Simplify the design, implementation and maintenance of your data warehouse environment with the IBM InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse solution.

If you're going to make good decisions, understand customer needs, drive innovation, take action and ultimately gain a competitive advantage, you need information.

Next to your employees, information is your organization's most valuable asset. But simply possessing information isn't enough—it needs to be accurate, comprehensive, trustworthy and timely. In addition, information needs to be available to a variety of users, when they need it. After all, what good is information if no one can access it?

But consolidating, managing and controlling information can be painful. Why? One reason is that as the volume and variety of information increase, so does the number of systems needed to store and collect it. Over time, information is scattered across the organization, housed in silos of disparate applications. As a result, maintaining and managing the information can be a headache for IT. End users, in the meantime, may struggle to access the information they need in realtime, which impedes their ability to analyze it and put it to use for the business.

Users present another challenge. Simply stated, there are lots of them, and each requires different kinds of data and relies on a variety of resources to get it. Users of all types, from all departments, are accessing information, sharing it, analyzing it and likely adding more of it—potentially straining systems. So the problem comes back to IT—which is faced with keeping systems available, all the time, so users can get the data they need, when they need it. It can be a never-ending cycle.

A comprehensive warehouse solution that's ready to go—now

The increasingly mixed-workload environments and the constantly changing needs of different business constituents have organizations rethinking their warehouse environments. Warehouse functionality that's limited to queries and reports simply won't cut it. But building an ideal warehouse environment—one that lets users access and analyze all types of information, including unstructured information, on demand and still meets service level objectives—can be a daunting experience. That is, unless you implement a solution where the work has already been done for you, one that is comprehensive and ready to go: the IBM InfoSphere™ Balanced Warehouse™ solution.

Data warehousing made simple

IBM InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse is not a single-purpose tool. It's a comprehensive, ready-to-go data warehousing solution comprising pretested, scalable and integrated IBM InfoSphere Warehouse software, server and storage system components. The InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse solution delivers features and functionality that are simple and flexible, helping you to reduce the complexity, cost and risk of designing, implementing, growing and maintaining your data warehouse environment.

Control your information in realtime

At the heart of the InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse solution is IBM InfoSphere Warehouse software, a high-functioning, integrated data server that helps simplify the control, management and functionality of your warehouse environment. InfoSphere Warehouse software delivers an integrated set of tools and capabilities specific to warehousing, giving you the control you need to deliver different views and perspectives of your data.

The InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse solution is an integrated deployment of InfoSphere Warehouse software and is delivered ready to load data into the data server. In addition, InfoSphere Warehouse software provides innovative functionality such as embedded analytics. Embedded analytics allow you to view right-time, in-context information from across the enterprise, including structured and unstructured data. You can also perform data mining processes and multidimensional cubing in the database. These capabilities eliminate the need to copy data to other applications or tools for queries or reports—reducing risk and helping to ensure realtime information.

Gain business insight without boundaries

Reach farther. Acquire and access unprecedented types, volumes and combinations of information—historical and operational, structured and unstructured—to gain more meaningful insight. Then apply that insight more broadly across your operations, and supply it to more users than ever before.

Look deeper. Drive better operational business decisions by gaining deeper insight into customers, products and processes to create efficiencies across your organization and to improve product development.

Act faster. Deliver information when you need it, how you need it, so you can act more quickly—with confidence in your data—to increase profitability and make decisions based on business priorities, while better managing business risks and performance.

InfoSphere Warehouse software also provides extreme workload management capabilities, enabling you to control and monitor workloads with minimal overhead. As a result, you can deliver data to applications, predictably and stably, according to service level priorities. Plus, InfoSphere Warehouse software makes managing your information easy by providing capabilities that help automate and simplify complex tasks. These capabilities—such as automated memory and storage management, advisers that help guide users and improved backup facilities—can help you spend less time and money managing and maintaining your warehouse and data systems and more time on activities that add business value.

Gain nearly immediate time to value
With InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse, software you can use and leverage information right from the start. The solution ships preconfigured and ready to go, and includes practically everything you need to build a robust and integrated warehousing solution, including:

- InfoSphere Warehouse software.
- The latest server technology from IBM.
- High-performance storage.
- Comprehensive solution support.

Help lower your risk while getting the performance you need
The IBM InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse solution is rigorously tested, validated and tuned for performance and reliability—which means your solution is tailored for your business and ready to go. InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse works because it's based on and developed through best practices IBM has developed during successful client implementations. Before releasing an InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse product, IBM configures and tests the systems to help support increased reliability and security. IBM also fine-tunes the systems to help ensure that the highest levels of query performance are met.

Add users, data and functionality as your needs change

The InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse solution is built up and out on modular building blocks,[1] so you're in control of when and how your data warehouse grows. The flexible system includes five module types, each containing the balanced configuration you need for adding enhanced functionality and capacity.

InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse components are built on industry standards and on an open, reusable and module-based architecture. This makes it easy to redeploy solution components as new needs arise. Finally, the InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse solution doesn't limit you or lock you in to propriety solutions, and it can grow according to your business needs and demands.

Enhance control and investment in your current infrastructure

InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse is designed to provide seamless integration and is compatible with standard reporting and extract, transform and load (ETL) tools.

