

## Re: SAP BW compared to Essbase/SQLServer/Oracle as a Enterprise Data

**Source:**

<http://www.tech-archive.net/Archive/SQL-Server/microsoft.public.sqlserver.olap/2004-02/0777.html>

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**From:** Belinda (*belindacur\_at\_yahoo.com*)

**Date:** 02/26/04

Date: 26 Feb 2004 05:17:56 -0800

David

What you have mentioned is the tip of the iceberg. We were a fairly large BW site (with 40 users) the amount of resources we had to throw at this BW server for 35 users was a 15 CPU RISC UNIX machine with about 14 GB RAM. Imagine this processing grunt and the system would still suffer. SAP did considerable tuning but to no avail. Our peers in town are running their entire enterprise datawarehouse on Oracle with Business Objects as the reporting tool for about 4000 users on the similar hardware – guess how interesting it is. Our peer enterprise data warehouse on a Oracle 817 database handles 80 million records+ uploads overnight with ease with same hardware the BW system will be lucky to process even one tenth of that volume overnight.

I will give you another interesting scenario we had cube in SAP BW which is a standard business content cube with about 12 dimensions(characteristics) and 15 measures (key figures) and we had partitioned this cube in BW the size of this cube for a measly 1.5 million records was about 9.5 GB and when we looked at the Oracle database for the schema for this table there were 6900 objects of this cube about 5500 tables that BW had created for this cube. When we dumped this cube into a flat file it was about 530 MB imagine the storage efficiency !!!!! of BW. Guess the huge dead workload SAP BW is creating to Oracle to update the CBO optimiser statistics for this cube and apart each day when we load the cube even though the load is a delta load it drops all indexes and rebuilds the indexes against the cube creating a shocking amount of database fragmentation and as well many times many indexes are degenerate. No wonder our Oracle DBAs were always up in the arm complaining the BW developers had built a very bad design. The BW developer as no control on all these large number of tables created a simple Bex Query generates an average 5 to 10 page A4 size SQL outputs the DBAs are bewildered at the query once again the BW developer as no control over the SQL generated. No wonder the performance is so shocking and sites have to keep throwing tonnes of hardware grunt at BW. For a 1.5 million records I can put that kind of

data and query it more efficiently in a MS Access database.

I hope Bill Inmon should go to BW user sites and look at this appalling joke before he comments. What is incredible is for SAP the next best thing to sliced bread is SAP BW that is how it is being positioned and little do people realise if the design and architecture of the system is bad nothing can fix it. SAP has written the data mining engine which is nothing but ABAP reports for data mining algorithms. What really surprises me is the entire data warehousing industry is blind and a silent spectator to this appalling ride the industry is being taken. If SAP just resells a Oracle or SQL database it would do more justice to customers than its over engineered product in BW. Oracle 9i as such powerful features like external tables, powerful SQL, PL/SQL, Java, materialised views in the database none of this can be used by BW customers they are stuck with ABAP – which is convoluted Cobol not a language for ETL. BW uses a powerful database like Oracle as a dump file store the application does not even use stored procedures most SQL is generated dynamically so BW customers can even use a mySQL database and would not get anything better in other industry leading database at the way BW or R/3 uses the underlying database. Last but not the least all the tables in BW are names like /BIC/PZVAB0101 – what a good naming convention. Have you ever seen a data warehouse against which a data warehouse developer cannot use SQL and do test query to check data – the developer cannot even issue a SQL query how interesting is it the whole purpose of using a relational data base itself is defeated. If you want to look at the data in the table write a ABAP program or use a simple table browser. Ask a BW developer whether he can issue a SQL Select with a outer join on the tables it will be emphatic – CANT. This is the 21st century data warehouse!!.

I really like the open backend and frontend architecture of PeopleSoft datawarehouse architecture. They have made wise decision in using robust ETL in Informatica and used open RDBMS based data warehouse and robust OLAP and proven reporting layer.

