Doing Oracle Analytics THIS Way?

STOP IT



Who am I?

« Christian, you're either boring or shocking...there is no middle way with you! »

--- Francesco Tisiot Literally 2 hours ago

Who am I?

- Owner of Dimensionality GmbH in Switzerland
- Hacking OBI since 2001 (nQuire + Peregrin aquisitions by Siebel)
- Oracle ACE Business Analytic Oracle
- Speaker at OpenWorld, KScope, regional Oracle User Groups...
- Part-time blogger on Analytics, BI, DWH (http://dimensionality.ch)
- Full-time IRC (freenode | #obihackers) and OTN addict
- Oracle Analytics trainer for Oracle University since 2006
- Proud geek and gamer...but NOT a developer!
- Responding to any and all questions 24 / 7 especially on IRC

By the way...thief:-P

Gianni Ceresa

- Managing Director of DATAlysis GmbH (Switzerland)
- Working with BI and EPM tools for about 10 years
- Part-time blogger on gianniceresa.com
- Full-time IRC (freenode | #obihackers) resident
 - Same group on Telegram http://telegram.me/obihackers
- OTN forums addict
- Technology geek (or just geek in general)

Why this presentation?

- Oracle Analytics has matured and is quite wide-spread
- Is seen as / considered as having become a commodity know-how
- As a result it's often done worse than ever...
- ...especially compared to when it was a niche skill
- Hence: Back to basics presentation series
- And: Worst Practices means someone else ran into the wall!

Disclaimer

- All real use cases from clients and integrators
- All from production systems no abandoned try-outs
- Justifications and explanations may sound sarcastic but they're not
- I like ranting about fails but I don't like PowerPoint or Keynote
- Memes + text >>> fancy graphics
- Don't bother reading all the text; my stories are a lot funnier

Oracle Analytics

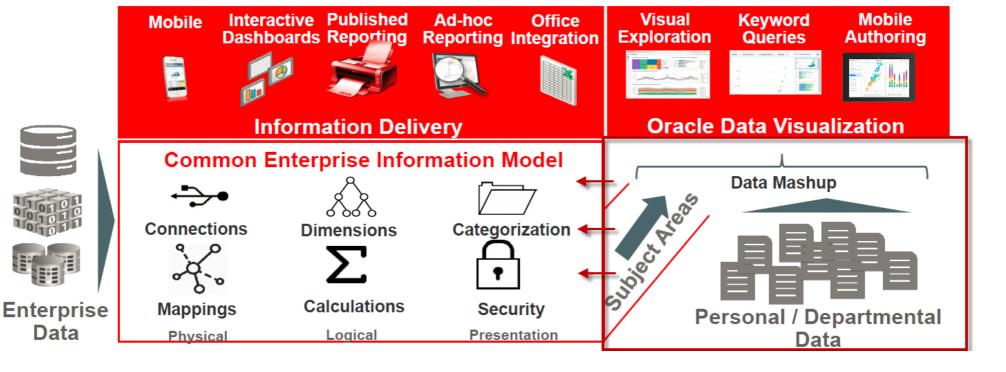
IT friendly

AND

Business user friendly

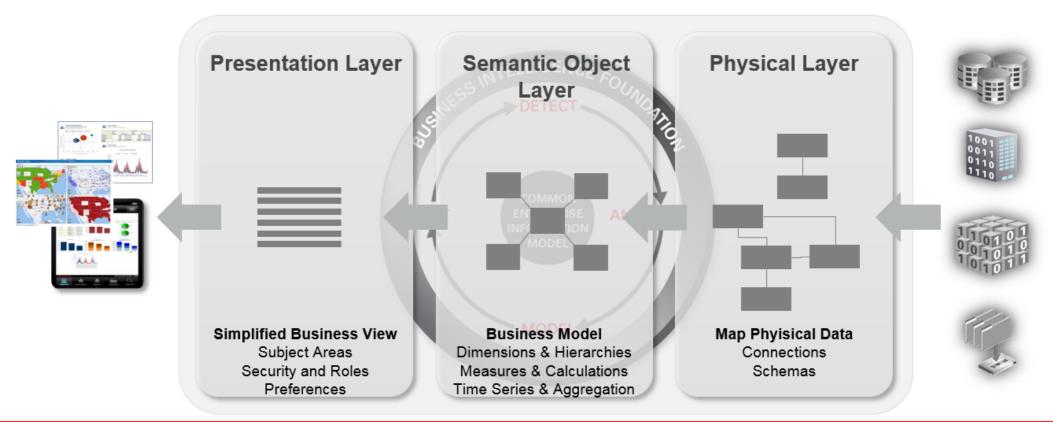
Governance, Singular semantic, Enterprise ready

