IBM

Information Management

Delivering improved strategic insight with IBM System z

Data warehousing and business intelligence solutions on the System z platform help drive smarter business decisions across the entire organization

For many companies, business intelligence (BI) is the key to strategic, tactical and operational success. BI enables companies to deliver insight into their markets, customers and products, helping employees make smarter and faster business decisions. By taking BI out of the back office and integrating it into everyday business functions, organizations are effectively leveraging years of investment in their information infrastructures to drive their business to new heights.

Taking maximum advantage of business information requires a strong, flexible data warehouse and BI solution built on a powerful, highly scalable platform. The expanding scope and mission of BI, along with the increased corporate emphasis on cost savings, data security and green initiatives, is driving organizations to re-examine IBM® System z® as a strategic platform for data

warehousing and BI. This powerful, highly scalable platform is ideal for hosting the transactional systems that house the raw data as well as the data warehousing and BI solutions.

Customers can take advantage of their System z infrastructure to help reduce costs by using existing processors, people and practices while gaining benefits from server consolidation and virtualization. The distinction between warehouse and online transaction processing (OLTP) databases is beginning to blur, resulting in a renewed focus on the proven strengths of System z and its unique integration with IBM DB2® for z/OS® for data warehousing and BI applications:

- **Scalability:** Use unique System z features to quickly, easily and economically scale up with more users and scale out with ever-increasing data volumes and functionality requirements.

- **Performance:** Leverage System z to help ensure there is no degradation in application response time as the organization scales.

- **Availability:** Run your DB2 for z/OS data warehouse and IBM Cognos® 8 BI for Linux® on System z within the same physical infrastructure as the data—providing nearly instantaneous access to transactional data as soon as it is captured, while ensuring continuous BI availability.

- **Security:** Combine the strengths of the System z platform (including cryptography, encryption, user identification and authentication) with the stringent security capabilities of Cognos 8 BI for Linux on System z. IBM System z secures the data while Cognos 8 BI secures who accesses the data, providing a BI solution with comprehensive security.

Make better business decisions faster

The BI systems that drive tomorrow's business require a platform that is powerful enough to act as the foundation for the entire organization. The System z platform and IBM DB2 for z/OS can quickly scale to meet growing demand and enables faster access to information; therefore, it can provide greater value by helping to ensure that more users receive the information they need most at precisely the right time and place.

Support enterprise-class BI on IBM System z

BI requires a reliable, high-performance environment, because the true value of BI is derived when users have immediate access to the enterprise data required to facilitate smart business decisions. As a result, modern BI platforms must be available 24x7, while continuing to sustain the levels of reliability and scalability required for strategic decision making.

DB2 for z/OS and System z provide unparalleled, proven reliability and performance for the most demanding customers. Combining them with Cognos 8 BI for Linux on System z delivers a high-quality BI solution on a robust infrastructure.

IBM Cognos 8 BI for Linux on System z helps organizations make better-informed, faster and more strategically aligned business decisions. It delivers the complete range of BI capabilities on a single Service Oriented Architecture (SOA). Organizations can author, share and use BI that draws on data across all enterprise sources for better business decisions.

IBM System z secures the data while Cognos 8 BI secures who accesses the data, providing a BI solution with comprehensive security.

IBM Cognos 8 BI for Linux on System z features:

- **A full range of BI capabilities,** including reporting, analysis and dashboards, provide all user communities with relevant information how, when and where it is needed.

- **An open enterprise-class platform** that delivers complete, consistent and timely information across diverse user communities with cost-effective scalability.

- **Frameworks and proven practices** to help give projects a good start, plus the expertise to enable success on the journey to performance management.

A single, cost-effective platform for data warehousing and BI

Leveraging System z to standardize on a single BI tool helps ensure that all users are using the same system and, therefore, the same information—leading to quicker time to value and a simplified user experience. Having only a single tool to manage also helps cut administration time.

Minimize data movement and reduce latency

Behind almost every BI system is a data warehouse that provides the raw material for information-based innovation—and the System z platform has helped businesses capture and house critical business information for more than 45 years.

System z is designed to scale cost-effectively to meet growing user demands and support expanding data stores. The platform can deliver lower costs through server consolidation capabilities and hardware-based compression while providing advanced features like world-class workload management and high availability through data sharing and comprehensive security features.