If people are arguing about the justification of business content in BW ask how many sites have used business content most business content available is not very useful. Whatever is useable try extending it you do not even know what tables and columns in R/3 the extractors are pulling data from and what tranformation it does on those fields. Try extending a extractor (business content) provided by SAP say the table is extracting data from TABLEA if you want to pull two more fields in TABLEA from the same extractor the only way you can do it is you have to wait for SAP to finish extracting the data from TABLEA into a internal memory array and then you use the values in the memory array to go and relookup at TABLEA on the keys to fetch the remaining fields – imagine this. I am yet to see this kind of weird architecture anywhere the old network and hierarchical databases were more flexible than this – if it all sounds too good to believe go and ask BW

customers. Just see how many customers are successfully using a 3rd party reporting tool on top of BW – we struggled to get Business Objects working for more than 4 months on BW and could not get it to work. Read the literature i.e., documentation on business content that SAP customers get from SAP which is in the following URL to see how comprehensive and how much of sense it makes:

[http://help.sap.com/saphelp\\_bw/helpdata/en/75/88c338267ffd06e10000000a11405a/frameset.htm](http://help.sap.com/saphelp_bw/helpdata/en/75/88c338267ffd06e10000000a11405a/frameset.htm)

if customers ask one question to SAP support which says how or why or what – the price they have to pay to SAP to get answers is Euro 500 an hour. SAP as been one of the worlds best ever marketing exercise than anything else.

If the classic paradigm says that people who built datawarehouses with open relational databases with a open backend and open frontend and with such powerful languages like PL/SQL & Java – 80% of them fail imagine the number of failed so called marketing datawarehouses built with SAP BW with its closed backend and closed frontend perhaps there are hardly any successes. I recall the famous definition of Bill Inmon of SAP he called SAP as the data jail, well that is really a interesting paradigm from a man who invented data warehouses that he also discovered to the world the data jail. It would be interesting if Bill Inmon would like to change it now in the current changed circumstances ??

Belinda

davidr21@hotmail.com (Dave) wrote in message  
news:<8244b794.0402250737.6d3c41e6@posting.google.com>...  
> belindacur@yahoo.com (Belinda) wrote in message  
news:<41af5e48.0402190341.5dfae7f4@posting.google.com>...  
>  
> Hello –  
>  
> Figured I throw in my 2 cents. I started my career doing SAP  
> implementations, then moved into OLAP (Oracle Express) and data  
> warehousing, then SAP BW, then Oracle Relational, and my current  
> contract is on SAP BW. So I've had some varied experience...  
>  
> First let me say this....I wanted to try working with SAP BW 3.0  
> because it looked like there were a lot of improvements. But now  
> having worked with it, I still don't like it compared to Oracle (for  
> instance.)  
>  
> SAP BW was built on top of the existing R/3 basis layer. Probably a  
> smart move for SAP at the time. They could leverage their existing  
> infrastructure that abstracted the app server from the db, many  
> existing basis management features, the ABAP language was there for  
> development/customization, a horizontal scaling strategy via multiple  
> app servers, intra-instance communication protocols were there, etc. I



> > *to SQL Server I would like to let you know we were one of the large*  
> > *SAP BW sites and having been acutely frustrated with BW we converted*  
> > *to SQL Server OLAP Services. There is a interesting Whitepaper on the*  
> > *Microsoft SAP Congress web site created by SAP themselves where they*  
> > *have benchmarked a SQL Server and OLAP Services running on a 8 way NT*  
> > *box outperformed SAP BW systems ruuning on 24 way UNIX databases—what*  
> > *better testimony than from SAP themselves. Further, SAP's findings*  
> > *were the BW cubes moved to SQL Server OLAP services were 10 times*  
> > *smaller this shows the appalling BW technology. If you have trouble*  
> > *finding this benchmark paper let me know.*  
> >  
> > *After seeing the results of a pilot migration we migrated our entire*  
> > *SAP BW applications to SQL server OLAP services at that Oracle 9i OLAP*  
> > *was still not in General availability but if you are thinking of a*  
> > *alternative now worthwhile to evaluate Oracle 9i OLAP & SQL Server*  
> > *OLAP services to the white elephant SAP BW. You will discover after*  
> > *this how many more less than average intelligence customers with less*  
> > *than average commonsense are running this SAP white elephant called*  
> > *SAP BW paying fortune to SAP.*  
> >  
> > *Nigel Pendse as published a very interesting article on SAP BW a*  
> > *worthwhile article to read if you are already being bled dry by SAP.*  
> >  
> > *Belinda*  
> >  
> >  
> >  
> > *From: Amanda Jones (amandajonesbc@lycos.com)*  
> > *Subject: SAP BW compared to Essbase/SQLServer/Oracle as a Enterprise*  
> > *Data Warehouse & OLAP application*  
> >  
> >  
> > *View this article only*  
> > *Newsgroups: comp.databases.olap, comp.databases.oracle.marketplace,*  
> > *comp.databases.oracle.server, microsoft.public.sqlserver.datawarehouse*  
> > *Date: 2003-01-11 01:37:30 PST*  
> >  
> >  
> > *Hello All*  
> >  
> > *My company as asked me to prepare and evaluate between alternative*  
> > *solutions for data warehousing and one of our major source system to*  
> > *the data warehouse is SAP R/3 but of course we have other source*  
> > *systems apart from SAP.*  
> >  
> > *I am wondering how good is SAP Business Warehouse – BW 30B the latest*  
> > *version of SAP BW as a solution. I have personally talked to quite a*  
> > *few customers using SAP BW I could not get a good feedback about the*  
> > *product from SAP customers. Some of the customers indicated following*  
> > *issues with SAP BW:*  
> > *–difficult to use*

