

Budgeting, Planning & Forecasting, Reporting and 'What If' Scenario Analysis

Powered by market-leading TM1 technology, EclipseInsight provides you with powerful and flexible functionality to significantly enhance your budgeting, planning and forecasting, financial modelling and reporting capabilities. More importantly, EclipseInsight provides a direct connection to your Microsoft Dynamics GP, AX or NAV database and extends and transforms the familiar Microsoft Excel front-end with a powerful in-memory analytic engine and modelling tool for multi-dimensional analysis, reporting and planning.

EclipseInsight transforms common spreadsheets for both real-time business analysis and planning, giving users the power to build and test business scenarios with powerful 'what if' modelling and to update plans immediately using write-back capabilities.

Spreadsheet Challenges?

Many financial and business analysts are skilled spreadsheet users.

With the pressure of budgeting and forecasting and the need for tight business planning, no one wants to give up using spreadsheets or have to learn a new or cumbersome analysis tool. But there are significant risks in 'spreadsheet only' business processes, these include:

- Inability to deliver timely, reliable forecasts & plans that align operational tactics with financial targets
- Data inaccuracies - errors, untrustworthy data, lack of data security
- Heavy demand on skilled Finance resources to simply collect and format data - there is little value in these activities
- Planning cycles too complex or inconsistent
- Proliferation of spreadsheets that have created too many 'silos' of information
- Error prone with slow financial and operational processes.

EclipseInsight allows you to continue working with your familiar spreadsheet tools and helps to eliminate the inherent risks of audibility and lack of data control.

Using IBM Cognos Express Xcelerator (TM1), EclipseInsight extends and transforms the familiar MS Excel front-end with a powerful in-memory analytics engine. It's perfectly suited for multi-dimensional analysis and strategic planning tasks, enabling a new level of insight and action, as well as speed.

EclipseInsight provides an in-built connection to your Microsoft Dynamics database, delivering a powerful solution for budgeting/planning/forecasting and data consolidation with financial modelling capability.

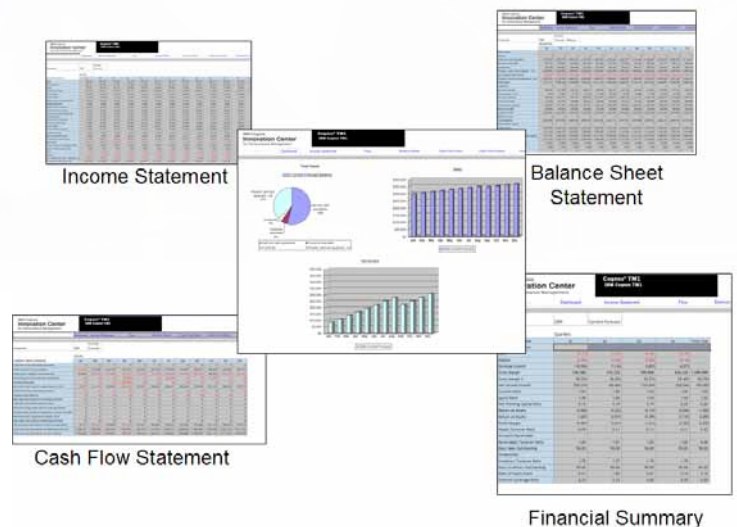


Why EclipseInsight

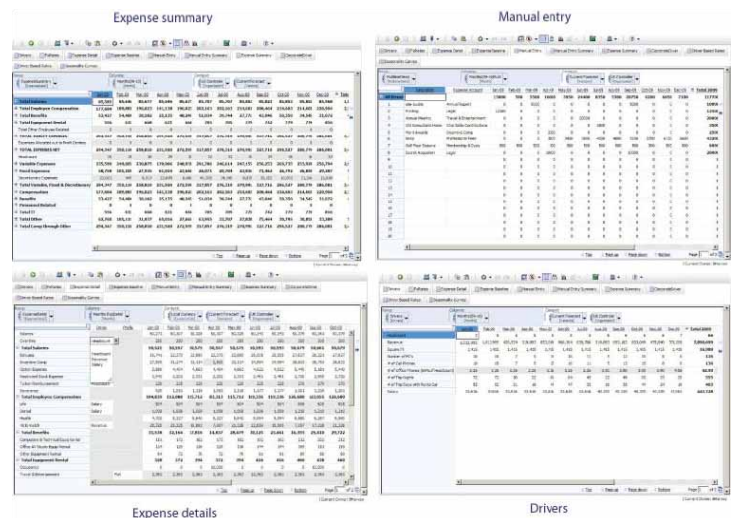
EclipseInsight is suited for multi-dimensional analysis and strategic planning tasks. Users are given the power to build and test business scenarios with powerful 'what if' modelling, and to update plans immediately using write-back capabilities. This speeds up your business processes, reducing the time between planning and execution. Users can leverage the flexible reporting capabilities of Eclipseinsight and its powerful Microsoft Excel functionality to create their own customised views of information and share them with the organisation where appropriate.