The latest IBM data warehousing offerings for System z provide a robust platform to help minimize data movement, reduce latency, enhance control and availability for critical business information and increase reliability. IBM DB2 for z/OS builds on that momentum by offering a scalable, resilient data warehousing infrastructure that has been significantly enhanced to support data warehousing and BI processes.

DB2 for z/OS is designed to help reduce costs and complexity, simplify compliance and be continuously available to support a global data warehousing and BI infrastructure. In the past two releases of DB2 for z/OS, IBM has delivered more than 100 new data warehousing features—giving customers that have the majority of their data on System z the opportunity to further leverage the platform to support a complete, cost-effective data warehousing and BI solution.

Build a larger data warehouse, faster—and use less space

Save on storage by using DB2 for z/OS and System z hardware-based data compression, with average compression rates of 50 percent. Plus, you can save up to 50 percent on labor costs, up to 80 percent on energy costs and up to 85 percent on floor space using System z and DB2 for z/OS.[1]

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IBM InfoSphere™ Warehouse on System z complements IBM DB2 for z/OS with a highly scalable, low-cost way to design, populate and optimize a DB2 for z/OS data warehouse, datamart or operational data store for BI applications like IBM Cognos 8 BI. It provides physical data modeling; extract, transform and load (ELT); and multidimensional server functions on top of an existing IBM DB2 for z/OS implementation and forms the core of the data warehousing environment. InfoSphere Warehouse on System z can also facilitate improved query performance through the use of Cubing Services caching for Multidimensional Expressions (MDX) query support, helping organizations save time and CPU costs.

BI + data warehousing + IBM System z = Competitive advantage

As data warehousing and BI requirements continue to expand in scope and complexity, System z provides an outstanding platform to help enterprises stay competitive and innovate on a global scale.

IBM System z offers a highly scalable, highly resilient, cost-effective platform to help optimize data warehouses and BI. By reducing complexity through deployment of transactional and warehouse data on a single platform, enterprises can use the System z platform to provide critical business insight to all levels within the organization. System z also can help save money by reducing costs associated with data movement and by providing more efficient access to enterprise data, including DB2 for z/OS data. The result: a unified platform designed to meet today's key data warehousing and BI requirements and deliver strategic insight for smarter business decisions.
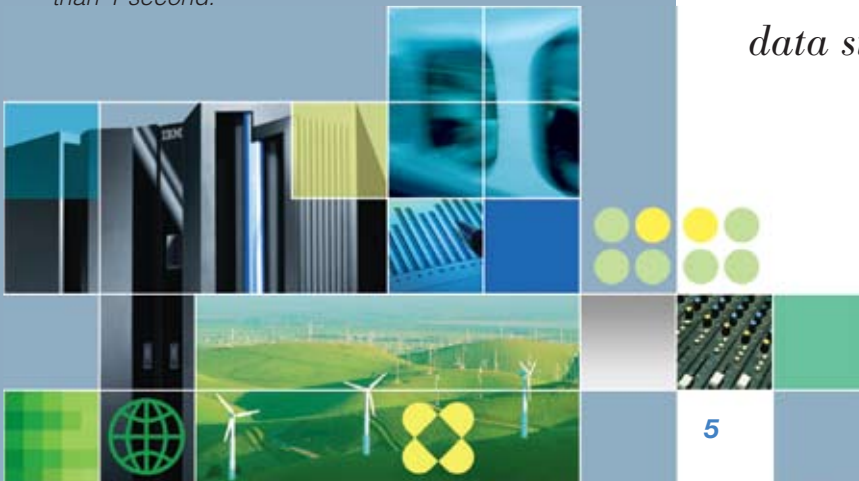
For more information

To learn more about data warehousing and BI on IBM System z, please contact your IBM representative, or visit **ibm.com**/software/data/businessintelligence/systemz

Save CPU costs and reduce response time

Cubing Services in InfoSphere Warehouse on System z can help dramatically reduce response time and minimize CPU usage. In IBM internal tests, total elapsed time for a distribution customer's warehouse workload was reduced from 11,000 seconds to less than 1 second.[2]

IBM InfoSphere Warehouse on System z complements IBM DB2 for z/OS with a highly scalable, low-cost way to design, populate and optimize a DB2 for z/OS data warehouse, datamart or operational data store for BI applications.

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