> > –went through long implementation cycles  
> > –performance was poor and scalability issues  
> > –maintaining the application was expensive since SAP BW and ABAP  
> > consultants are needed for ongoing maintenance.  
> >  
> > Apart from it we figured out SAP BW 30B does not have any ETL tool in  
> > it with ETL being 70–80% of the data warehousing effort I am bit  
> > sceptical how BW can run without a proper ETL tool. The part that  
> > caused us most concern was the language to extract, transform and load  
> > in SAP BW was ABAP and ABAP is proprietary which would cause us a  
> > major steep cost of ownership even for initial implementation to  
> > ongoing maintenance since our SAP project was not easy to implement  
> > and ABAP programmers are not available for less than \$1000/day. So we  
> > would need expensive ABAP programmers to develop extractors for SAP  
> > R/3.  
> >  
> > Next configuring SAP BW needed specialist SAP BW consultants and we  
> > found out good SAP BW consultants were hard to get and getting  
> > consulting help from SAP would cost us – \$2000/day. Apart from this  
> > the reporting layer in SAP BW was Microsoft Excel and any programming  
> > of the reporting was all done in ABAP again and for projecting reports  
> > Crystal reports was available but we had to buy a separate license for  
> > Crystal reports and indications was in addition to SAP BW we had to  
> > buy a CPU based license for Crystal in addition. Since, we have  
> > non–SAP data sources to integrate into the data warehouse we were told  
> > we need a ETL tool like Ascential and we are to buy a separate license  
> > to buy Ascential  
> > ETL tool once more CPU based licensing. Apart from buying a ETL tool  
> > like Ascential customers who had to build ETL to SAP BW have built  
> > part of the ETL process the extraction layer in Ascential and the  
> > transform and load part was written in ABAP for performance and that  
> > was the only solution for doing transforms and loads was to use ABAP  
> > programming.  
> >  
> > So in all staffing requirements we found for SAP BW to implement a  
> > enterprise data warehouse was we need :  
> > Read the rest of this message... (146 more lines)  
> >  
> > Message 2 in thread  
> > From: Nigel Pendse (nigelp@nospam.compuserve.com)  
> > Subject: Re: SAP BW compared to Essbase/SQLServer/Oracle as a  
> > Enterprise Data Warehouse & OLAP application  
> >  
> >  
> > View this article only  
> > Newsgroups: comp.databases.olap, comp.databases.oracle.marketplace,  
> > comp.databases.oracle.server, microsoft.public.sqlserver.datawarehouse  
> > Date: 2003–01–11 02:18:11 PST  
> >  
> >  
> >

