

IBM Cognos Business Intelligence
Version 10.2.0

New Features



Note

Before using this information and the product it supports, read the information in "Notices" on page 13.

Product Information

This document applies to IBM Cognos Business Intelligence Version 10.2.0 and may also apply to subsequent releases. To check for newer versions of this document, visit the IBM Cognos Information Centers (<http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/cogic/v1r0m0/index.jsp>).

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Introduction

IBM® Cognos® Business Intelligence enables companies to outperform by giving business users the freedom they need to make smarter decisions.

This release also offers platform enhancements that help IT deliver enterprise-scale analytics.

This document provides an organized view of the new features of IBM Cognos Business Intelligence. For more information about new and changed features, see the specific product documents such as installation guides and user guides.

Audience

This guide is for information technology administrators, data modelers, report authors, and users of IBM Cognos Business Intelligence. To use this guide effectively, you should be familiar with one or more of the following items, depending on your role in your organization:

- IBM Cognos Business Intelligence and its components
- The existing server environment and security infrastructure in your organization
- The business requirements of your company
- The business intelligence environment of your company
- Database and data warehouse concepts
- Security concepts

Finding information

To find IBM Cognos product documentation on the web, including all translated documentation, access one of the IBM Cognos Information Centers (<http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/cogic/v1r0m0/index.jsp>). Release Notes are published directly to Information Centers, and include links to the latest technotes and APARs.

You can also read PDF versions of the product release notes and installation guides directly from IBM Cognos product disks.

Accessibility Features

Accessibility features help users who have a physical disability, such as restricted mobility or limited vision, to use information technology products. This product has accessibility features.

Forward-looking statements

This documentation describes the current functionality of the product. References to items that are not currently available may be included. No implication of any future availability should be inferred. Any such references are not a commitment, promise, or legal obligation to deliver any material, code, or functionality. The development, release, and timing of features or functionality remain at the sole discretion of IBM.

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Chapter 1. Analytics that everyone can use to answer key business questions

Organizations need to make the most of a workforce that is increasingly driven to multi-task, network, and collaborate. IBM Cognos Business Intelligence delivers analytics that everyone can use to answer key business questions.

Easily view, assemble, and personalize information

Business users often do not know how to access the information that they need, and the available tools might not provide the freedom to combine and explore information in the way they want. IBM Cognos Business Intelligence provides features that allow business users to easily view, assemble, and personalize information to follow a train of thought and generate a unique perspective. Using a single place to quickly see a view of their business, users can quickly personalize content, build on the insights of others, and incorporate data from various sources. These capabilities ensure that more people are engaged in providing unique insights and delivering faster business decisions. Giving business users greater self-service control reduces demands on IT and business intelligence systems.

Explore all types of information

If a separate tool is required, it is difficult to incorporate statistical results with core business reporting. IBM Cognos BI allows business users to consume fact-based statistical evidence to support key decisions directly in the IBM Cognos BI environment. The ability to explore all types of information from all angles to assess the current business situation provides a deeper understanding of the patterns that exist in data. This allows business users to quickly deliver reports that include statistical insight and validation, and distribute these reports to the larger business community.

Analyze facts and anticipate strategic implications

Business users need tools that let them accurately evaluate and identify the impact that different scenarios will have on the business and on the bottom line. IBM Cognos BI allows the business user to analyze facts and anticipate strategic implications by simply shifting from viewing data to performing more advanced predictive or what-if analysis. Understanding the scenarios that affect business enables the business user to make informed recommendations to the business and provides an increased competitive advantage.

IBM Cognos product family

The IBM Cognos 10 family of products are right-sized for your organization and integrated together. Whether you want to deploy on a desktop, a single server, a server farm, or all three, IBM has the solution for you. Better yet, address your most pressing need now and grow your solution over time. For example:

- Start small by using Cognos Insight for data discovery and planning. Add a server to share that insight and create additional reports from larger data sets with Cognos Express®. Or combine that insight with real-time and corporate information and place insights on scorecards and interact on mobile devices with Cognos Enterprise.

- Extend organization report deployments by using Cognos Enterprise. Provision the data discovery and planning capabilities of Cognos Insight to individual desktops. Provide individuals with access to corporate information and enable them to share and distribute their data and visualizations with large user communities.