Ease of Use, Agile, Self-service



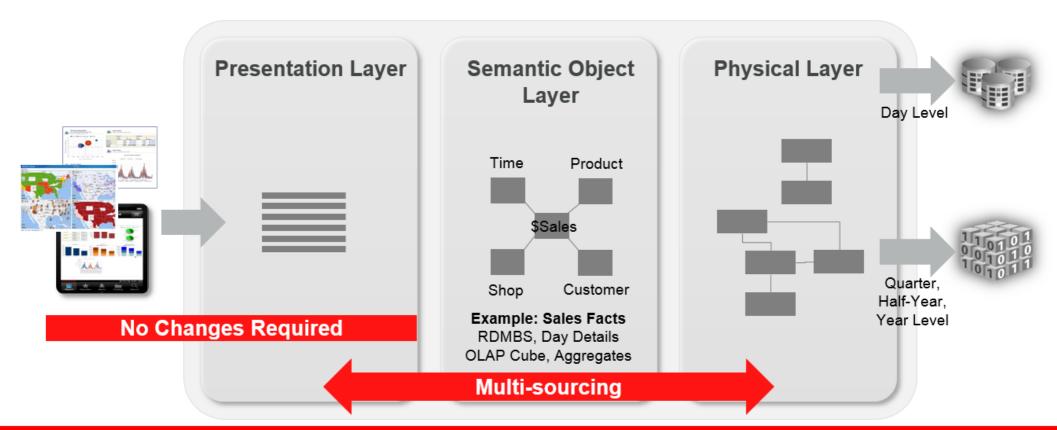
Common Enterprise Information Model

Connecting Data with Self Service Analytic Applications

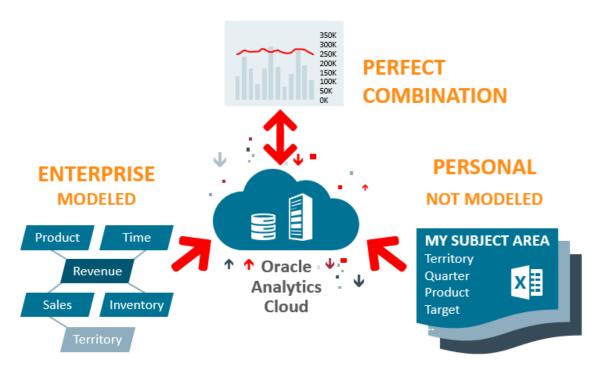


Common Enterprise Information Model

Multi-Sourcing and Aggregates



Oracle Analytics Cloud





...a bit more tomorrow, Tuesday $16^{th} - 14^{15} - Room 10$

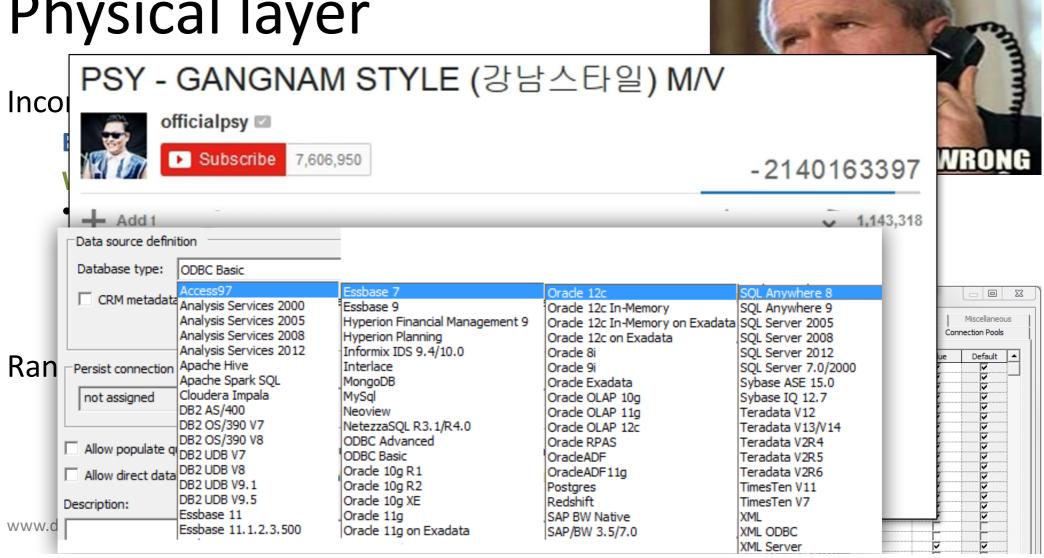
#Fail categories

- The 3 RPD layers
- System, DevOps and security
- Multidimensional
- Front-end
- Analyses + dashboard
- Going just too far

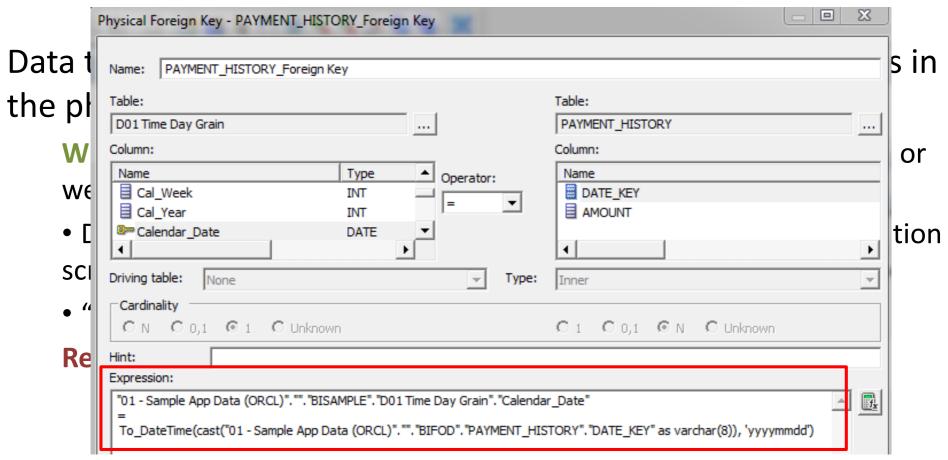
#Fail categories

- The 3 RPD layers
- System, DevOps and security
- Multidimensional
- Front-end
- Analyses + dashboard
- Going just too far