> > "Amanda Jones" <amandajonesbc@lycos.com> wrote in message  
> > news:d42580f.0301110137.5d6bdcca@posting.google.com...  
> > > Hello All  
> > >  
> > > My company as asked me to prepare and evaluate between alternative  
> > > solutions for data warehousing and one of our major source system to  
> > > the data warehouse is SAP R/3 but of course we have other source  
> > > systems apart from SAP.  
> > <snip>  
> >  
> > > Precisely I am wondering why not Oracle 9i OLAP or SQL Server 2000 or  
> > > Oracle/SQL Server with Hyperion Essbase/Cognos. Some of the SAP BW  
> > > consultants claim SAP BW is better than Business Objects, Cognos or  
> > > Hyperion. Can you please throw some light and compare SAP BW to  
> > > 9iOLAP/MicrosoftOLAP2000/Essbase/BO/Cognos & Acta/Informatica and if  
> > > any of you are using any of these alternative solutions can you please  
> > > provide your experiences with these alternatives to SAP BW like Acta  
> > > with Essbase/Oracle/Cognos or SQL Server and if there are any resource  
> > > on the net which outline how to evaluate a data warehouse.  
> >  
> > The OLAP Survey 2 also confirmed the low success rates of SAP BW  
> > users.  
> > Using an index based on eight separate benefits, SAP BW users reported  
> > the  
> > lowest scores among the nine products which had enough respondents to  
> > report. They also had the second lowest achievement of business goals  
> > among  
> > the same group. They also had an above-average rate of reporting  
> > technical  
> > problems (worse than any of the other products on your list).  
> >  
> > But, bizarrely, they also had the greatest loyalty -- presumably, many  
> > SAP  
> > R/3 sites have a fanatical loyalty to the vendor (after having  
> > invested so  
> > much), and despite the poor experiences of BW, are reluctant to  
> > consider  
> > third party alternatives, even though \*all\* the third party  
> > alternatives  
> > perform better.  
> >  
> > The same survey found that SAP BW users were the least likely to have  
> > performed a competitive product evaluation of all (only 24% of the BW  
> > sites  
> > surveyed had done this, against an average of 50%). This suggests that  
> > if  
> > people actually take the trouble to do what you're doing, they soon  
> > discover  
> > better alternatives and are able to achieve better results, more  
> > quickly and  
> > at lower cost. Largely, it's people who just assume BW "must be good

> > *because*  
> > *it's from SAP" who buy it, and then find it doesn't deliver. Of*  
> > *course, that*  
> > *same group probably don't realize how much better off they could have*  
> > *been*  
> > *if they'd bought something else.*  
> >  
> > *Because there are so many well-heelled R/3 sites, you'll find that all*  
> > *the*  
> > *independent BI vendors have put a lot of effort into ensuring that*  
> > *they can*  
> > *work well with R/3. Of the ones on your list, probably the only one*  
> > *not to*  
> > *consider at this stage is 9i OLAP, which is still somewhat unfinished.*  
> > *It*  
> > *may be good in a year or so, but currently has no apps available, and*  
> > *few*  
> > *tools. Consequently, there are currently very few deployments of it.*  
> >  
> > *Nigel Pendse*  
> > *OLAP Solutions*  
> > <http://www.olapreport.com>  
> > <http://www.survey.com/products/olap2/>  
> > *Message 3 in thread*  
> > *From: DA Morgan (damorgan@exesolutions.com)*  
> > *Subject: Re: SAP BW compared to Essbase/SQLServer/Oracle as a*  
> > *Enterprise Data Warehouse & OLAP application*  
> >  
> >  
> > *View this article only*  
> > *Newsgroups: comp.databases.olap, comp.databases.oracle.marketplace,*  
> > *comp.databases.oracle.server, microsoft.public.sqlserver.datawarehouse*  
> > *Date: 2003-01-11 11:06:13 PST*  
> >  
> >  
> > *Amanda Jones wrote:*  
> >  
> > > *Hello All*  
> > >  
> > > *My company as asked me to prepare and evaluate between alternative*  
> > > *solutions for data warehousing and one of our major source system to*  
> > > *the data warehouse is SAP R/3 but of course we have other source*  
> > > *systems apart from SAP.*  
> > >  
> > > *I am wondering how good is SAP Business Warehouse – BW 30B the latest*  
> > > *version of SAP BW as a solution. I have personally talked to quite a*  
> > > *few customers using SAP BW I could not get a good feedback about the*  
> > > *product from SAP customers. Some of the customers indicated following*  
> > > *issues with SAP BW:*  
> > > *–difficult to use*  
> > > *–went through long implementation cycles*