Table 1. Comparison of the key capabilities of Cognos Insight, Cognos Express, and Cognos Enterprise

Key capabilities	Cognos Insight	Cognos Express	Cognos Enterprise
Dashboards	X	X	X
Analysis	X	X	X
What-if scenario modeling	X	X	X
Planning and budgeting	X	X	X
Production reports		X	X
Microsoft Office integration		X	X
Support for Apple iPad		X	X
Support for other mobile devices			X
Enterprise-wide collaboration			X
Scorecarding			X

The Cognos 10 family addresses the business intelligence and performance management needs of the following entities:

- Individuals who require personal, desktop analytics with Cognos Insight.
- Departments, business units, or midsize organizations with workgroups who require integrated reporting, analysis, and planning with Cognos Express.
- Enterprises that require broad analytics capabilities deployed to hundreds or thousands of people with Cognos Enterprise.

Cognos Business Insight and Cognos Business Insight Advanced are renamed

Two product components are renamed in this release to avoid confusion with the names of other components. IBM Cognos Business Insight is now IBM Cognos Workspace. IBM Cognos Business Insight Advanced is now IBM Cognos Workspace Advanced.

Enhancements to Cognos Workspace

IBM Cognos Workspace (formerly named IBM Cognos Business Insight) has several enhancements to improve the user experience.

For more information about Cognos Workspace, see the *IBM Cognos Workspace User Guide*.

Tabbed workspaces

With tabbed workspaces, you can organize content on multiple tabs in a single workspace. Typically, each tab contains information about a particular area.


For example, you create a workspace with separate tabs for Marketing, Sales, and Revenue.

Global area in tabbed workspaces

A tabbed workspace includes an area that is common to all tabs in the workspace. Here you can keep any object in view as you click through the tabs in the workspace.

For example, you created a workspace with separate tabs for Marketing, Sales, and Revenue. You add a Region filter to the global area so that you can filter on regions as you navigate through the tabs.

Automatic chart recommendation

In the widget toolbar, you can click Change Display Type  to automatically get the best display type for the data. IBM Cognos Workspace analyses the data and produces the most suitable display type.

The **Change Display Type** drop-down list in the widget toolbar lists up to five of the most highly recommended display types. The **Change Display** window lists the recommended display types in order and explains why each one is recommended.

To see the original interface, which lists all available display types whether they are recommended or not, click the **All** tab in the **Change Display** window.

Chart interaction

You can select a chart or one or more parts of a chart and apply actions. For example, you can filter the chart contents.

Freezing column and row headings

You can freeze column and row headings in lists and crosstabs. Freezing the headings keeps them in view as you scroll through the data.

Viewing column and row heading details

In a crosstab, you can expand a column or row heading to view the details that make up the data.

For example, you expand a region heading to display the cities in that region.

Printing a workspace

The print preview feature in a web browser enables you to adjust settings such as scaling and orientation to make your workspace fit on a printed page.

Enhancements to Cognos Workspace Advanced

IBM Cognos Workspace Advanced (formerly named IBM Cognos Business Insight Advanced) has several enhancements to improve the user experience.

For more information about Cognos Workspace Advanced, see the *IBM Cognos Workspace Advanced User Guide*.

Enhanced crosstab headers

In crosstabs, you can display headers that indicate the parent categories of the data items in the columns and rows. The headers help users to understand where the data is located in the hierarchy.

Automatic group and summary behavior for lists

You can enable or disable the automatic generation of summaries for lists. When enabled, grouped columns appear first in the list.

Copy data with number formatting

In IBM Cognos Workspace Advanced, you can copy data from a list or crosstab and paste it into a Microsoft Excel 2007 spreadsheet, while maintaining number formatting. This is a convenient way to quickly export your analysis.

Enhancements to Report Studio

Report Studio and Active Report have several enhancements to improve the user experience.

For more information, see the *IBM Cognos Report Studio User Guide*.

Improved IBM Cognos Active Report integration with IBM Cognos Workspace

You can use check boxes and sliders in workspaces in IBM Cognos Workspace to control IBM Cognos Active Report.

You can define public variables and range variables in Cognos Active Report that allow Cognos Workspace check boxes and sliders to control active reports in a workspace.

Interactive repeater tables

You can add interactive behavior to repeater tables in IBM Cognos Active Report.