Physical layer



Physical layer #2



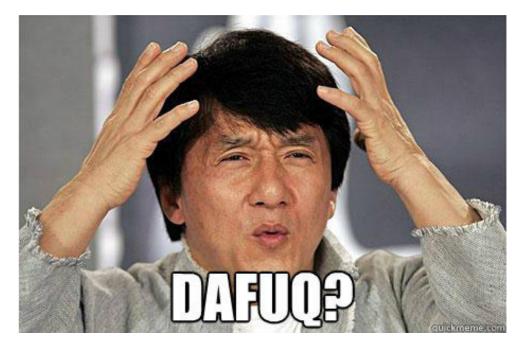
Physical layer #3

Using ODBC instead of native drivers (like OCI)

Why? • Too much hassle to install required drivers

 Corporate IT security does not allow post-setup changes to installed OS/software or "their" servers
 Result? • All native communication disabled (optimization, function shipping etc.)

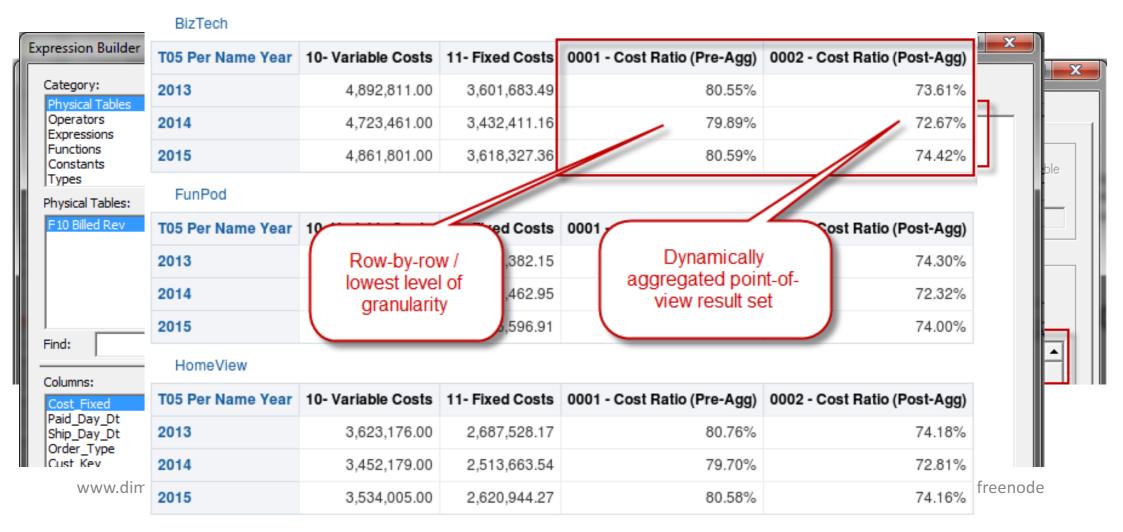
Huge performance impact potential



ORACLE Business Intelligence

B Cost Ratio Comparison Effects of pre-aggregate ratios vs. post-aggregate

'er



BMM #2

Creating multi-fact models with **non-conformed dimensionality** without properly configuring **LTS content and levels**

Why? • THE most misunderstood facts about the BMM layer!

 Non-conformed dimensional modeling specifically and LTS content levels in general

Result? • Missing results from cross-star queries

- Analyses simply won't run
- Wrong results when queries implicitly hit wrong facts



BMM #2

○RACLE® Business Intelligence

			BizTech		FunPod		HomeView	
T05 Per Name Year	1- Revenue	T62 # of Days						
2008		366.00						
2009		365.00						
2010		365.00						
2011		365.00						
2012		366.00						
2013			8,277,442	365.00	7,235,999	365.00	7,986,559	365.00
2014			8,463,172	365.00	7,300,894	365.00	7,235,934	365.00
2015			8,759,386	365.00	7,963,107	365.00	6,777,507	365.00
2016		366.00						
2017		365.00						



BMM #4

Neit	her this				Nor t	this	
Movie Hier	Rating	Count of Customers	P4 Brand	P3 LOB	P2 Product Type	15 - Gross Margin	16 - Net Revenu
■ Total Movie	3	1,838	BizTech	Communication	Cell Phones	-651,372	5,749,96
▶ Action	3	962			Smart Phones	31,778	6,218,60
Adventure	3	864			Siliait Filolies	51,776	
10,000 BC	5	15		Electronics	Accessories	-1,301,542	4,636,2
127 Hours	3	22			Audio	42,736	6,647,3
2001: A Space Odyssey	2	12	FunPod	Digital	Camera	-619,232	6,017,1
2010		2		Games	Portable	280,499	6,516,4
300	3	26		Games	Foliable	200,499	0,510,
A Knight's Tale	4	8			Fixed	2,202,824	8,268,
A View to a Kill		2	HomeView	TV	Plasma	-282,057	6,093,5
Aguirre, der Zorn Gottes		16			LCD	173,118	6,437,3
Aladdin		18		Condon	Maintanana		
Alien: Resurrection		4		Services	Maintenance	967,081	3,863,3
					Install	1,058,260	3,953,6





Not modeling time dimensions as proper time dimensions

Why? Too much effort and needs correctly configured (or ETL'd) chronological keys

Result? Bye-bye time series calculations

Using non-unique (time) level keys which will implicitly roll up data

Example? Using "January" rather than "January 2015"

