

BI Architecture Design

Overview

IBM Cognos® BI products are rich, robust and flexible. They allow for a variety of uses and may be architected in solutions that range from small departmental single-server environments to very large multi-server enterprise environments. The BI Architecture Design work package helps you achieve high degrees of flexibility and usability by ensuring your architecture conforms to your business goals and your unique needs.

Technical specifications

What is the BI Architecture Design work package?

As one of the Realize work packages under IBM Cognos Guardian Services, the BI Architecture Design work package will help ensure the your BI solutions are placed on a solid foundation that has been built to meet your specific goals. A technical architect will work with you to identify architecture goals, provide an architecture that matches those goals, and provide guidance on key areas like failover, load balancing and disaster recovery. The primary focus of the architecture design package is to provide you with the knowledge and understanding of proven practices, ways to build and manage the growth of your BI architecture over the long term. These are just a few of the considerations to be addressed as part of this work package.

Features and benefits

How the BI Architecture Design work package drives better ROI

The BI Architecture Design work package helps you achieve better return on your software investment by helping you understand and architect flexible solutions to meet your changing needs.

This package helps to mitigate risks and avert costly implementation issues by

- Identifying business goals and matching them to proven architecture strategies.
- Helping to design conformed, supportable environments.
- Highlighting key product features used in high availability solutions.
- Providing you with the knowledge to react to your changing needs.
- Streamlining the installation process by providing a solid foundation of architecture knowledge before implementation begins.

Feature overview

How the BI Architecture Design work package works

The BI Architecture work package provides three levels of architecture design to meet your needs.

Level 1 - Architecture Recommendation

The Architecture Recommendation Service is designed to provide you with recommendations for “tried and true” architectures that are successfully in use at other IBM Cognos solutions customer sites. The service includes an interview to determine the basic characteristics of your planned

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implementation. The technical architect then recommends an architecture that most closely meets your needs.

Topics for discussion include:

- General size – Expected user community and concurrency.
- Products – Which IBM Cognos products will be included in the architecture?
- Product Balance - Which product will be the heaviest used based on expected percentage of usage?

Deliverables

Based on the findings from the discussion, IBM will recommend and provide known and successful sample architectures that most closely fit your stated needs.

Level 2 - Architecture Design

The Architecture Design Service provides you with detailed custom-designed architecture to meet your individual needs. This service consists of in-depth interviews to discuss your application goals and important factors that should be considered in the architecture.

Topics for discussion will include but are not limited to:

- General Size - Expected user community and concurrency.
- Products – Which IBM Cognos products will be in the architecture?
- Product Balance - Which will be the heaviest used based on expected percentage of usage?

- Failover Strategies - Gateway failover, application failover, Content Manager failover, hardware failover.
- Load Balancing - Application server load balancing, weighted round robin versus cluster compatible, load distribution strategies, targeted service servers, advanced routing sets.
- Scalability - Adding capacity to an existing architecture, strategies for best utilization of resources, maintaining a balanced environment.

- Disaster Recovery - Strategies for employing disaster recovery, IBM Cognos product backup procedures.
- Lifecycle Strategies - Understanding options for capacity assessments, load testing and continuous integration.

Deliverables

Based on the findings above, IBM will create and deliver a custom architecture design that best meets

IBM Cognos Guardian Services

Internal teams or partners implementing an IBM Cognos solution can benefit from vendor-specific guidance and technical knowledge to ensure project success. IBM Cognos Guardian Services provide this valuable expertise. BI Architecture Design is just one offering in a full range of IBM Cognos Guardian Services work packages.

Guardian Services were developed to provide IBM Cognos expertise at critical points of your implementation. They allow you to choose specific services or work packages, as required, to complement your existing capabilities and project requirements. This helps you protect your software investment, and enables you to

- Reduce risk
- Realize business value and maximize ROI
- Enable faster adoption

Working with Your Technical Account Manager

Guardian Services allow you to make use of IBM Cognos Technical Account Managers (TAMs). TAMs are technical resources with deep expertise in IBM Cognos technology, performance management, implementation and best practices, and can help you navigate through available service offerings, while leveraging IBM Cognos resources, tools, and proven practices.

The TAM helps you maximize your valuable application investment, helping you

- Manage risk to facilitate IBM Cognos implementation success
- Transform business requirements into tangible solutions
- Ensure the correct and expedient resolution of any support issues

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your stated goals. The design will include graphical architectural diagram(s) along with descriptions of the features and their alignment with your stated goals.

Level 3 - Architecture Assessment and Design

The Architecture Assessment is designed to deliver architecture designs that are built on the results of extensive load testing and environmental review. This assessment is a result and a standard deliverable of the Performance and Testing service and is not available separately. Results of the load test along with environmental factors and projected concurrency growth rates (up to 24 months) are used to produce the final architecture capacity assessment.

Deliverables

Based on the findings above, IBM will create and deliver a custom architecture design that best meets your stated goals. The design will

include graphical architectural diagram(s) along with descriptions of the features and their alignment with your stated goals.

What you get with the BI Architecture Design work package

When engaging IBM Cognos consultants to perform the BI Architecture Design work package you can expect to receive standard documentation including the architecture design document with detailed descriptions, architecture diagrams, and go forward strategies.

Proven methodology leads to successful implementations

The BI Architecture Design work package is delivered as a part of the proven IBM Cognos Solutions Implementation Methodology (SIM). This process was designed to ensure successful and repeatable IBM Cognos deployments. It's a step-by-step guide used throughout the implementation lifecycle by IBM consultants, partners,

and customers around the globe to efficiently and successfully implement IBM Cognos solutions. The IBM Cognos SIM is based on five project phases – Analyze, Design, Build, Deploy, Operate – and incorporates a project management component. The BI Architecture Design work package can be delivered at the Design phase of this lifecycle.

Contact us

For more information about how IBM Cognos Professional Services can assist you with your BI implementation or migration, contact your local Service Manager or Account Manager. To have a local Service Manager contact you, fill out the Services Request form on our Web site <http://support.cognos.com/en/consulting/about/request.html> or e-mail us at Cognos.Professional.Services@ca.ibm.com

About IBM Cognos BI and Performance Management:

IBM Cognos business intelligence (BI) and performance management solutions deliver world-leading enterprise planning, consolidation and BI software, support and services to help companies plan, understand and manage financial and operational performance. IBM Cognos solutions bring together technology, analytical applications, best practices, and a broad network of partners to give customers an open, adaptive and complete performance solution. Over 23,000 customers in more than 135 countries around the world choose IBM Cognos solutions.

For further information or to reach a representative: www.ibm.com/cognos

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To request a call or to ask a question, go to www.ibm.com/cognos/contactus. An IBM Cognos representative will respond to your enquiry within two business days.



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