Adding interactive behavior to repeater tables is useful for creating button bars and grids of custom content. For example, you can insert a data item in a repeater table that shows a different chart for each data value. You can customize the repeater table so that the data values appear as buttons in a two-column grid.

Inherited table styles in lists and crosstabs

When an item is inserted in a list or crosstab, the item inherits the table style of one of the items in the data container.

By default, items inherit the style of an item of the same type. For example, if you insert a measure in a list, the measure inherits the style of a measure that is in the list, if one exists. Inheritance rules control which style is inherited.

Writing query macros in the expression editor

You can use the expression editor to write macros in query expressions. The macro syntax is the same as in previous releases and IBM Cognos Framework Manager.

Prompt API

With the prompt API, report authors can write JavaScript applications to customize the standard prompt functionality available in IBM Cognos Report Studio. The prompt API can query and set user selections, validate typed-in values using patterns, set default values using expressions or query data, and more. Sample reports exist to demonstrate various usage scenarios of the prompt API.

Global classes for accessible reports

New global classes that you can apply to text objects were added to IBM Cognos Report Studio. The new classes make text easier to read for visually impaired users.

The new global classes are as follows:

- Heading 1 to heading 6
- Emphasize text
- Strong text

Enhancements to Lifecycle Manager

Lifecycle Manager has several enhancements to improve the user experience.

For more information about Lifecycle Manager, see the *IBM Cognos Lifecycle Manager User Guide*.

My Folders support

In addition to accessing **Public Folders** content, Lifecycle Manager enables you to select some or all of your personal **My Folders** content for validation or benchmarking projects. In open projects, you can access **My Folders** content that belongs to the authenticated user.

Ability to delete Lifecycle Manager projects

You can use the **New Project** window or the **Open Project** window to delete projects. This enables you to remove unneeded projects conveniently, without requiring access permission to the Lifecycle Manager installation location.

Enhancements to IBM Cognos Mobile

IBM Cognos Mobile has several enhancements to improve the user experience.

For more information about IBM Cognos Mobile, see the *IBM Cognos Mobile Installation and Administration Guide*.

Apple push notifications

You can now use Apple push notifications to notify the users of the IBM Cognos Mobile native iPad application about the availability of new IBM Cognos Business Intelligence reports.

The supported notifications include badges and text alerts. Sounds are not supported.

For more information, see the *IBM Cognos Mobile Installation and Administration Guide*.

Burst reports to Cognos Mobile

Reports can now be distributed to IBM Cognos Mobile users by bursting.

Users receive burst reports in the language specified in their preferences in IBM Cognos Connection. If the report is not burst in the language specified by the user's preference in Cognos Connection, the user receives the report in the server default language.

Users can also receive multiple versions of burst reports, with the burst key appended to the report name. For example, a sales manager who is responsible for multiple regions receives the burst report for each region.

For more information about burst reports, see the *IBM Cognos Report Studio User Guide* and the *IBM Cognos Business Intelligence Administration and Security Guide*.

Improved search with field-level search capability

IBM Cognos Connection search delivers more relevant results, faster. It also offers greater control, enabling you to search by a specific field. For example, entering "+name:product" searches for the term "product" in the "name" field.

Chapter 2. Collaborative business intelligence and workflow

Organizations need agile and responsive decision making processes to effectively respond to market opportunities and challenges. IBM Cognos Business Intelligence provides tools that support collaborative business intelligence and workflow allowing businesses to share insights and gain alignment.

Establish decision networks

Teams that do not share insights or solicit input from colleagues limit their ability to make informed decisions. By connecting people to information and other people, IBM Cognos BI helps teams to establish dynamic decision networks and expand their collective intelligence. Efficient decision networks reduce the time, expense, and resources required to gather information.

Provide transparency and accountability

Business users must understand and trust the data that they use to make business decisions. Business users need to understand what has happened to data from source to report. IBM Cognos BI features ensure that all user communities have the same understanding of data, providing transparency and accountability to drive alignment and consensus. When users understand and are confident about the information they use, IT spends less time dealing with questions about data.

Communicate and coordinate tasks

Actionable insights are often lost because it is not easy to capture the insight as a task. IBM Cognos BI provides the tools that teams need to communicate and coordinate tasks to engage the right people at the right time. Any member of a team can initiate a task and assign activities to the appropriate team member. The team can track activities from creation to closure to ensure better business outcomes.

