IBM

Business Process Management
IBM Business Monitor V7.5

What is new in V7.5

WebSphere software
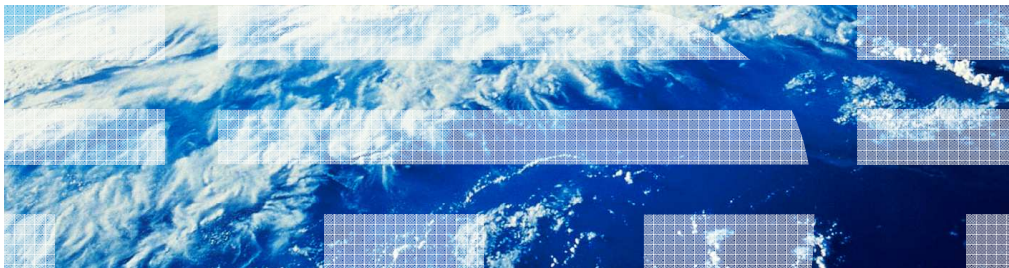
This presentation provides an introduction to the new features in V7.5 of the IBM Business Monitor product.

IBM Business Monitor V7.5 features

- Scalability improvements
- Batch transfer of instances
- Business space widget enhancements
- Multi-module monitoring
- IBM Cognos Business Intelligence V10.1 for multidimensional analysis
- Fine grained security
- Process application monitoring

IBM Business Monitor V7.5 includes many new features and enhancements. Full scalability is supported so that you can easily grow the environment to support your performance needs. You can easily transfer monitoring context instances from one monitor model to another, which enables retiring or repairing monitor models. There have been numerous enhancements to the widgets in business space to make you more productive. Also, there is a new wizard which creates a single monitor model which is capable of monitoring multiple modules. IBM Cognos Business Intelligence is the strategic platform for performing multidimensional queries against your monitored data. There is a new fine grained security feature which makes it easy to restrict viewing monitored instances and metrics to specific users and groups. Finally, there is new support for monitoring process applications that were developed in Process Designer.

Scalability

- In V7.5 IBM Business Monitor supports full scalability so that adding clusters increases the throughput for a model

- All events that correlate to the same instance are routed to the same partition

- Partitions are spread across the cluster

- On z/OS, partitions will also be spread across servant regions

- Partition reallocation across cluster members or servant regions happens automatically

- Partitioning is only available for multi-threaded models (that is, ones not running under 6.0.2 emulation mode) and when queue bypass is used

Scalabilty has been improved so you should see near linear scaling. As you add clusters, a particular monitor model will increase throughput proportionally. To achieve this, the work is partitioned by monitored instances and all events for a particular monitored instance are handled by the same partition. Since the partitions are spread evenly among the clusters, the workload for a monitor model is also shared by all the clusters. Also, if a cluster goes down, the work is automatically reallocated to another cluster.

Transfer instances

- Retire old model versions by moving instances to a new model version

- Repair a monitor model

- Better performance than V7 because the transfer is in batches now

- LifecycleServices mBean methods
  - moveCompletedMCInstances
  - moveActiveMCInstances
  - moveAllMCInstances

- For moving active instances, change old version distribution mode to "inactive (event queue recoverable)" state

- Run the mBean then set the new version to "active" status

- For more information see information center topic 'Transferring model context instances'

Over time, you can end up with many versions of a monitor model, which can also result in many monitoring instances for each of the versions. You can retire the older versions, but you need to clean up the instances first. There are three mBean methods that support the batch transfer of these monitored instances. Also, this feature is useful if a monitor model is defective. You create a new version to replace the defective version and then you can transfer instances to the new version.

There are mBean methods to move completed instances, to move active instances and to move all instances. For moving the instances, first you change the distribution mode on the old version to "inactive (event queue recoverable)". Then run the appropriate mBean method, and set the distribution mode on the new version to active status.