>>> *–performance was poor and scalability issues*  
>>> *–maintaining the application was expensive since SAP BW and ABAP*  
>>> *consultants are needed for ongoing maintenance.*  
>>>  
>>> *Apart from it we figured out SAP BW 30B does not have any ETL tool in*  
>>> *it with ETL being 70–80% of the data warehousing effort I am bit*  
>>> *sceptical how BW can run without a proper ETL tool. The part that*  
>>> *caused us most concern was the language to extract, transform and load*  
>>> *in SAP BW was ABAP and ABAP is proprietary which would cause us a*  
>>> *major steep cost of ownership even for initial implementation to*  
>>> *ongoing maintenance since our SAP project was not easy to implement*  
>>> *and ABAP programmers are not available for less than \$1000/day. So we*  
>>> *would need expensive ABAP programmers to develop extractors for SAP*  
>>> *R/3.*  
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>>> *found out good SAP BW consultants were hard to get and getting*  
>>> *consulting help from SAP would cost us – \$2000/day. Apart from this*  
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>>> *of the reporting was all done in ABAP again and for projecting reports*  
>>> *Crystal reports was available but we had to buy a separate license for*  
>>> *Crystal reports and indications was in addition to SAP BW we had to*  
>>> *buy a CPU based license for Crystal in addition. Since, we have*  
>>> *non–SAP data sources to integrate into the data warehouse we were told*  
>>> *we need a ETL tool like Ascential and we are to buy a separate license*  
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>>> *ETL tool once more CPU based licensing. Apart from buying a ETL tool*  
>>> *like Ascential customers who had to build ETL to SAP BW have built*  
>>> *part of the ETL process the extraction layer in Ascential and the*  
>>> *transform and load part was written in ABAP for performance and that*  
>>> *was the only solution for doing transforms and loads was to use ABAP*  
>>> *programming.*  
>>>  
>>>  
>> *Read the rest of this message... (161 more lines)*  
>>  
>> *Message 4 in thread*  
>> *From: timgale (timgale@rogers.com)*  
>> *Subject: Re: SAP BW compared to Essbase/SQLServer/Oracle as a*  
>> *Enterprise Data Warehouse & OLAP application*  
>>  
>>  
>> *View this article only*  
>> *Newsgroups: comp.databases.olap, comp.databases.oracle.marketplace,*  
>> *comp.databases.oracle.server, microsoft.public.sqlserver.datawarehouse*  
>> *Date: 2003–01–14 14:59:01 PST*  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>> *My background is a little different having been a Cognos reseller for*  
>> *the*

> > *past 6 years. I am lead to believe by the guru's that be that Cognos*  
> > *has a*  
> > *few solutions for SAP and/or SAP BW...*  
> >  
> > *You can buy and use Cognos "headstarts" for SAP BW which will give*  
> > *users all*  
> > *the benefits of the Cognos client against SAP's Data Warehouse.*  
> > *However, I*  
> > *believe that the user can not perform OLAP disconnected.*  
> >  
> > *You can use Cognos against the info cubes in BW but you lose your ad*  
> > *hoc*  
> > *query and drill through capabilities. All you get is OLAP. Performance*  
> > *may*  
> > *also be an issue as PowerPlay is connecting through an odbc type*  
> > *interface*  
> > *(ODBO?) which is yet another point of failure. Also, you then are*  
> > *dependant*  
> > *on both vendors for connectivity through various releases.*  
> >  
> > *You can purchase analytical applications for SAP from Cognos which*  
> > *uses*  
> > *Cognos Decision Stream for ETL (solves your multiple data sources*  
> > *problem)*  
> > *and takes advantage of Decision Stream functionality for slowly*  
> > *changing*  
> > *dimensions, conforming dimensions, etc. Also, there is a TON of*  
> > *business*  
> > *content for Inventory, Procurement, Sales, AR, GL, and AP. It's an end*  
> > *to*  
> > *end Data Warehouse and Business Intelligence offering that is quick to*  
> > *implement. Having said all that, I've tried to convince many SAP shops*  
> > *of*  
> > *the above and they are extremely loyal to the ERP vendor. I'm not sure*  
> > *why.*  
> > *Typically an ERP vendor's sales force is plugged into the executive*  
> > *buyers*  
> > *which helps set an ERP agenda despite a favourable Cognos IT*  
> > *recommendation.*  
> > *Also note that Cognos was a licensed reseller for ACTA a few years ago*  
> > *so*  
> > *presumably they learned a thing or two about SAP data sources.*  
> >  
> > *Cognos resources are available in most major cities either from Cognos*  
> > *or*  
> > *through a systems integrator. Also, Cognos resources are available on*  
> > *a*  
> > *contract/permanent basis (at least in Toronto) through most agencies*  
> > *or on*  
> > *the open market.*  
> >

