Introduction to Oracle Business Intelligence Enterprise Edition: OBIEE Answers 11g

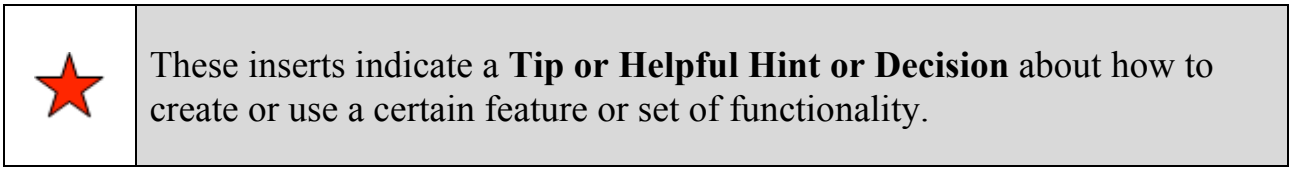
Cornell Customized Version
April 2012
Minor corrections were made on page 2, for the Oct 20, 2017 OBIEE 12c Upgrade

Contents

Overview of the Training Data Used In This Manual

This OBIEE ad hoc Answers manual utilizes data from an internal Cornell Training database that contains information about employees in several organizational units, and the number of work hours they spent doing a variety of activities. All names have been "anonymized" so there is no way to identify any individual, and Organizations were assigned randomly. To give context to the types of Hours used, note the following:

Corrected Hours = Applied Hours (charged to Projects) + Unbilled Hours (Leave, Holiday, Overhead)