Widget updates

- Obtain a URL that is specific to a preconfigured page to share with others
- User chooser with partial name match
  - Forwarding alerts, key performance indicator (KPI) ownership
- Set filters on date and time fields
  - Set of common filters; settings remembered
- Multi-column sort
  - Settings remembered
- Send metric data to other widgets
  - Select metrics to send, wire widgets, then select an instance and click 'Show'

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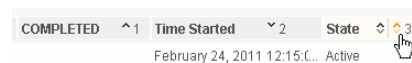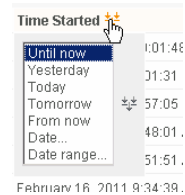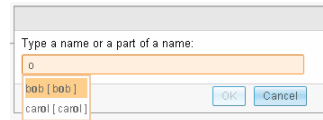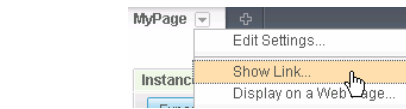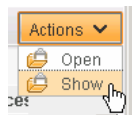
There are numerous updates to the widgets in business space. Now you can share a preconfigured page with another user by clicking 'Show link' on the page menu, then you can copy and paste the URL for sharing.

The user chooser allows you to enter a partial string and it will perform a lookup to find the matching names in the user registry. This is applicable to forwarding alerts and setting the KPI ownership.

In the instances widget there are several new features. You can set filters on date and time fields. There are a set of common filters such as yesterday, today, and tomorrow, but you can also select specific date ranges. These settings are stored between browser sessions so that you will see the same filtering the next time you go to the page. Also, you can use the new multi-column sort feature to sort on multiple columns simultaneously, and these settings are also saved between browser sessions. Finally, you can send metric data to other widgets by wiring the instances widget to another widget and configuring the instances widget to specify which metrics to send. To use the function you select action 'Show' which sends the event containing the configured metrics to the target widget.

Multi-module monitoring

- In Integration Designer it is easy to generate monitoring models for process applications, business process execution language (BPEL) applications and other modules

- In V7.5, a wizard creates a global monitor model for you using correlation that you specify

- Scalable vector diagram (SVG) for the overall process application is not generated automatically

- Wizard is built into the monitor model editor
  - Works with any number of monitoring contexts
  - It generates a high level monitoring context which uses generated outbound events from the low level contexts

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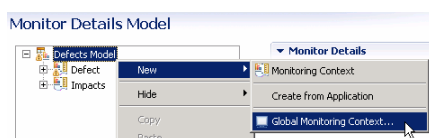
New in version 7.5, you can use the multi-module monitoring wizard to create a single monitor model for monitoring any number of modules. You can manually create a model to do the same thing, but it requires some work to build outbound events to send to the global model. The wizard creates these event definitions for you based on correlation that you specify. So you can pick correlation keys in each model to tie them together, for example, using customer order number as the key. If you have SVG diagrams in the lower level models, the new combined model will not have an SVG diagram that represents the combined model, but you can create one yourself using the individual diagrams. The multi-module monitoring wizard is built into the monitor model editor in the Integration Designer.

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IBM Cognos Business Intelligence V10.1

- Strategic platform for multi-dimensional analysis
  - Contains additional features, such as support for rolling time periods, fine-grained security, more chart types
- Cognos Business Insight Advanced for custom reports
- Install Cognos during Monitor installation
- Register cubes with Cognos during monitor model application install
- New widgets in business space to author and view reports – report designer, report viewer
- 'IBM Cognos Business Intelligence 10.1 information center
  - http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/cbi/v10r1m0/index.jsp?lang=en
  - Author and Create > Business Insight Advanced User Guide

IBM Cognos Business Intelligence is the strategic platform for multi-dimensional analysis. It provides additional features not previously available in IBM Business Monitor, such as support for rolling time periods, fine-grained security, and additional chart types.

There is an included tool called Cognos Business Insight Advanced for authoring custom reports against Monitor data.