> > *Personally, I think Cognos Analytical Applications are the best bet*  
> > *but I've*  
> > *been programmed to think that way:-)*  
> >  
> > *Hope that information is helpful.*  
> >  
> > *Cheers!*  
> > *Tim*  
> >  
> >  
> >  
> > *"Amanda Jones" <amandajonesbc@lycos.com> wrote in message*  
> > *news:d42580f.0301110137.5d6bdcca@posting.google.com...*  
> > > *Hello All*  
> > >  
> > > *My company as asked me to prepare and evaluate between alternative*  
> > > *solutions for data warehousing and one of our major source system to*  
> > > *the data warehouse is SAP R/3 but of course we have other source*  
> >  
> > *Read the rest of this message... (194 more lines)*  
> >  
> > *Message 5 in thread*  
> > *From: Ihre\_Frage (Ihre\_Frage@yahoo.de)*  
> > *Subject: Re: SAP BW compared to Essbase/SQLServer/Oracle as a*  
> > *Enterprise Data Warehouse & OLAP application*  
> >  
> >  
> > *View this article only*  
> > *Newsgroups: comp.databases.olap, comp.databases.oracle.marketplace,*  
> > *comp.databases.oracle.server, microsoft.public.sqlserver.datawarehouse*  
> > *Date: 2003-01-16 09:25:31 PST*  
> >  
> >  
> >  
> > *Hello Amanda,*  
> >  
> > *having lately had a look on all major multidimensional and relational*  
> > *OLAP systems I can just agree to all the statements regarding BW:*  
> >  
> > > > *-difficult to use*  
> > > > *-went through long implementation cycles*  
> > > > *-performance was poor and scalability issues*  
> > > > *-maintaining the application was expensive since SAP BW and ABAP*  
> > > > *consultants are needed for ongoing maintenance.*  
> >  
> > *you stated. At the moment there are only three reasons to implement*  
> > *SAP BW: 1. Your source data originates from SAP R/3 (at least 85 %).*  
> > *2. Your users only know SAP R/3 reporting and are not "spoiled" by*  
> > *front ends from Cognos, Hyperion, Oracle, etc. or there are mainly (3)*  
> > *users receiving reports delivered by SAP's Business Explorer Web*  
> > *Application Builder (which is quite good).*

>>  
>> *Why 1? Because SAP BW offers predefined extractors to extract data  
>> from R/3. Be careful though since any additionally created field in R/3  
>> won't be covered by the extractors and need to be created manually. If  
>> you won't employ BW there will be no way around an ETL tool and  
>> consultants who know exactly where and how they get the data from  
>> (using routines that use the R/3 application by creating ABAP code  
>> through the ETL tool). The question is where you want to put the  
>> effort: In data extraction from R/3 or in maintaining your warehouse  
>> application server, the latter called BW. The options you stated with  
>> the ETL tools and their analytical apps form one scenario. Using the  
>> ETL tool, filling a database and employing separate front end tools is  
>> another. You are also comparing multidimensional and relational  
>> databases: In my opinion you should see if you need the first or the  
>> latter to meet your requirements. This depends largely on the data  
>> volumes you want to handle. Data volume, #users and your required  
>> performance influence the decision which system and what platform to  
>> use. "Neutral" warehouse vendors like SAS, IBM, Microsoft or Oracle  
>> could do. Some of them even have "ETL" functionality built in which is  
>> quite good, like SAS or Oracle.*  
>>  
>> *Regarding the front ends: There are indeed 3rd party front ends  
>> available for BW. The problem is just that the ODBO implementation is  
>> very often different from SAP's (although they have certified  
>> interfaces). OLAP BAPI gives less hazzles but only two vendors are  
>> certified. It is not correct though, that programming reports in BW  
>> needs any ABAP at all. There is a query builder you can use to create  
>> the report you want (in Excel or for the Web). The use of Business  
>> Explorer Analyzer is just not as comfortable than using Hyperions  
>> Excel Add-in or other vendors'.*  
>>  
>>> *RDBMS and the way SAP BW implementes aggregates is not like Oracle's*  
>>  
>> *Read the rest of this message... (62 more lines)*  
>>  
>> *Message 6 in thread*  
>> *From: Andreas Wessner (canttell@yahoo.de)*  
>> *Subject: Re: SAP BW compared to Essbase/SQLServer/Oracle as a*  
>> *Enterprise Data Warehouse & OLAP application*  
>>  
>>  
>> *View this article only*  
>> *Newsgroups: comp.databases.olap, comp.databases.oracle.marketplace,*  
>> *comp.databases.oracle.server, microsoft.public.sqlserver.datawarehouse*  
>> *Date: 2003-01-16 13:59:17 PST*  
>>  
>>  
>>  
>> *Amanda, Tim,*  
>>  
>>> *You can buy and use Cognos "headstarts" for SAP BW which will give users all*

