

BI Initiative Manifesto

1 Why the BI Initiative

The BI Initiative is a joint effort of OW2 and non-OW2 members set up to:

- Improve the coordination effort in the Open Source Business Intelligence area
- Increase utilization of OS BI solutions at enterprise level
- Strengthen connections between OS companies and users and the research communities.
- Attract more attention from the EU Funded Research activities to foster "Innovative BI solutions and practices".

2 Objectives

The BI Initiative aims at fostering the growth of a business ecosystem in the Open Source Business Intelligence (OS BI) domain bringing business opportunities to new class stakeholders.

The BI Initiative will promote the development and evolution of a new, community driven generation of OS business intelligence tools, as well as innovative methodologies for their adoption and application to distributed business processes.

The BI Initiative aims as well at providing:

- A new BI experience - driven by end users' needs, supported by a new generation of BI infrastructure and providing a new market approach
- A Business Intelligence qualification - promoting actual OW2 technologies, bringing them to the mainstream; building up using new technologies, new open source components, adopting open standards; providing periodical reports, white papers, benchmark, real world use cases
- Alternative business and technology break-through drivers - through open development activities, an open service network, a wider participation in order to achieve a significant dimension and authoritative position, a collaborative approach and a co-authoring method.

3 Main Activities

The BI Initiative will initially carry out the following activities:

- Integration of a full stack of OS BI solutions and tools, such as DataBase, ETL, BI Platform
- Promotion of a service network to support the stack
- Kick-starting a community of individuals and organizations contributing to the development of a new generation of OS BI tools (to be inserted in the stack in the near future), sharing knowledge on their adoption in a diverse set of domains
- Creation of a research network on BI topics in order to encourage dissemination of results and cross-fertilization with neighbouring research areas and to promote the BI theme in the European research agenda
- Fostering a closer cooperation between researchers and OS BI developers, aimed on one hand at a faster incorporation of the new and advanced techniques into OS tools (thus creating a competitive advantage over commercial tools) and, on the other hand, at encouraging researchers to use OS platforms for testing and benchmarking.

4 Main Topics

The BI Initiative will initially address the following topics:

- OS BI State of the art
 - BI Initiative's vision on Open Source Business Intelligence
 - Open methodologies and open source tools for business intelligence
- BI and Business Process Management
 - Business Process Control and Monitoring for business intelligence
- Data quality and integration
 - Quality and security aspects in data management and integration
- Presentation and personalization
 - Advanced personalization of BI contents, e.g. by allowing users to express preferences on queries
 - New paradigms for exploiting BI contents, such as what-if analysis and OLAM (OnLine Analytical Mining)

5 Deliverables

Several types of results and documents will be delivered by the BI Initiative.

The first technological deliverable will be the integration (synchronous release process) of SpagoBI and Talend, according to the OW2 Himalaya Program.

White papers on OS Business Intelligence adoption and open issues will be also released in order to clearly state the position and the perspective of OS BI solutions:

- White paper on open research issues for BI that could have a practical impact on OS platforms
- White paper on OSS Business Intelligence adoption

Documents describing end users' scenarios that can be solved by OS BI solutions or that can drive the design and development of specific OS BI functionalities will be released.

On the basis of end users' scenarios and suggestions coming from the white papers, an open software BI architecture model will be defined.

On the basis of the architecture model and the end users' scenarios, reference implementations will be developed by using, mastering and promoting available technologies supported by the OW2 Consortium.