

IBM Cognos 8 Framework Manager

Overview

IBM Cognos 8 Framework Manager delivers understandable information that is easy to use. It enables the creation of models that can be used with any style of BI. To ensure successful implementation and wide adoption of business intelligence and performance management systems there are a number of key factors that must be satisfied:

- ***All users must have confidence in the information they are using.***
- ***All information must be based on common data however or wherever the information is accessed.***
- ***Information must be easy to use and delivered in terms the business can understand.***

Features and Benefits

Using IBM Cognos® 8 Framework Manager the metadata modeler is able to satisfy these key requirements of the business by delivering a common platform of consistent information that is shared on an enterprise scale, and used by all BI capabilities. The IBM Cognos 8 Framework Manager metadata model is able to represent both relational and dimensional data, as well as create a dimensional representation for relational data sources. Models created in IBM Cognos 8 Framework Manager can be used to enable any style of BI, from simple ad hoc reporting to deep multidimensional analysis or enterprise dashboards and scorecards. The modeler uses IBM Cognos 8 Framework Manager's support of server based session parameters and parameter map lookups to build conditional logic into models, including the ability to create conditional SQL syntax.

Model Advisor provides modelers with guidance on how to create models for business intelligence by providing a mechanism for analyzing the contents of a model in the context of modeling recommendations and frequently asked questions. The built-in impact analysis functionality (Analyze Publish Impact and Find Report Dependencies) allows the modeler to understand the potential effect of metadata modifications on existing reports in deployed systems, ensuring timely and accurate response to changing business requirements.

Deliver consistent information in the terms the business understands and trusts

The modeler needs to be able to translate the physical data sources of data, and massage the information to ensure that it is presented to the business user in a way that is easily understood and drives predictable queries which yield consistent results. Information must be consistently

delivered in a timely manner ensuring that all user communities can work from the same data, but at the same time not overwhelming users by only making relevant information available.

Feature Overview

Key features for delivering consistent information include:

Common business model

The common business model developed in IBM Cognos 8 Framework Manager provides a foundation for common understanding across all user capabilities, regardless of location, language or information requirement.

The modeler has the ability to ensure that information can be delivered in a format that is simple to use and easy to understand for business consumers, by defining consistent business rules, adding meaningful descriptions, and leveraging existing business dimensions and calculations in the common business model.

Model once, package for many

IBM Cognos 8 Framework Manager allows the modeler to create logical groupings based on subsets of information in the model, while maintaining a single representation of the physical storage. The modeler can then publish sections of the common

business model to deliver only the relevant information to each user community. This ensures that users can find information more easily, and avoids common pitfalls of duplication and divergence when information is separately sectioned off for different user communities.

Focus on open data access

Few organizations implement business intelligence from a single data source. The reality is a requirement that spans multiple data sources that together comprise the organization's core systems.

IBM Cognos 8 Framework Manager

IBM Cognos 8 Framework Manager fully supports the creation and maintenance of a common business model that spans multiple sources allowing relationships to be defined between disparate sources, while insulating the business users from the technical complexity of the underlying sources. A single metadata model can span operational data stores and warehouses that reside in relational sources like IBM DB2, Oracle, Microsoft® SQL Server®; Applications like SAP R/3, Siebel, Salesforce and Siebel; OLAP sources like IBM Cognos PowerCube, IBM Cognos TM1, SAP BW, Microsoft® SSAS®, and Hyperion

Essbase; modern and legacy sources like IBM Cognos Now!, XML, Web-Services, LDAP and mainframe data.

With integrated, out-of-the-box federation capabilities through IBM Cognos Virtual View Manager and powerful Dimensional ETL capabilities through IBM Cognos 8 Data Manager, IBM Cognos 8 BI deployments can deliver every BI capability against virtually any data source with any data latency – including data warehouses and marts, operational systems, and federated views – across these disparate systems.

Technical Specifications

Data security

Using IBM Cognos 8 Framework Manager, the modeler is able leverage the organization's existing security infrastructure and specify what data is accessible to users, making the right information accessible to the right user groups through granular row and column security. Access to information can be restricted to users, groups and roles to only allow access to relevant parts of the published model. This enables the modeler to comply with data governance and business security regulations, while reducing the need to proliferate reports. A single report can be built to contain all of the necessary

data required and each user's view will be restricted to the data they are permitted to see. Key features for delivering consistent information are

- Multilingual environment including data, formatting column tiles, and descriptions in a single metadata layer
- An open environment, with modeling capabilities exposed via the modern IBM Cognos 8 BI Web services architecture and open Web Services API
- The ability to define single, conformed definitions of metrics and reuse those same definitions in multiple business views
- The ability to separate the database representation of data from the business perspective, for an intuitive user experience across all BI capabilities
- Provides a place to define business rules to be applied to all or select business specific environments.

Reduce the time and effort to build and manage models for your business

It is important that metadata modelers not only deliver an enterprise representation of the business, but they must also be able to easily maintain and manage the environment, ensuring a quick response to changes the business requires. IBM Cognos 8 Framework Manager allows the modeler to collaborate with other

modelers, while ensuring that changes required by the business can be quickly and effectively implemented. Key features for managing models include:

Model Advisor

The IBM Cognos 8 Framework Manager Model Advisor is an automated tool that applies rules based on current modeling guidelines and can identify model inconsistencies and anomalies that require attention. It gives experienced modelers a diagnostic tool to speed up the design process, while providing the novice user informed guidance.

Third-party metadata integration

IBM Cognos 8 Framework Manager enables the modeler to reuse existing metadata and provides the ability to leverage existing modeling and data integration tools that are in use in the organization, allowing the modeler to leverage existing metadata assets and shorten the time to deployment. Modelers access metadata through pre-built bridges from a wide range of metadata modeling environments:

- Data integration tools, including IBM Information Server Data Stage and Informatica Power Centre
- Modeling tools including IBM Rational Rose, IBM Rational Data Architect, CA Erwin and Oracle Designer
- Source catalogs including Teradata and Sybase

Key features for managing your models:

- Impact analysis reports based on a whole model, multiple selected objects or individual columns of data, to help users understand the effects and costs of changes
- Enables a federated (multi-developer) modeling environment and source code control integration. Better performance management

IBM Cognos 8 Framework Manager is a key component within IBM Cognos 8 Business Intelligence. IBM Cognos 8 BI is the only solution that provides complete BI functionality in one product, on a single, proven architecture. It delivers seamless reporting, analysis, scorecarding, dashboards and event management. This simplifies your IT environment and the way everyone works with information. A variety of access modes let users interact with BI content using familiar applications or devices, such as a BlackBerry, search engine or Microsoft® Office® application. The result is high user adoption, better decisions and greater agility across the organization. IBM Cognos 8 BI is the clear choice for BI standardization and a cornerstone of better performance management.

About IBM Cognos BI and Performance Management:

IBM Cognos business intelligence (BI) and performance management solutions deliver world-leading enterprise planning, consolidation and BI software, support and services to help companies plan, understand and manage financial and operational performance. IBM Cognos solutions bring together technology, analytical applications, best practices, and a broad network of partners to give customers an open, adaptive and complete performance solution. Over 23,000 customers in more than 135 countries around the world choose IBM Cognos solutions.

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