Why? Expectation that "time works automatically"

Result? Data aggregated across all members of different time hierarchy branches

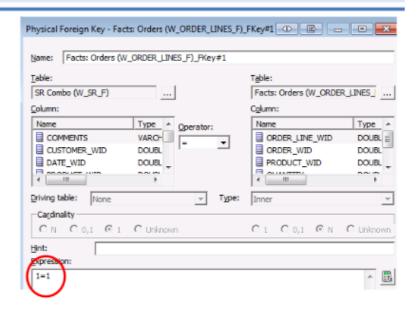
BN

Creat to-dir Worst thing:

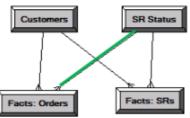
Non-Conformed Dimensions

- Solution #1: Fake a join between the two tables
 - Cartesian Product
 - No filtering
 - "Tricking OBI"
- Add to Business Model
 - Joins
 - Content Tab









www.din

enode

12

bn-

Presentation Layer

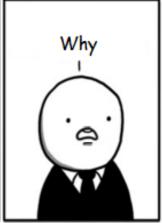
UNIONs, UNIONs all over the place ...even for single Subject Area analyses

Why?

- "Really? We can do this in the RPD?"
- Typical "We used <u>reporting tool</u> XYZ before and there it went like this."

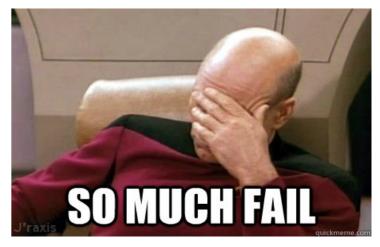
Result? WHY did you buy this new tool again?





Presentation Layer

Renaming happens only in the presentation layer.



Keeping a lot of technical UPPER_CASE_NAMES and SURROGATE_KEYS unless someone complains and then only change in the presentation layer rather than the business layer

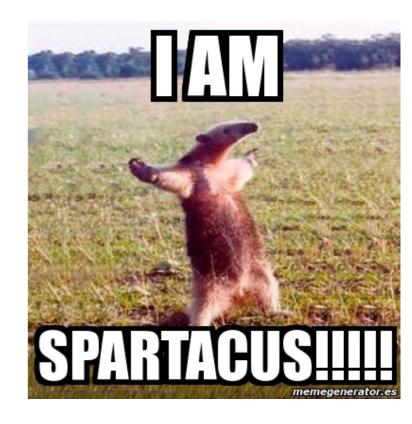
Why? Techie developers don't necessarily think about business language and end user needs

Result? • All names must be changed N times for N presentation layer representations of each object in each Subject Area etc.

• Life-cycle management and maintenance of catalog objects becomes a nightmare

Presentation Layer – Alias handling

- Changes never properly propagated to and reflected in the presentation catalogue
 - Catalog Manager with command line interface underused
- Tens of aliases for each presentation layer object with most of them being referenced N times in the presentation catalogue
- Worst case: Presentation layer object names get reassigned and existing presentation catalogue objects effectively reference different columns than originally intended



Alias handling #2

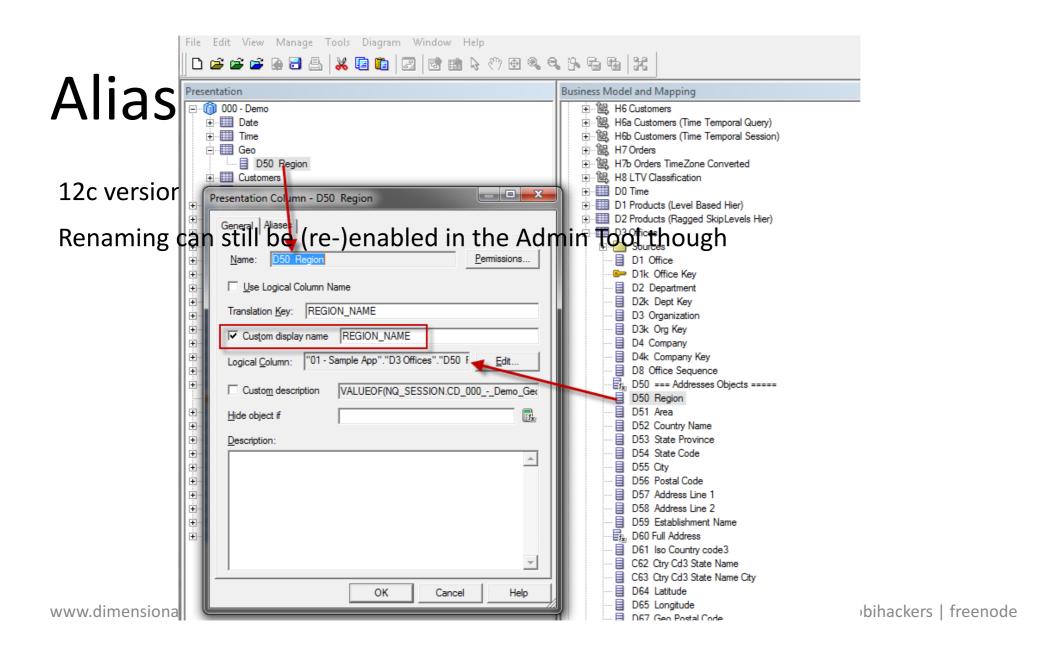
Why? • Impact is underestimated – "It's just an alias so what?"

