

Business Intelligence/Analytics and Reporting

Case Study: Migrating away from Oracle Discoverer

Industry: Higher Education

Client: Messiah College

Messiah College had been using Oracle Discoverer as their reporting solution on top of their implementation of Ellucian's Banner application platform. Messiah found that they needed to bring in additional disparate data to be joined to the Banner ODS, as the Banner's provided ODS did not include all the information that was needed from its transactional tables. As a result, hundreds of extra tables were added with Discoverer and multiple join strategies were defined between the tables.

Since Oracle is no longer developing Discoverer, it was determined that Messiah needed to transition to a new reporting tool, and Cognos was chosen as the replacement.

The Problem: The Cognos project was stalled due to issues with recreating the multiple join strategies needed for the additional tables that had been required in their customized deployment of Discoverer.



The Solution: BI Solutions, after reviewing Messiah's reporting needs and the Ellucian provided Cognos metadata layer, determined a path to complete the Cognos migration.

In collaboration with Messiah's Information Technology staff, BI Solutions added the new tables to the ODS database instance in a separate schema. After analyzing Messiah's multiple join strategies and information needs, BI Solutions extended the Ellucian provided metadata layer to allow querying across Banner ODS data and Custom data. In many instances, BI Solutions simplified the reporting process for Messiah by taking multiple reports that were run in Discoverer, then merged in Excel, and turned them into a single Cognos report.

Messiah also needed authors to have the ability to leverage multiple Ellucian provided reporting areas, so BI Solutions modified the metadata model to allow reporting across the needed areas.

BI Solutions' approach to customized user training, specifically their ability to explain how Cognos is used in unique reporting requirements, was instrumental in successful user acceptance.

"BI Solutions brought knowledge and expertise that was invaluable to our successful transition to Cognos as our reporting tool."

John Luft
Dir. of Information Services, Messiah College

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