



Unlock the Value of Microsoft Analysis Services



BIRST FOR MICROSOFT ANALYSIS SERVICES

SQL Server is the world's most widely used database for small and medium businesses for good reason: users of SQL Server value its power, speed, and affordability. However, research shows that these users also often face significant challenges in producing the business intelligence (BI) –reports, analysis and dashboards – that they need to gain crucial insight into their businesses.

The Challenge: Limited reporting for business users

Microsoft Analysis Services is an OLAP-based technology which provides analysts with the ability to do self-service analysis. It is often selected because, as part of SQL Server, it is readily available and has an Excel front end which would appear conducive to end-user adoption.

- **Reporting impact is too limited.**

Whereas MS Analysis Services provides useful information to a handful of analysts, it is difficult to share this data in a meaningful way with a broader population since Microsoft reporting and dashboard capabilities are limited.

- **Integrating multiple data sources is time consuming and complex.**

Also, it is non-trivial to integrate MS Analysis Service cube data with other data without engaging IT in a protracted project. Addressing this challenge has required a lot of manual data integration and led to report inconsistencies which has undermined decision making.

“We tried every BI tool under the sun, but they didn't work out. . . then we found Birst and knew it had all the features we needed and was easy to get up and running, with low implementation and support costs.”

— Fred Tiso
Group Director of Hardware Operations, Citrix Systems



A dashboard of key metrics in Birst.



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The Solution: Interactive reporting that's easy for business users

Birst is an on-demand business intelligence solution that is quick to deploy, easy for business users to use, and has a total cost of ownership that is just a fraction of the cost of traditional solutions.

- **Get highly interactive reports and dashboards** that allow any user, from front-line employees to executives, to review, explore, and analyze reports. Key features include intuitive on-dashboard filtering, drilling, pivoting and ad hoc analysis
- **Easily combine Microsoft Analysis Services cube data with data from other sources** for more powerful analysis and reporting
- **Be up and running quickly with low upfront cost** because Birst is deployed on-demand with a low pay-as-you-go pricing model

Birst helps make the most of your existing investments - securely

Birst is unique in that it provides the ability to choose where data is kept: in the cloud or locally. This means that businesses can benefit from the ease of deployment and low cost of on-demand BI while keeping sensitive data behind their firewalls. Using Birst Live Access, organizations can achieve full querying of Microsoft Analysis Services cubes securely behind the firewall. There is no data uploading required, so sensitive data is not replicated in the cloud. Instead, Birst queries your cube data in real time.

Even when your cube data remains on-premise, you can still benefit from combining it with other data sources, uploaded or not. Using Birst's data federation capabilities, cube data can be combined with other data sources for new types of analysis and reporting. These capabilities mean that the processes to collect and integrate data are automated and that the reports include all the data necessary for better, faster, and more trusted decision making.

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