• Different developers for RPD and presentation catalogue

Result?

- XML points to both aliases and actual names
- Name conflicts & invalidate XML references
- Presentation catalogue objects keep working implicitly until someone touches the aliases
- Lineage solutions never take aliases into account
- Impact analysis becomes difficult / meaningless





#Fail categories

- The 3 RPD layers
- System, DevOps and security
- Multidimensional
- Front-end
- Analyses + dashboard
- Going just too far

System, DevOps and Security

Not turning on Usage Tracking

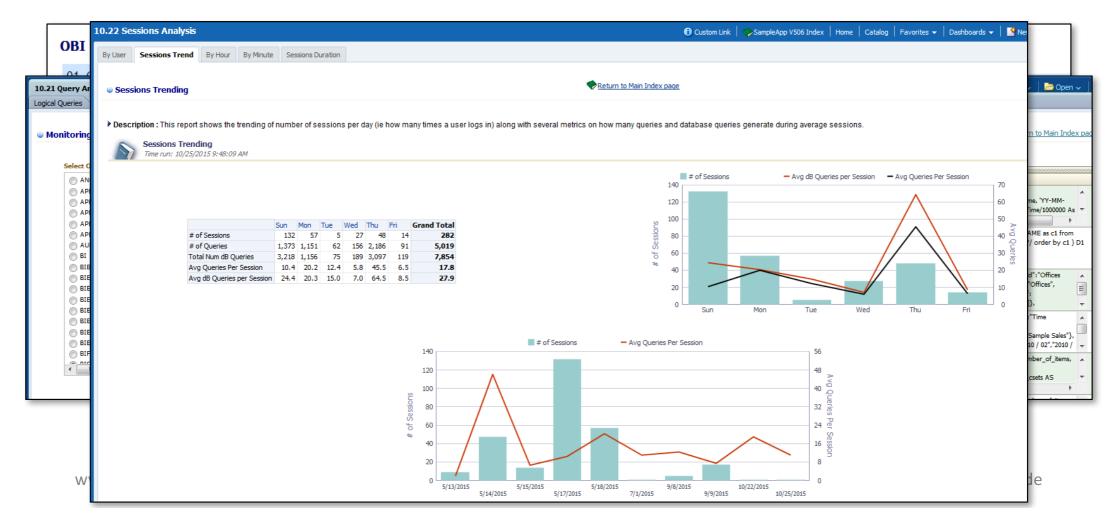
Why?

- Tables used not to the liking of corporate DBAs and their own "best practices"
- "What for?"
- Legal constraints in certain countries

Result? No UT statistics, no Summary Advisor and generally no way of knowing what's happening without log file analysis:

- Monitoring performance, system usage, bottlenecks and peaks
- Usage patterns and general usage (or non-usage!) of the catalog objects
- Impact analysis for upgrade planning
- etc.

System, DevOps and Security #2



Please find below some of the steps which can comparatively reduce the execution timing, hence improving the dashboard performance.

• Turn off query logging in OBIEE

OBIEE Performance Tuning Tip — Turn off Query Logging

Though query logging has immeasurable development value, do not use this for regular production users as the runtime logging cost is extremely high. Every log item is flushed to the disk, which in turn hurts query response.

Also, note f

OBIEE Servi OBIEE Performance Tuning

Following are the few points which can improve the performance of Oracle Business Intelligence Enterprise:

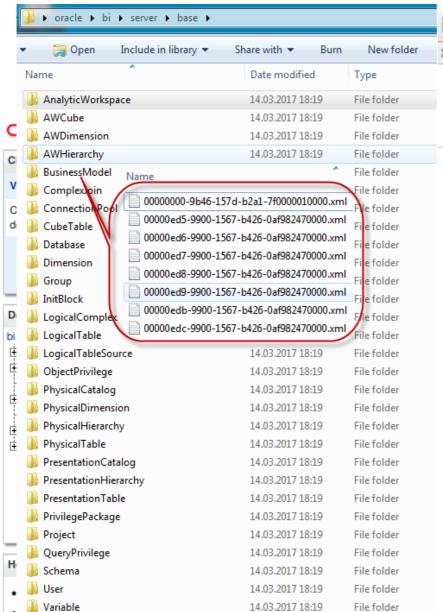
- 1) Using Cache
- 2) Connection Pool
- Aggregation navigation
- 4) Turning off log level
- where clause

System, DevOps and Security #4

Using OBI to solve data quality issues

Example? CAST, CASE WHEN, FILTER as smoke screens in the RPD or analyses Why? As above plus: OBI makes data quality issues visible and is held responsible Result? • Performance degradation

- Data quality issues are hidden rather than solved
- Additional errors when source data changes
- Disappearing data when new source data outside the hardcoded cases
- ELSE statement becomes the only possible savior ("Invalid conversion")