Controlled access to Cognos Workspace functions and features

As an administrator, you can control the access of users to IBM Cognos Workspace functions and features at a granular level.

Based on the capabilities that you grant for them, users can have the following types of workspace permissions:

- View and print workspaces, drill up and down on the workspace data, add comments, and use slider filters and select value filters if they are available in the workspace.
- Interact with the widget data through the widget toolbar that provides options such as sorting, deleting, swapping rows and columns, and changing the report display type.
- Access all functions and features in Business Insight and perform any task, including changing the workspace layout and style, and adding and deleting workspaces.

For more information, see the *IBM Cognos Workspace User Guide* and the *IBM Cognos Business Intelligence Administration and Security Guide*.

Controlled access to Cognos Mobile

As an administrator, you can control the access of users to IBM Cognos Mobile, using the Mobile secured function.

Only users who are granted access to this secured function can access the IBM Cognos content through IBM Cognos Mobile. A new role named Mobile Users was added to the predefined roles in the Cognos namespace in IBM Cognos Administration to help with setting up access permissions for the Mobile secured function.

For more information, see the *IBM Cognos Business Intelligence Administration and Security Guide*.

Chapter 3. Platform enhancements to simplify and cost-effectively scale enterprise analytics

Organizations need agile and responsive decision making processes to effectively respond to market opportunities and challenges. IBM Cognos Business Intelligence delivers advances for IT to simplify and cost-effectively deliver enterprise-scale analytics.

Accelerated model design with guided workflow driven modeling

Many organizations find that it takes too much time and too many iterations for IT to build the right models. IBM Cognos BI provides guided workflow driven modeling that is based on established best practices. A workflow driven modeling process reduces the amount of time required to deliver the right model.

Optimized performance with in-memory processing

It is sometimes difficult to meet performance expectations because of complex processing requirements and related overhead on systems. In IBM Cognos BI, in-memory processing on 64-bit systems delivers optimized query generation with pattern intelligence, security-aware caching for query plan and query, and on-demand data and metadata caching for executed reports. These features help to deliver faster results and increased business satisfaction.

Streamlined life cycle management with the ability to seamlessly upgrade

The increasing scale of upgrade projects creates a challenge for IT. IBM Cognos BI reduces the complexity and risks of an upgrade by providing greater control over the upgrade process. IT can now use a staged upgrade approach to quickly deliver on new business requirements and manage costs. Other features make it easier for IT to track the application life cycle and validate content in a variety of environments before an upgrade.

IBM Cognos Dynamic Cubes

IBM Cognos Business Intelligence includes Dynamic Cubes, which is a query technology that lets you perform ad-hoc analysis over large volumes of data (greater than 1TB) with fast performance and low latency. This relational online analytical processing (ROLAP) technology takes advantage of in-memory and database aggregates to reduce data movement and computation, and improve responsiveness.

The Dynamic Cubes server includes self-analysis capabilities to further improve performance by recommending changes or additions to available aggregates, based on observed queries.

To take advantage of Dynamic Cubes, IBM Cognos BI includes the Dynamic Cubes server, a modelling interface called IBM Cognos Cube Designer where you can design your cubes, as well as an Aggregate Advisor that suggests improvements to available aggregates.

For more information about IBM Cognos Dynamic Cubes, see the *IBM Cognos Dynamic Cubes User Guide*.

64-bit IBM Cognos gateway

The IBM Cognos BI gateway provides 64-bit libraries that you can use.

When you configure the web server to view static IBM Cognos content, additional configuration is required before you can use the 64-bit libraries.

For more information about the 64-bit gateway, see the *IBM Cognos Business Intelligence Installation and Configuration Guide*.

64-bit Data Manager engine

You can use the 64-bit Data Manager engine to take advantage of additional memory available in 64-bit computer environments. This greatly increases the amount of data that can be loaded. It also reduces the need for memory management techniques, resulting in potential performance gains.

For more information, see the *IBM Cognos Data Manager User Guide*.

Multiple tenant environments

Multiple tenant environments support multiple customers or organizations (tenants) by using a single deployment of an application, while ensuring that each tenant can access only the data that it is authorized to use.

IBM Cognos Business Intelligence provides built-in multitenancy capabilities. Before you can use IBM Cognos multitenancy, you must modify configuration files in your IBM Cognos Business Intelligence installation.