Rely on a single vendor for support and service

To save you time, IBM provides comprehensive support for your InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse solution. Whether your support issues lie in the server, the storage, the operating system or the software, IBM provides a single point of contact to address your needs. IBM's customer service is staffed by support engineers who are highly knowledgeable about the InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse environment and can provide timely and comprehensive solutions.

Choose the best solution for your business

Regardless of the size of your organization or where you are in your data warehouse environment initiatives, IBM provides a variety of on-ramps and roadmaps to successful warehousing. IBM's comprehensive portfolio offers three main classes of solutions, so you can choose the one that's right for your organization.

IBM InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse C-Class solutions

The IBM InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse C-Class offering is an out-of-the-box, simple and affordable reporting solution designed to provide data warehouse capabilities. The offering is targeted at midsize businesses and organizations with less than 5TB of raw data (or 24TB of total usable capacity). It can also be used as a high-performance analytical appliance to which organizations can off-load work from the larger enterprise data warehouse to help meet service levels. Like the other solutions, InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse C-Class solutions are pretested and pre-integrated with InfoSphere Warehouse software to reduce the complexity and costs of deployment.

These solutions were specifically created to empower smaller organizations and lines of business within larger enterprises with a fast track to business intelligence. Rich in functionality and quick to deploy, the InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse C-Class component brings value to your organization almost immediately and enables your users to start leveraging insight from your information once your data is loaded.

Optional integration of IBM Cognos 8 Business Intelligence reporting software allows you to create, manage and deliver reports to end users via the Web or to embed reports in existing applications. Cognos 8 Business Intelligence reporting software can also provide:

- Data access and report design.
- Report management and delivery.
- Report integration with portals and applications.

In addition to being competitively priced for smaller implementations, IBM InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse C-Class solutions help simplify integration with your existing Oracle or Microsoft® environment by providing built-in structured query language (SQL) data warehouse loader tools.

IBM InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse D-Class solutions

The IBM InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse D-Class offering is designed for growing midsize and large organizations that manage raw data, starting in the 1TB range and up. Integrating optional high-availability features and providing well-defined levels of modular scalability, IBM InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse D-Class solutions are cost-effective and have the room and ability to grow with your organization's needs.

Through the use of modular building blocks, organizations can now tailor their InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse solution to their specific usage patterns. Able to scale out to the number of concurrent users and the amount of raw data being maintained, the solution avoids the appliance pitfall of sacrificing warehouse flexibility and scalability for query performance. With InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse D-Class solutions, you're not required to make that tradeoff. If and when your needs change, simply add another module that reflects your current demands.

InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse D-Class solutions are also designed for organizations that are consolidating datamarts and making an investment in data warehousing on Linux® technology. Businesses can benefit from:

- Integrated system availability provided through automated failovers.
- Proactive, automated system servicing enabled by an intelligent call-home feature.
- Enterprise-type tools and features delivered on midrange standard hardware.
- Enhanced processing power at less cost and lower energy usage.
- Simple and logical growth based on usage demands.
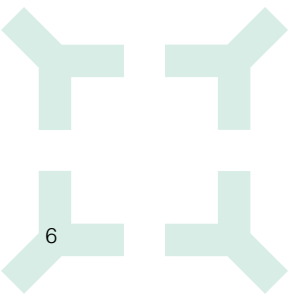
IBM InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse E-Class solutions

The IBM InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse E-Class offering can be ideal for organizations that need robust, highly scalable and ultrahigh-performance data warehouses. Designed to support high-availability, high-performance and high-scalability requirements, InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse E-Class solutions are capable of managing very large warehouses, but they really start to prove their value when the raw data size is 8TB and more.

InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse E-Class solutions are direct descendants of the original balanced configuration units (BCUs) and currently represent the third generation of this technology. These performance-driven solutions were developed specifically for enterprise clients that require the latest in innovative performance for their data warehouse and need to maintain the high availability and mission-critical reliability that are essential for today's competitive business environment.

InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse E-Class solutions provide:

- **Scalability.** For organizations managing larger amounts of raw data, the solutions can be scaled out in modular units similar to those used in D-Class solutions, providing nearly unlimited options for growth and areas of focus.
- **Concurrency.** The solutions encourage pervasive business intelligence by supporting thousands of users running both complex and ad hoc queries on terabytes of information.
- **Performance.** In addition to the latest developments in high-performance processors, InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse E-Class solutions use the upper tier of enterprise storage technologies, helping to ensure that your information is available when you need it most.
- **Security.** You can heighten the native system security of the InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse solution with the autonomic security features of the IBM AIX® operating system.
- **Advanced capabilities.** The solutions deliver advanced mining and analytics functionality and provide the option for cold spare or automated-failover high availability.

A better data warehousing approach

To enable users to turn data into actionable business insight, the ideal data warehouse must meet the expanding need for analytics and information on demand. It must also leverage nearly all types of information and serve increasing numbers and types of applications and users. IBM InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse delivers. Simple, flexible, tailored and ready to go, the IBM InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse solution can help reduce the complexity, risk and cost of deploying a data warehousing solution.

For more information

To learn more about the IBM InfoSphere Balanced Warehouse solution and IBM InfoSphere Warehouse software, contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit:

ibm.com/software/bi

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1 Modules are currently available with the IBM InfoSphere
Balanced Warehouse D5100 and IBM InfoSphere
Balanced Warehouse E7100 solutions.

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