Set the stopwatch: Cubes vs. DMR models

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Agenda

- Introduction
- Study Group and IBM Cognos
- Challenges
- Cubes vs. DMR
- Demo
- What's next?
- Q & A

Introduction – Study Group

- One of the largest education providers
- English Language, High Schools, University Foundation Studies, Technical Education, Undergraduate and Postgraduate, University/College Placements

Introduction – Study Group

- 3 Operating Divisions
- 4 Countries
- 40 Centres
- 30,000+ Students
- Sales staff in 30+ Countries
- 3000+ Agents

Introduction – Focus

- BI, Planning and DW expertise
- Partner of the Year 08 and 09
- 5 years of a successful SG/Focus relationship
- Highly skilled consultants with best practices
- On going support

SG and IBM Cognos

- Cognos 8.3 - Planning & BI
- SQL Server 2005
  - DW box located in New-York, USA
  - Development in Sydney
- Wherescape Red ETL
- 140 Cognos users (mostly Analysis Studio with a few Report Viewers)

Challenge

- Give something more than a report to manage the business

- Measures
  - New Student Enrolments
  - Student Weeks
  - Billing

- Time period comparison
  - CYTD vs. LYTD reporting challenge

DMR vs. Cubes

Why DMR

- Almost live data

- Single metadata layer

- Native SQL

- SQL Server Tuning indexes

- SQL Server load balancing

DMR vs. Cubes

Why not DMR

- Source systems in 3 time zones
- DW is one day late
- No need for real time reporting
- CYTD vs. LYTD = fact table passed twice
- SG not familiar with this technology
- No added business advantage

DMR vs. Cubes

Why Cubes

- Optimal solution in terms of performance
  – pre-aggregated data are meant to be faster
- CYTD vs. LYTD = two distinct measures
- Save the load of Planning on the DW
- Cube build is fast: 3 main cubes in less than 15mn (250 Mo for NSE cube)

DMR vs. Cubes

Why not Cubes

- Add another modeling layer (Transformer)
- Security component (custom views) is less flexible than DMR
- More maintenance (cube build and cube swap)

DMR vs. Cubes: benchmark

Report	DMR (DEV)	Cube (DEV)	Cube (PROD) *
NSE	4s	4s	22s
Student Week	4s	4s	30s
Billing	5s	5s	13s

* Actual query execution time is around 4s. Connection to the DW in USA delays the start of the execution process and the report rendering

Who's the winner?

Criteria	DMR	Cube
Performance	=	=
Maintenance	+	-
Flexibility/Scalability	+	-
Maturity	-	+

Study Group opted for Cubes since it provides good performance with a proven technology.

But Focus has implemented successful DMR models for large organisations

Reports

- *(Demo Reports)*

What's next?

- On going support with Focus
- New Cubes (Activity)
- New Reports (Digital Sales)
- Dashboards
- Upgrade to C8.4
- Merging Planning and DW data

Q & A