For more information, see the *IBM Cognos Business Intelligence Installation and Configuration Guide* and *IBM Cognos Business Intelligence Administration and Security Guide*.

Archiving content to the file system

With IBM Cognos Content Archival, you can archive report specifications and saved report outputs to an archival repository or to the file system. This allows you to adhere to regulatory compliance requirements and reduces the amount of content in the content store. You can view archived content from IBM Cognos Connection and search archived content using indexed search.

Previously, you could archive only to IBM FileNet® Content Manager, using the Content Management Interoperability Services (CMIS) specification. Now, you can archive to the operating system file system.

For more information, see the *IBM Cognos Business Intelligence Administration and Security Guide*.

Enhanced language and currency support

IBM Cognos Business Intelligence supports an expanded list of content languages, more currencies, plus additional product languages such as Catalan, Croatian, Kazakh, and Slovenian.

There is also enhanced support for bidirectional languages such as Arabic, Hebrew, Urdu, and Farsi. Report authors can control the display of native digits and the direction of text, crosstabs, and charts.

For more information, see the *IBM Cognos Administration and Security Guide*, the *IBM Cognos Connection User Guide*, the *IBM Cognos Workspace User Guide*, the *IBM Cognos Workspace Advanced User Guide*, and the *IBM Cognos Report Studio User Guide*.

Support for Extended Japanese and Chinese characters

IBM Cognos Business Intelligence provides improved support for Japanese and Chinese ideographs in Unicode Supplementary Plane 2.

Server setting to specify rounding rule for data formatting

In previous versions, IBM Cognos Business Intelligence used the round half to even rule when rounding numbers. The round half to even rule is widely used in bookkeeping. However, precision regulations in some regions require different rounding rules (for example, the round half up rule). With IBM Cognos Business Intelligence, you can now choose a rounding rule to comply with the precision regulations that apply to you.

The following table describes the rounding rules that are available in IBM Cognos Business Intelligence.

Table 2. IBM Cognos BI rounding rules and descriptions

Rule	Description
halfEven	Round to nearest neighbor, where an equidistant value is rounded to the nearest even neighbor. This is the default rule.
halfDown	Round to nearest neighbor, where an equidistant value is rounded down.
halfUp	Round to nearest neighbor, where an equidistant value is rounded up.
ceiling	Round to a more positive number.
floor	Round to a more negative number.
down	Round towards zero.
up	Round away from zero.

For more information, see the *IBM Cognos Business Intelligence Administration and Security Guide*.

Improved support for data items with more than 15 digits of precision

Previous versions of IBM Cognos Business Intelligence were unable to support data items with more than 15 digits of precision. Up to 32 digits of precision are now supported in the dynamic query mode.

Save as Microsoft Excel 2007 data

The Excel 2007 Data report output format enables you to generate native Microsoft Excel 2007 spreadsheets containing list report data for further manipulation.

This format is similar to a comma separated values file (.csv). It has no formatting such as headers, footers, styling, or data formatting.

For more information, see the *IBM Cognos Report Studio User Guide*.

Access to ERP data sources

You can now directly access data sources from various ERP vendors using the dynamic query mode.

Support has been added for the following data sources:

- Salesforce.com
- SAP ECC
- Siebel

For more information, see the *IBM Cognos Business Intelligence Dynamic Query Guide*.

DQM server logging on a report basis

You can enable server logging for the dynamic query mode in IBM Cognos Dynamic Query Analyzer. Server logs are generated only for reports that are run in Dynamic Query Analyzer. Previously, trace logging had to be enabled for all reports run on the IBM Cognos Business Intelligence server.

For more information, see the *IBM Cognos Dynamic Query Analyzer User Guide*.

Predefined LDAP configurations

In IBM Cognos Configuration, you can configure your environment by selecting from a number of predefined LDAP authentication namespace configurations.

The following is a list of predefined LDAP configurations:

- LDAP - Active Directory
 - LDAP - IBM Tivoli®
 - LDAP - OracleSunOne
-

Enhancements to supported environments

IBM Cognos Business Intelligence provides enhanced support for environments.

To review an up-to-date list of environments supported by IBM Cognos Business Intelligence products, including information on operating systems, patches, browsers, Web servers, directory servers, database servers, and application servers, visit the IBM Cognos Information Center http://www.ibm.com/software/data/support/cognos_crc.html.

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