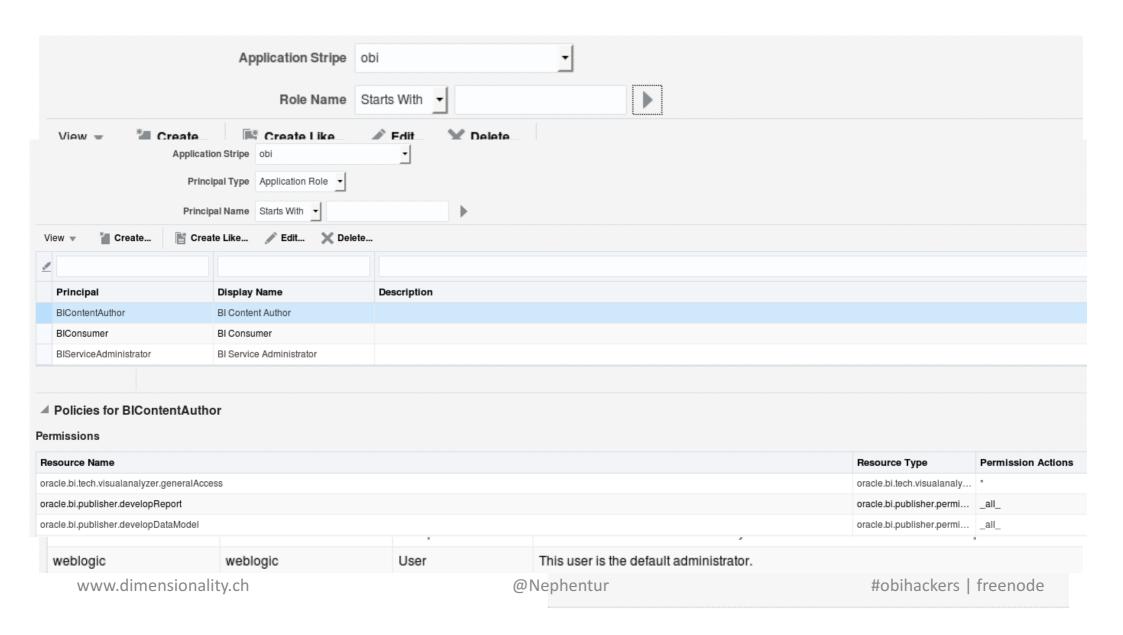
Name	~	Size	Туре	Date Modified
00%2e+va+projects		12 items	folder	Fri 22 Jul 2016 09:58:18 AM EST
01%2e+quickstart		14 items	folder	Wed 20 Jul 2016 05:33:28 AM EST
02%2e+visualizations		22 items	folder	Tue 12 Jul 2016 03:58:20 AM EST
03%2e+mobile		12 items	folder	Wed 27 Jul 2016 11:52:08 AM EST
04%2e+maps+and+spatial		8 items	folder	Tue 12 Jul 2016 03:58:20 AM EST
05%2e+published+reporting		12 items		Tue 12 Jul 2016 03:58:19 AM EST
06%2e+dashboard+design		26 items	folder	Tue 12 Jul 2016 03:58:19 AM EST
07%2e+semantic+layer+design		28 items	folder	Tue 12 Jul 2016 03:58:19 AM EST
08%2e+advanced+analytics		18 items	folder	Tue 12 Jul 2016 03:58:19 AM EST
> 🧰 09%2e+integrations+and+customization	S	22 items	folder	Wed 03 Aug 2016 12:14:51 PM ES
10%2e+lifecycle+and+admin		22 items	folder	Tue 12 Jul 2016 03:58:18 AM EST
11%2e+demos		10 items	folder	Thu 21 Jul 2016 05:29:13 AM EST
co%6dponents		2 items	folder	Tue 12 Jul 2016 03:58:19 AM EST
to custom		2 items	folder	Wed 20 Jul 2016 08:57:53 AM EST
demos+business+story		22 items	folder	Tue 12 Jul 2016 03:58:18 AM EST
mobile+app+designer		86 items	folder	Tue 12 Jul 2016 03:58:20 AM EST
workshops		6 items	folder	Tue 12 Jul 2016 03:58:18 AM EST
your+custom+public+content		4 items	folder	Fri 22 Jul 2016 12:50:42 AM EST
E				

308 bytes unknown Thu 21 Jul 2016 11:38:31 AM EST

416 bytes unknown Thu 21 Jul 2016 11:38:57 AM EST

00%2e+va+projects.atr

01%2e+quickstart.atr



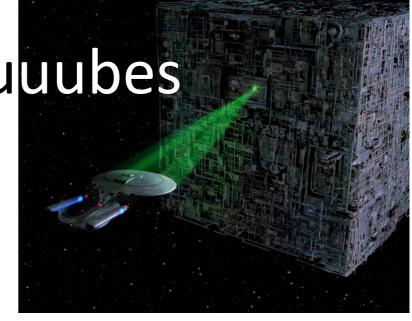
#Fail categories

- The 3 RPD layers
- System, DevOps and security
- Multidimensional
- Front-end
- Analyses + dashboard
- Going just too far

Multidimensional / Cuuuubes

Why?

- Multidimensional sources are thought to behave exactly like all others
- "We're already doing BI with cubes so why should there be any issue?"
- Pull in "everything Hyperion because it's another analytical Oracle product and it must work"
 - Guess what? Many Hyperion products aren't analytical in nature...