When you install Monitor, you can optionally include Cognos Business Intelligence. If you install it, then when you deploy your monitor model applications you can easily publish the generated cubes to the Cognos server. Then you can visualize the multi-dimensional data in new widgets in business space. You use the report designer widget to configure a report using the measures and dimensions in the monitor model. Then you use the report viewer widget to view the report and drill down on the dimensions to analyze the data.

Fine-grained security

- As an administrator, you can limit which monitoring context instance data each user or group has the authority to view
  – For example, users in group 'Managers of Southwest' are authorized to see only instances where metric Region is 'Southwest'

- As an administrator, you can limit which metrics each user or group has the authority to view
  – For example, the administrator indicates that users in group "Worker" are not authorized to Loan Amount

- Fine grained security is configured once, but applied globally across widgets and Representational State Transfer (REST) services

- Secure data based on users, groups, Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) user attributes, external entitlement system

- Use command line to import, export, delete

- Indicators on widgets to show that results are filtered

- Information center > Securing your environment > Configuring fine-grained security

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There is a new feature in this release which allows you to set fine grained security. With this feature you can restrict the display of monitoring context instances, for example showing only instances for a particular geographical region. You can restrict which metrics are displayed to a user, for example only showing load amounts to authorized users.

Fine grained security is applied to all Monitor widgets and to any applications that are using REST services.
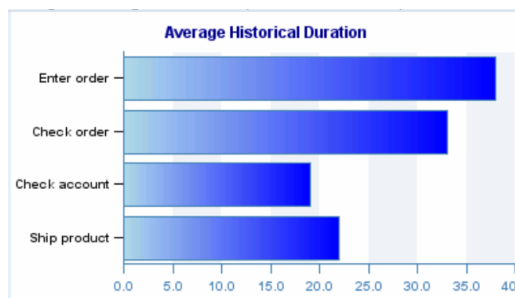
You can secure your data based on specific users in the user registry, or groups in the user registry. You can also apply security based on attributes assigned to the user in the LDAP user registry. You can also make use of an external entitlement system to determine which users are authorized.

For this release, only the command line is supported. You can import security rules, export rules and delete rules.

When displaying data with fine grain security applied, you will see an indicator on the widget that shows that the filters are active.
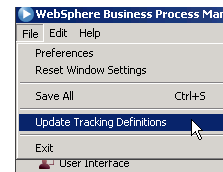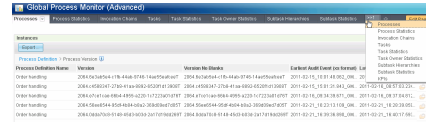
Without IBM Business Monitor, you can use some basic monitoring that is provided in the IBM Business Process Manager product. There are adhoc reports which show activity durations, tracking variables, and SLA violations.

For more sophisticated monitoring, you will need IBM Business Monitor.

IBM Business Monitor - Monitoring scenarios

- Global process monitoring
  - Monitor any process without code generation or deployment steps
  - Model is provided along with simple and advanced dashboards
- Auto-generated monitor model
  - Provides additional support beyond the global model, for monitoring tracking fields
  - Dashboard generated automatically
- Custom monitor model
  - Monitoring process applications and integration applications using a custom monitor model

IBM Business Monitor provides monitoring support for your process applications in three different scenarios. Using the supplied global process monitor model, you can monitor any process without any additional deployment steps. The global monitor model automatically detects events in the process and displays the data in the supplied dashboards.

If you have tracking fields defined in your process, then you can create a monitor model unique to your process to display this data. The monitor model is auto-generated in Process Designer. When you select to update tracking defintions, the model is generated and deployed. And a pre-configured dashboard is also generated so you can immediately view monitored data in business space.

You can customize a monitor model to create your own metrics, KPI's, measures or dimensions. In this case use the wizard to generate the monitor model, then use the monitor model editor to add any custom features to the model.

Summary

- Covered the new features in IBM Business Monitor V7.5

In summary, you have seen an overview of the new features in IBM Business Monitor V7.5.

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