORMANCE WITH NEW FEATURES!

SAP BW 7.3- WHAT'S NEW:

1) SAP HANA database & TERADATA database ready

2) Graphical data flow modeling for rapid modeling

3) 3.x Data flow migration wizard

4) Hybrid multi-provider for real-time ETL modeling

5) Semantic Partitioning of DSO in addition to cubes with auto DTP transformation & process chain generation

6) DSO partitioning by time characteristics

7) Better relational database integration with enhanced ODBO (java based) and DB connect connection services

8) Admin Cockpit integrated into SAP Solution Manager

9) Enhanced developer experience with almost no exceptions (once in a while needing developers to reload RSA1) and more..

10) New features & enhanced performance for BWA 7.2 & BO Data Services 4.0 and more…

WHAT'S IN PIPELINE FOR SAP BW 7.3:

1) Business Intelligence 4.0 Feature Pack 3 !

2) SAP BI 4.1 (formerly known as BOBJ) – with direct connectivity options that will not need an SAP BI OLAP universe to connect SAP BI tools to BEx queries

3) New BI 4.1 features that rely on SAP BW BEx – is BEx ever going to be retired !

A CLOSE LOOK AT SAP BW 7.3 PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENTS:
SAP started offering BW 7.3 as a GA release in 3rd quarter of 2011. Based on recent upgrade experience, key performance improvements, new features and upgrade recommendations are outlined below:

A – ETL Performance Improvements / Alternatives to Custom BW-ABAP

1) New Read from DSO rule type (no need for manual ABAP code using start routines unless you have a special need) with built-in package fetch for transformation results in improved performance

2) Master data attribute lookup rule type with built-in package fetch (no more manual ABAP coding for start routines!) for transformations

3) DSO activation now uses package fetch vs. record fetch, DSO – unique data records only option improves performance for unique data record DSO

4) Open Hub – now supports extraction of SAP BW hierarchies to flat-files

5) Alternative Info Cube update using mass data processing for SIDs and DIMIDs handy for accelerated initial loads with large data volumes

B – PREPARING FOR SAP BW 7.3 UPGRADE:

1) Inventory List: a - Make a list of all 3.x update rules to migrate to 7.x transformation leveraging on section A options to get better performance. Remember, all (including SAP business content master data and transaction info providers) continued above…

PREPARING FOR SAP BW 7.3 UPGRADE (continued..):
3.x data flows have to be migrated to BW 7.3 transformation to get the best performance in BW 7.x system, b – Create a list of all custom SAP ABAP programs (start routines and/or transformation code) that can be migrated to SAP BW standard transformation rules, etc. (only if you have time and internal ABAP expertise) 2 – Collect Stats (use BW statistics reports if activated): Benchmark existing long-running jobs and/or reports in production prior to upgrade, 3 – Assess Hardware & DB Upgrade Options: a – Upgrade hardware – better server with more CPU and memory, b – Assess moving your hardware to SAP HANA hardware (appliance) and SAP HANA database (remember, if doing so – this will be a two stepped process 1) upgrade to BW 7.3 in existing hardware and database, test and then 2) move the upgraded system to SAP HANA appliance (hardware) and database, 4 – Staff Augment - hire the right staff if you are not internally staffed / skilled to complete the BW 7.3 upgrade, test and go-live. Depending on the complexity & size of the SAP BW instance an upgrade project can take anywhere from 2 weeks to several months to upgrade from sandbox, dev, test to production environment.

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Rama Shankar is an SAP BI/BW, SAP BOBJ (incl. BO Explorer), SAP HANA solutions consultant with extensive experience with SAP ECC (incl. several years of experience with SAP BW, BOBJ and Portal) full lifecycle implementations. Rama's recent experience includes upgrading existing SAP BW system to SAP BW 7.3. Rama has worked on several end-to-end implementations of SAP BOBJ for SAP BW (incl. v7.3), SAP R/3, SAP HANA , MS BI and Oracle DB environments in the utilities, retail, pharma, state agencies and beverages industries.

CHECKOUT OTHER WRITE-UPS ON SAP BW, SAP BI (aka BOBJ) & SAP HANA.