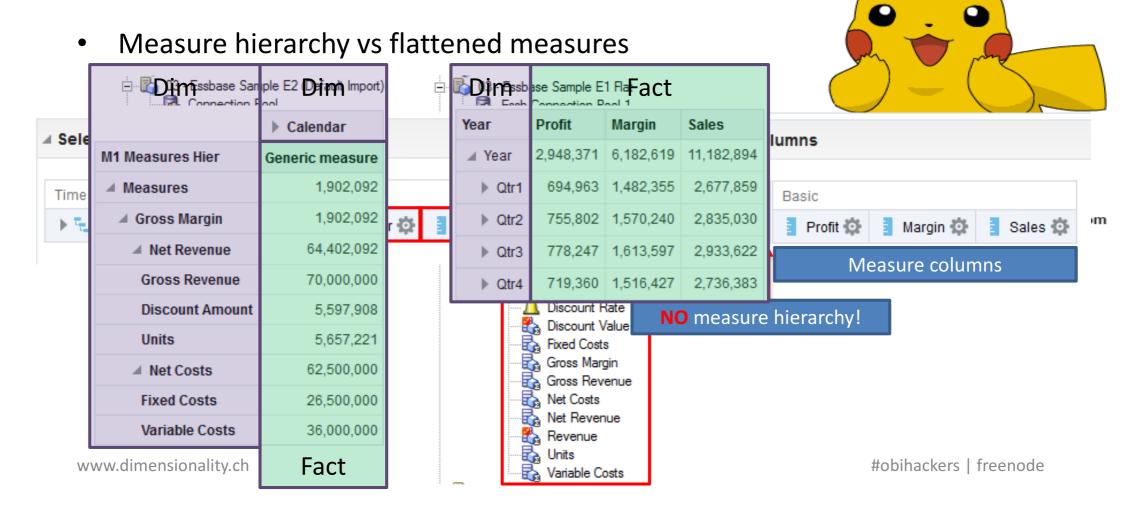


Multidimensional #2

Result?

- Huge performance impacts up to taking down Hyperion servers
- Irresponsive and unusable front-end
- Cubes aren't necessarily suited for dynamic analytical access:
 - Sparse cubes
 - Extremely specific stored members which require N obligatory dimensions+level+member references in each query
 - Dynamic calculations
- Analyses must be built like reports with N fixed axis plus fixed member selection on levels
- Loss of habitual dynamic navigation possibilities of OBI

Multidimensional #3



Multidimensional #4

- Directly accessing cubes purpose-built for Hyperion applications for analytical analyses (pivot, drill, slice/dice, member selection)...
- Accessing hugely sparse cubes (Essbase or MSAS) with massive amounts of extremely complex dynamic calculations for analytical analyses
- Expecting that OBIEE is a perfectly native MDX generator to smooth out EPM/reporting outline builds



www.dimensionality.ch @Nephentur #obihackers | freenode

#Fail categories

- The 3 RPD layers
- System, DevOps and security
- Multidimensional
- Front-end
- Analyses + dashboard
- Going just too far

Export to Excel and I will kill you



Front-end usage #2

Use OBI as a data entry tool (instead of APEX et al)

Why? • "OBI is a web application and must support this".

- "But Oracle provides write-back functionality! Now make it work with field validation and pick-lists."
- "We don't want to buy another tool."
- "We don't want to use another tool."

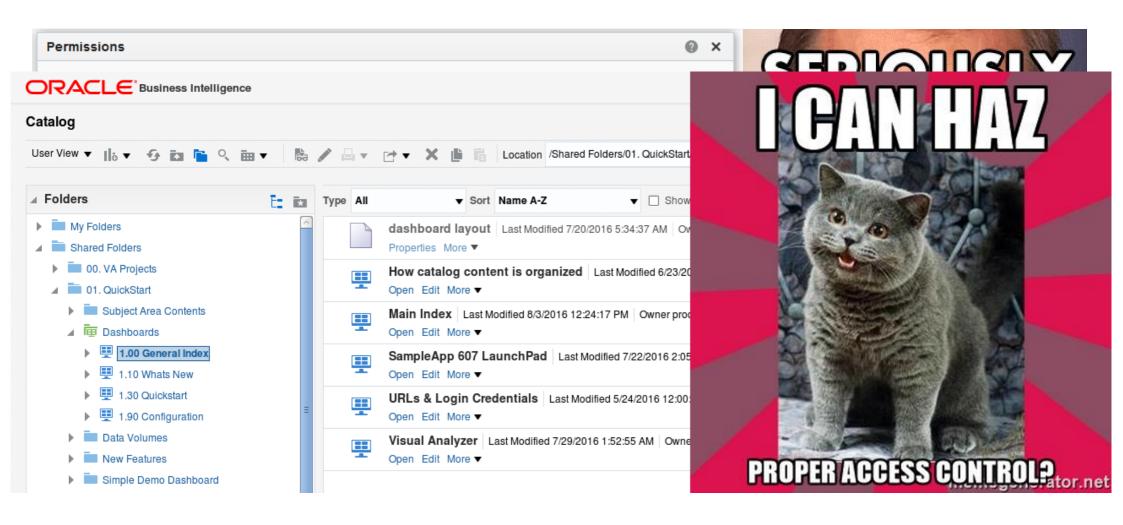
Result?



www.dimensionality.

