

Data Sheet IPL's Business Intelligence Centre

Business Intelligence

The modern business environment is a challenging place. Change is the only constant and access to relevant information is vital. Business Intelligence (BI) has become a crucial component of corporate IT, helping businesses to create competitive advantage and sustained growth by realising the true potential of their corporate data.

In essence, BI is about ensuring the right information is available at the right time and to the right people to drive better decisions. The sheer volume of data collected by many organisations can be overwhelming. IPL can help unlock the potential of that data, adding significant business value by revealing key insights into customer behaviour, helping organisations understand and rationalise their assets, detecting suspicious activity and much more.

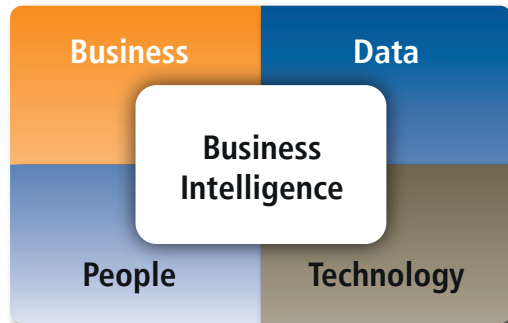


Figure 1

The Business Intelligence Centre at IPL

Over the past fifteen years, IPL has built up a large knowledge base of BI methods and practices. The Business Intelligence Centre (BIC) provides a hub to draw that experience together. The BIC team are experienced BI specialists, highly skilled in all aspects of BI development and solutions architecture.

Our BI solutions are tailored to our clients' needs and are fully scalable and adaptable to change. We work with the latest technology to ensure our BI solutions perform in the most demanding of situations.

Our robust execution methodologies and our reusable BI frameworks and components incorporate tried and tested architecture and design principles which have been distilled from a wide variety of projects and experiences. These give our clients faster 'time to value' while delivering an agile information architecture that helps them realise the return on their BI investments.

The BIC provides services across a wide variety of sectors. We work closely with our colleagues in IPL's Business Consulting practice to ensure we fully understand our clients' businesses, providing a full range of Information Management services.

How do we Approach BI Solutions?

IPL believes that BI is a business, not just a technology, solution, so we work closely with our clients to make sure we understand not only their data but also the people who will use the information the data will provide. Our tried and tested BI methodology is closely aligned with Kimball's Business Dimensional Lifecycle – this is a business-focused, iterative approach where business value determines the scope of each iteration.

The outline of this approach is illustrated in Figure 2

The Kimball approach can be applied irrespective of the chosen technology. IPL has particular expertise with Microsoft BI and has successfully delivered a number of high profile solutions using this platform. We have also delivered many successful projects using a number of technologies from open source platforms such as Jaspersoft and Talend, to enterprise-grade technology such as SAP Business Objects and Oracle.

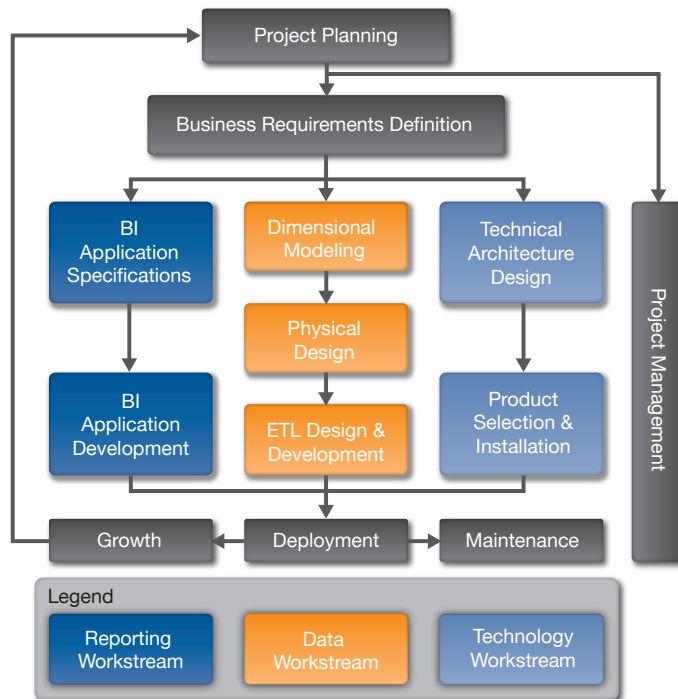


Figure 2

What Services do we Offer?

IPL offers a complete set of end-to-end BI services including:

- Proof of Concept
- Data Analysis and Data Profiling
- BI Audit
- Design, Review, Implementation and Ongoing Support of the Following:
 - Data Warehousing
 - Data Mining and Predictive Analytics
 - ETL for Data Warehousing & Data Migration
 - Self Service BI Including Semantic Layers
 - OLAP Cubes
 - Master Data Management Solutions
 - Reporting, including
 - i Performance Management
 - ii High Level Dashboards with Drill Down Capability
 - iii Innovative Visualisations

Recent Successes in BI Solution Delivery

Technology Strategy Board – We developed an open source Enterprise Data Warehouse and reporting solution using MySQL, Jaspersoft and Talend enabling TSB to significantly improve the monitoring of their impact on innovation in the UK economy.

Nationwide – During our strategic partnership with the Nationwide Building Society we have provided a number of Microsoft BI solutions, most recently a Management Information system. This was designed to help Nationwide gain deeper insight into the behaviour of their customers, helping them measure their return on investment. Data volumes were predicted to reach ten terabytes in the first year, so performance was critical to its success.

HA TPMS – For the Highways Agency we developed a new web based national asset management system integrated with a data warehouse providing HA management with the ability to more effectively monitor contractors' performance through the use of high level performance dashboards and reports.