Benefits

- Powerful Analytics server – includes a powerful in-memory analytic server for lightning fast analysis, queries and on-the-fly calculations regardless of the size or complexity of the data set
- Owned by the business – Business users are able to maintain ownership over the planning processes as well as the system. Reduces the dependency on IT
- Collaborative Planning – Enable business users to work together on plans through a purpose-built solution to eliminate errors (business rules and hierarchy, links, calculations, wrong versions etc)
- 'What if' scenario modelling – Assess the options available to achieve performance targets and understand how allocating finite resources will best increase performance
- Distribute plan information in reports – Integrate both planning and other organisational information in a single report to increase effectiveness
- Eliminate silos of data and inconsistencies - Centrally managed data, business hierarchies, rules and calculations
- Automatic updating of financials - GL cube for Dynamics AX and Dynamics GP
- Input models - allow more detailed preparation of; Employee and Salary data, T&E expense modelling etc
- Fully-integrated Income Statement, Balance Sheet and Cashflow Statement
- Create dashboard-style presentation of key metrics and KPIs
- EclipseInsight enables budgeting best practices and the ability to implement a true Top Down/Bottom Up budgeting and planning process.



- ▲ EclipseInsight provides fully integrated financials, facilitating financial and management reporting and allowing the impact of changes to financial drivers or assumptions to be immediately assessed as the changes instantly ripple through the model.



- ▲ EclipseInsight provides powerful, driver-based modelling capability that allows sophisticated input models that accurately represent your business to drive your integrated financials.

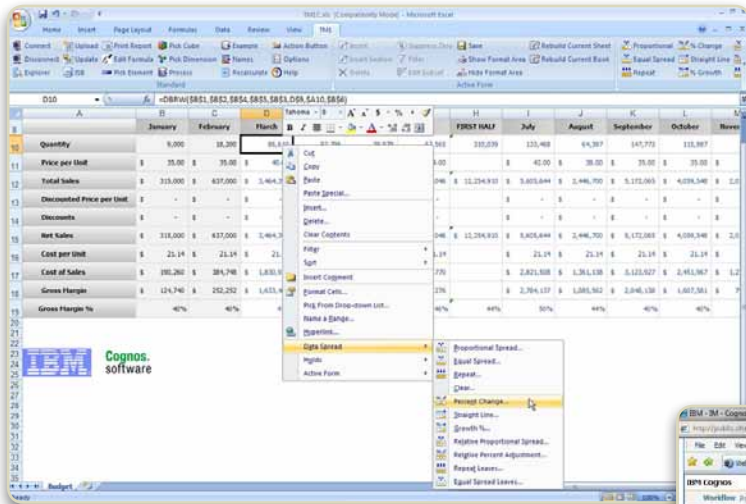
EclipseInsight Product Components

IBM Cognos Express Xcelerator

Xcelerator is aimed at organisations that need to create and deploy planning applications; create and deploy the underlying models, dimensions and cubes; and analyse data. Xcelerator functionality includes the following three components:

1. Xcelerator Client - an add-in to Microsoft Excel that enables access to the IMA Server and the use of Excel as an authoring environment (e.g., for developing budgeting and planning applications).
2. Xcelerator Web - a Web-based client that provides read/write access to cubes and Websheets (Excel-authored applications that have been converted to a Web-compatible format).
3. Xcelerator Workflow - a separately installed component that employs existing IMA objects (cubes, Excel or Web workbooks) to implement a custom workflow consisting of tasks, their status and routing, and hierarchical approvals.