#obihackers | freenode

Front-end usage #3



#Fail categories

- The 3 RPD layers
- System, DevOps and security
- Multidimensional
- Front-end
- Analyses + dashboard
- Going just too far

CDACI E Business Intelligence

```
sum(T418.Cost Fixed) as c2,
     avg(T418.Cost Fixed / nullif( T418.Cost Variable, 0) * 100.0) as c3,
     T762.Name as c4,
     T666.Office Dsc as c5,
     T418.Order Status as c6,
     T451.Brand as c7,
     T437.Empl Name as c8.
     T795.PER NAME YEAR as c9,
     T666.0ffice Key as c10,
     T437.Employee Key as c11,
     T762.Cust Key as c12
from
     BISAMPLE.SAMP_PRODUCTS_D T451 /* D10 Product (Dynamic Table) */ ,
     BISAMPLE.SAMP TIME OTR D T795 /* D03 Time Quarter Grain */ .
     BISAMPLE.SAMP CUSTOMERS D T762 /* D60 Customers */ ,
     BISAMPLE.SAMP OFFICES D T666 /* D30 Offices */ ,
     BISAMPLE.SAMP_EMPL_D_VH T437 /* D50 Sales Rep (Parent Child Hierarchy) */ ,
     BISAMPLE.SAMP EMPL PARENT CHILD MAP T490 /* D51 Closure Table Sales Rep Parent Child */ ,
     BISAMPLE.SAMP REVENUE F T418 /* F10 Billed Rev */
where ( T418.Cust Key = T762.Cust Key and T418.Prod Key = T451.Prod Key and T418.Office Key = T666.Office Key and T418.Empl Key = T490.Member k
group by T418.Order Status, T437.Employee Key, T437.Empl Name, T451.Brand, T666.Office Dsc, T666.Office Key, T762.Name, T762.Cust Key, T795.PER
SAWITH1 AS (select 0 as c1,
     D1.c4 as c2,
     D1.c5 as c3,
     D1.c6 as c4,
     D1.c7 as c5,
     D1.c8 as c6.
     D1.c9 as c7,
     D1.c1 as c8.
     D1.c2 as c9,
     D1.c3 as c10,
     D1.c2 / nullif( D1.c1, 0) * 100.0 as c11,
     D1.c10 as c16,
     D1.c11 as c17.
     D1.c12 as c18
     SAWITHO D1)
select D1.c1 as c1, D1.c2 as c2, D1.c3 as c3, D1.c4 as c4, D1.c5 as c5, D1.c6 as c6, D1.c7 as c7, D1.c8 as c8, D1.c9 as c9, D1.c10 as c10, D1.c1
     D1.c2 as c2.
     D1.c3 as c3,
     D1.c4 as c4,
     D1.c5 as c5,
     D1.c6 as c6,
     D1.c7 as c7,
     D1.c8 as c8,
     D1.c9 as c9,
     D1.c10 as c10,
     D1.cl1 as cl1,
     sum(D1.c9) over (partition by D1.c7, D1.c5) / nullif( sum(D1.c8) over (partition by D1.c7, D1.c5) , 0) * 100.0 as c12,
     avg(D1.c10) over (partition by D1.c7, D1.c5) as c13,
     sum(D1.c8) over (partition by D1.c7, D1.c5) as c14,
     sum(D1.c9) over (partition by D1.c7, D1.c5) as c15
     SAWITH1 D1
order by c5, c7 ) D1 where rownum <= 5000001
```



www.dime 2015

SAWITHO AS (select sum(T418.Cost Variable) as c1,

3,534,005.00

2,620,944.27

80.58%

74.16%

I freenode

Analyses and dashboards #2

Setting all analyses to "Include Null Values" = TRUE by default



Cost Ratio Comparison

Effects of pre-aggregate ratios vs. post-aggregate

BizTech

T05 Per Name Year	10- Variable Costs	11- Fixed Costs	0001 - Cost Ratio (Pre-Agg)	0002 - Cost Ratio (Post-Agg)
2008				
2009				
2010				
2011				
2012				
2013	4,892,811.00	3,601,683.49	80.55%	73.61%
2014	4,723,461.00	3,432,411.16	79.89%	72.67%
2015	4,861,801.00	3,618,327.36	80.59%	74.42%
2016				
2017				

#obihackers | freenode

Analyses and dashboards #3

Complex post-calculations and analysis based aggregations on huge data streams handed to the OBI Presentation Server

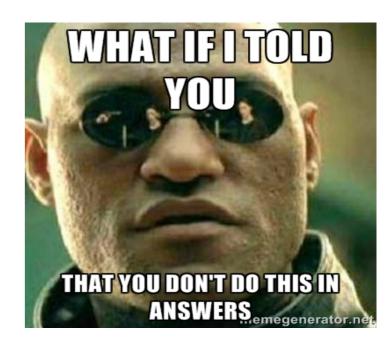
Example? Millions of rows handed to the OBIPS to create a 15 row table view

Why? • No access to RPD

- Separated teams/roles for "back-end" and "front-end"
- Silo mentalities and poor communication
- Hesitation to change the RPD for fear of damaging existing solutions
- Out-of-synch development cycles

Result? • Again: performance, maintenance

 All the cleverness of the OBI server's syntax and query tuning is eliminated



Analyses and dashboards #4

- Clutter the dashboards with 30 prompts without defaults
- Putting all dashboard objects in separate condition-driven sections
- Over-use (nested) view selectors, column selectors on every page
 - Pseudo liberty instead of thought-out content telling a specific story
 - End-user confusion "Which of my problems does this solve again?"
- Constantly reshuffling the presentation catalog folder structure and objects without properly adjusting the XML references
- Agent notification spam

#Fail categories

- The 3 RPD layers
- System, DevOps and security
- Multidimensional
- Front-end
- Analyses + dashboard
- Going just too far

Going just too far

- Giving Direct Database
 Request capability to users
 and providing them with the connection pool names
- Showing and giving users the access to &IssueRawSQL
- Using hacks to interact with the desktop PC from a browser
- Using JS hacks to make OBIEE react like an ERP / data entry system (masks, required fields, field dependencies and validations)





KEEP CALM

AND THANK YOU FOR

YOUR ATTENTION! ANY QUESTIONS?