> > > *the benefits of the Cognos client against SAP's Data Warehouse. However, I*  
> > > *believe that the user can not perform OLAP disconnected.*  
> >  
> > *Headstart can be used to connect Impromptu against the physical tables*  
> > *of*  
> > *SAP BW. This means just database security, no application security.*  
> > *Powerplay facilitates the OLE DB for OLAP (ODBO) interface SAP*  
> > *implements.*  
> > *Unfortunately in the past (BW 2.1 to 3.0A) SAP's ODBO interface*  
> > *experienced*  
> > *slight "improvements" by SAP resulting in 3rd party software (also*  
> > *Powerplay) not working with SAP BW any more. I wouldn't therefore*  
> > *recommend*  
> > *patching BW (and you have to apply many patches) without the 3rd party*  
> > *vendors' assurance that his software runs with the new SAP BW patch.*  
> >  
> > *You wonder why SAP customers are loyal? I assume that they think*  
> > *stucking*  
> > *with the "market leader" is a good thing – SAP products are self*  
> > *running*  
> > *although they are far from optimality. Secondly have you ever tried to*  
> > *image*  
> > *what you would tell your boss if you voted for a software costing your*  
> > *company a fortune and realizing half a year later that you made a*  
> > *mistake?*  
> >  
> > *Regards,*  
> >  
> > *A.*  
> > *Message 7 in thread*  
> > *From: Nigel Pendse (nigelp@nospam.compuserve.com)*  
> > *Subject: Re: SAP BW compared to Essbase/SQLServer/Oracle as a*  
> > *Enterprise Data Warehouse & OLAP application*  
> >  
> >  
> > *View this article only*  
> > *Newsgroups: comp.databases.olap, comp.databases.oracle.marketplace,*  
> > *comp.databases.oracle.server, microsoft.public.sqlserver.datawarehouse*  
> > *Date: 2003-01-16 14:31:54 PST*  
> >  
> >  
> > *"Andreas Wessner" <canttell@yahoo.de> wrote in message*  
> > *news:b079vj\$mgcun\$2@ID-25239.news.dfncis.de...*  
> > > *You wonder why SAP customers are loyal? I assume that they think stucking*  
> > > *with the "market leader" is a good thing – SAP products are self running*  
> > > *although they are far from optimality. Secondly have you ever tried to image*  
> > > *what you would tell your boss if you voted for a software costing your*  
> > > *company a fortune and realizing half a year later that you made a mistake?*  
> > >  
> > *Indeed so, but many sites assume that SAP BW must, by definition, be*  
> > *better*

> > *integrated with R/3 than third party products are, which is not*  
> > *necessarily*  
> > *true. There's also a very long history of ERP vendors (or ledger*  
> > *vendors, as*  
> > *they used to be called) doing a poor job with end-user business*  
> > *applications. Companies like Hyperion, Cognos, Business Objects,*  
> > *Comshare,*  
> > *etc have long derived a significant part of their business from*  
> > *providing*  
> > *the flexible analysis and reporting that was promised but not*  
> > *delivered by*  
> > *the supplier of the ledgers. Oracle tried to overcome this by buying*  
> > *the*  
> > *Express business from IRI, and marketing OFA as the standard front-end*  
> > *for*  
> > *Oracle Financials, but this product has been fading.*  
> >  
> > *But, as you say, once a company has spent tens of millions to*  
> > *implement SAP,*  
> > *it's very hard for them to accept that they then need to buy a third*  
> > *party*  
> > *product from a smaller vendor to make the most of it.*  
> >  
> > *Nigel Pendse*  
> > *OLAP Solutions*  
> > *<http://www.olapreport.com>*