▼ 'What If' scenario modelling lets you optimise your plans based on different assumptions that take into account ever-changing market conditions. So you can link the insights gained through analysis to precise action-based planning.



Financial and business analysts can leverage their Excel skills and still work with centrally managed planning data that is trusted and secure. ►

Other users will appreciate the Web-based analysis tools that provide a simple and powerful way to slice and dice data and change key business drivers to see the future impact on business outcomes.

Core Capabilities

All IBM Cognos Express modules share the following six common components/capabilities through the Administrator license:

1. IBM Cognos Express Manager - a Web-based interface for administrators to manage IBM Cognos Express (installation, start/stop services, user administration, data sources management, etc.)
2. In-Memory Analytic (IMA) Server - an in-memory database engine used to create and manage multi-dimensional cubes available to all IBM Cognos Express modules. The Architect component (also known as Server Explorer) is a stand-alone client and is the primary design interface for the IMA Server. Architect includes the TurboIntegrator component for creating processes to extract/transform/load data into the cubes. This component is what is commonly referred to as TM1.
3. Cognos Connection - a Web portal that provides a single access point for querying, analysing and organising data and for creating reports. You can run all your Web-based IBM Cognos Express applications from IBM Cognos Connection. You can also create customisable pages that use portlets to include content from any IBM Cognos Express module (Reporter, Advisor, Xcelerator) in an integrated dashboard.
4. Cognos Access Manager - the security component used to create user roles and single sign-on. This can work with an Active Directory authentication store.
5. Content Store - an embedded RDBMS that stores metadata and content used by the IBM Cognos Express modules.
6. Framework Manager - modelling tool used to create advanced relational models.



Value-Add Modules

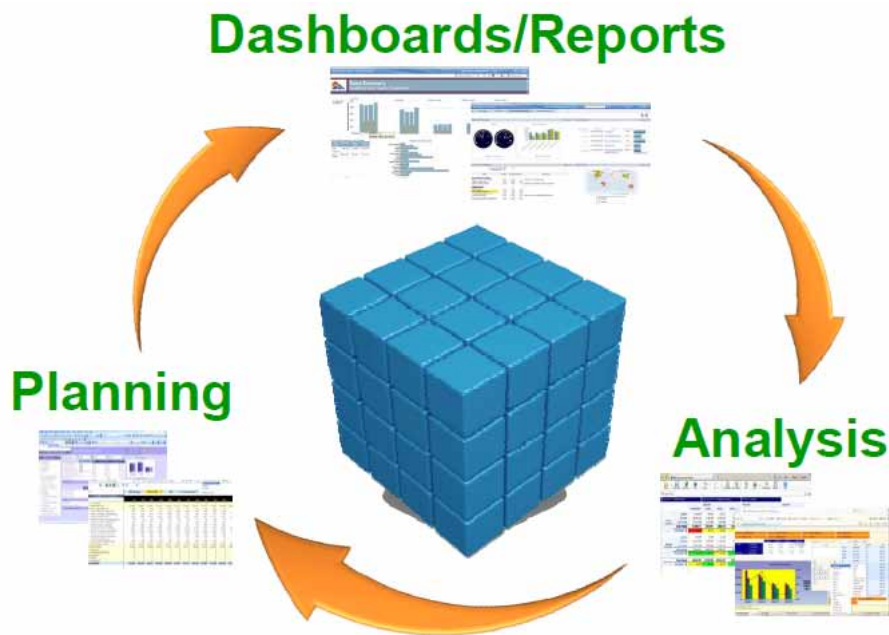
Add value to your EclipseInsight solution with additional modules:

Express Reporter - delivering Self-service reporting and ad hoc query

- Simple, intuitive authoring for novice to experts using IBM Cognos BI Query Studio and Report Studio
- Different reports to meet the needs of different users
- Breadth of report coverage – operational, transactional, dashboards, ad hoc
- Connect to any type of data and in any combination – relational, OLAP, desktop files
- Flexible report delivery via web interface, PDF, Excel, email or Portal.

Express Advisor – delivering freeform analysis and visualisation

- Real-time analysis with in-memory multi-dimensional capability
- Slice and dice, drill down capabilities
- High impact data visualisations
- Simplified business view creation and building
- On the fly business view changes
- 'What if' scenarios with write back
- Embed live content into MS Office applications.



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