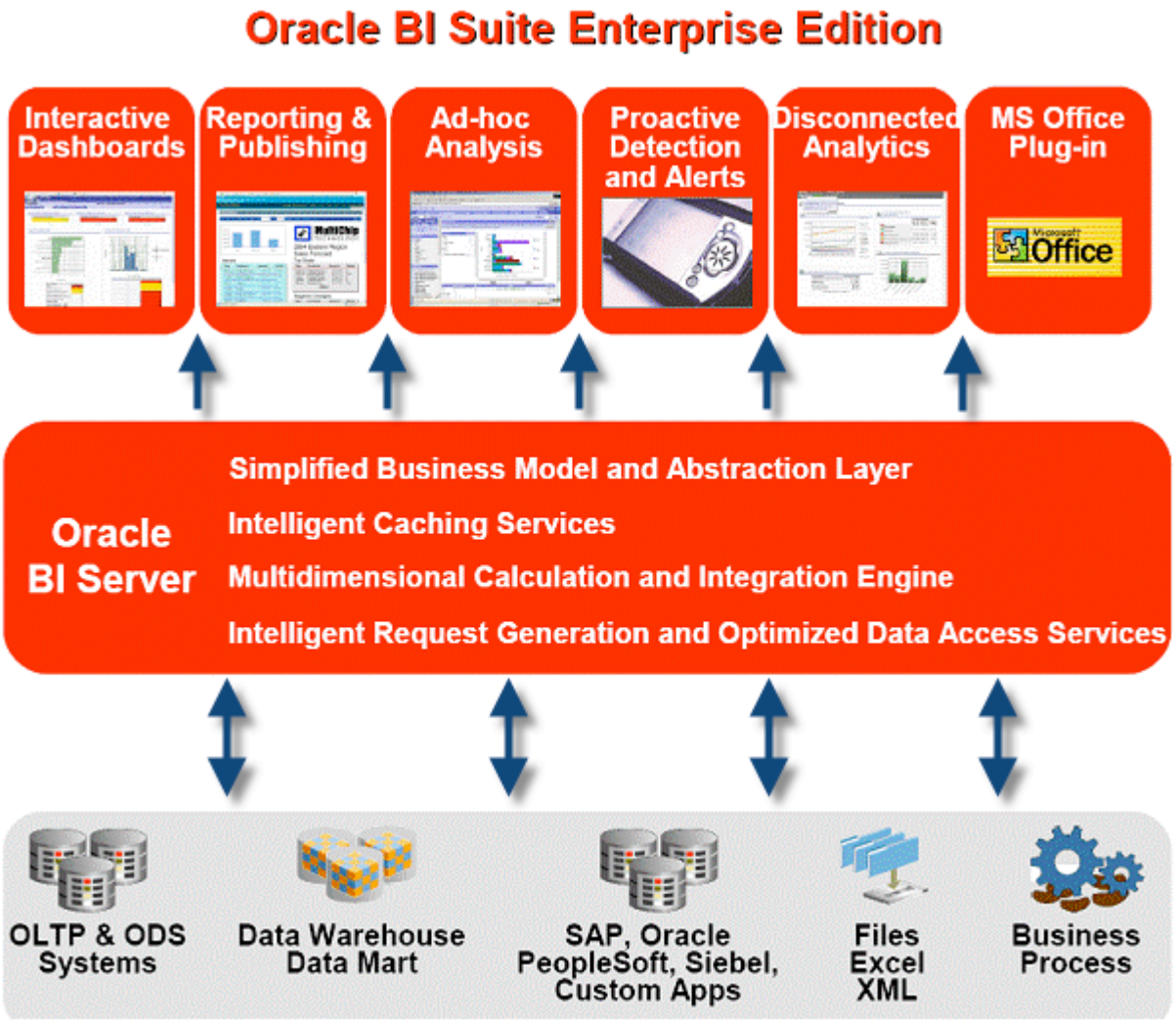


Introduction to Oracle BI Enterprise Edition (OBIEE)

Several years ago, Oracle took a look at the state of the Business Intelligence industry in terms of the different processes and applications that were required to create, use and maintain a Business Intelligence environment.

Oracle found a hodgepodge of multi-vendor, non-integrated hardware and software that a corporate BI development team had to evaluate, test, find "Best of Breed", and then somehow try to make it all work together.

Oracle's vision was to bring all of these disparate pieces from multiple vendors together into one suite of products, called the Oracle Business Intelligence suite.

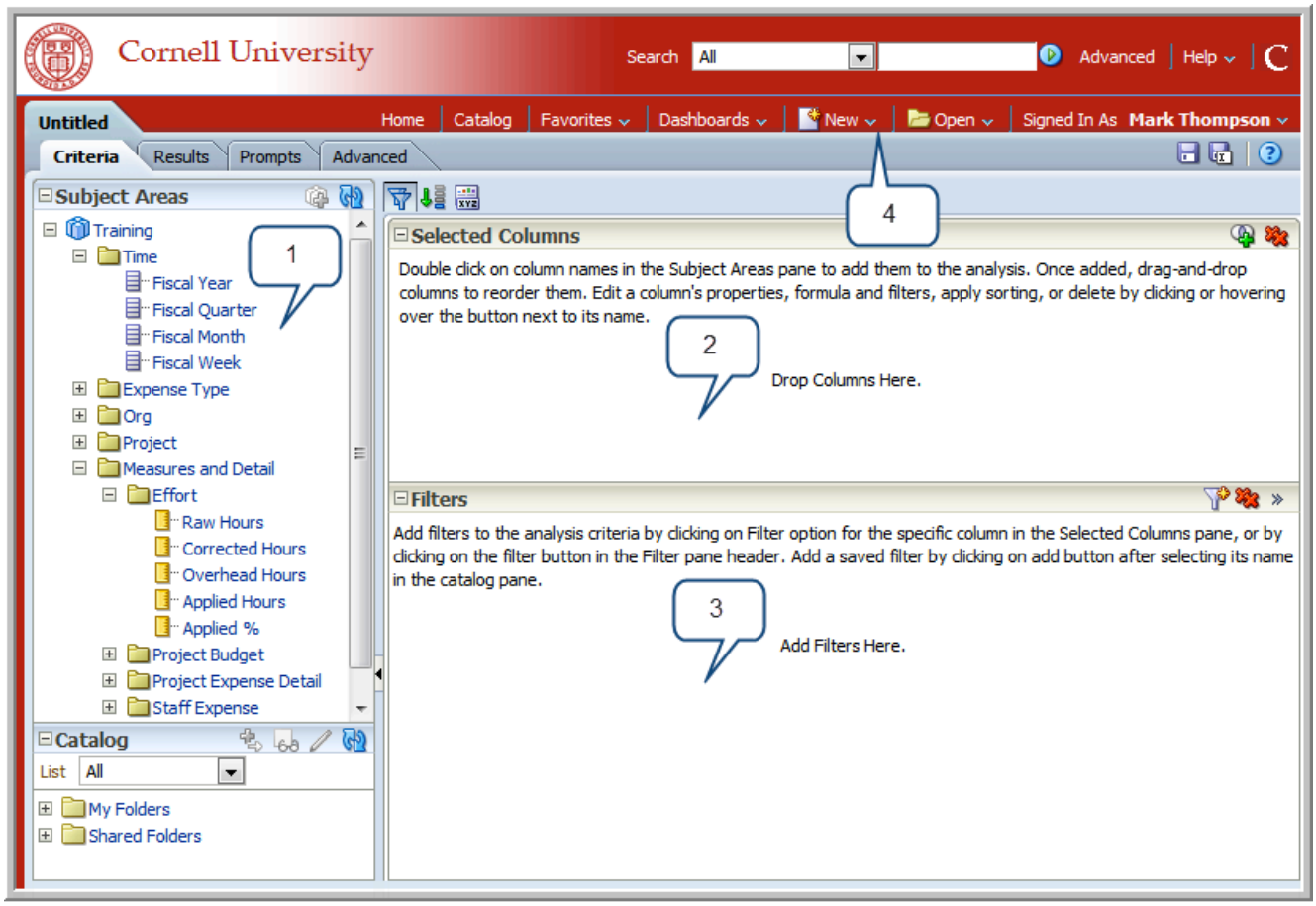


The Oracle BI Server is the engine that takes information from just about any data source, converts it into a clean, query-ready format, and then makes it available to a suite of tools such as dashboards, ad-hoc analytics, BI Publisher, and even Excel.

Starting OBIEE on the Web: Presentation Services

- You use a browser to access the OBIEE server. There is no "plug-in" or other software to install.
    - **October 2017 UPDATE: OBIEE 12c works fine in more recent versions of hte 11g browsers listed below.**
    - **You can see minor differences found during testing at the bottom of the OBIEE 12c UPGRADE page here: https://confluence.cornell.edu/x/jyLHF**
    - Supported browsers for the currently installed OBIEE version 11.1.1.6 are:
        - Internet Explorer/IE7 or 8
        - Firefox 3.5 through 9 (not 10)
        - Most OBIEE features will work in Chrome, but it is not a supported platform.
    - **Macintosh** users can use IE 7 "natively", again, with no plug-in to install. A future OBIEE version may be certified to work with Safari, but it currently will not function properly. There is no need for Virtual PC software, Crossover or Parallels.
- The website for the **upgraded 12c OBIEE server** is: https://obieetest.db.cornell.edu/analytics for **Answers Training** (and testing) and https://obieeprod.db.cornell.edu/analytics for Production.
- When prompted, login to the new DUO Two Step authentication screen, using your Netid and password.

The OBIEE Answers interface will look like this screenshot when creating or editing an analysis:



Legend:

1. The **selection panel** (area #1) contains the list of all tables and columns that can be selected in an Answers analysis for the selected subject area.

2. As columns are selected, they will appear in the Criteria canvas in area #2.

3. Filter conditions will be shown in the Criteria canvas in area #3. The rows returned by an Answers analysis may be **filtered** based on one or more selection criteria.

4. The toolbar (area #4) contains links that allow you to (in order, from left to right):
   a. Home: Navigate to your OBIEE Home page.
   b. Catalog: Display the OBIEE catalog of stored objects (analyses, filters…).
   c. Favorites: Display a list of your personal favorites (Analyses, Dashboards).
   d. Dashboards: Navigate to a dashboard.
   e. New: Create a new analysis.
   f. Open: Open an existing OBIEE object (Analysis, Filter, etc…).
   g. The left save icon: Resave the current analysis with the existing name.
   h. The right save icon: Save the analysis with a new name.

Dimensions and Hierarchical Levels

The DataMart or Subject Area that you will query with OBIEE contains two types of tables: DIMENSION tables contain descriptive attributes; FACT tables contain Numbers or Dollars.

Dimensional HIERARCHIES are built by OBIEE Repository developers in conjunction with the owners of the data, to allow users to DRILL down into Dimensional data.

The dimensions and their hierarchical levels to be used in this class are shown below. Here is an example of what these hierarchies enable you to do:

Instead of selecting ALL time dimension columns for your query or Answers Analysis, you might simply select **just the Fiscal Year column**. When results are returned, you will see links on the Fiscal Year column values that, when selected, will enable you to drill down to Fiscal Quarter data then further down to Fiscal Month data, and finally to detail by Fiscal Week (There is no Daily level in the training database).

At any point, you can click the browser's BACK button to drill back up to the previous level, or all the way back to the highest Fiscal Year level.

Dimension Name	Project	Time	Org
Levels	All Projects	Fiscal Year	All Orgs
	Work Type	Fiscal Quarter	Division
	Application	Fiscal Month	Department
	Project	Fiscal Week	Staff Member

Scenario:

The President of Cornell University has requested an analysis of year-to-date project hours related to the **Non Billable**, **Operational Improvement**, and **Operational Support** Work Types, for the **Arts & Sciences**, **Office of Human Resources**, and **Graduate School** Divisions. You will use the various tools available in OBIEE to produce this analysis.