



BI Software Products cannot do Financial Reporting

Fact or Fiction?





Overview

Most Business Intelligence (BI) products do not do Financial Reporting out of the box.

UNiFYfinance simplifies your reporting environment, data consolidation, master data management and the presentation of financial reports.

Challenge

Managing financial data from multiple sources and melding it into one simplified approach requires central control.

Typically BI products do not adequately cater for consolidation, rollups, financial formats and managing data outside of existing source systems.

Creating financial reports such as Profit & Loss & Balance Sheets, etc. in BI reporting toolsets is not easy. Maintaining them is more difficult.

The challenge was to create an environment that enabled financial reporting across standard BI and Reporting environments, which centrally controls all other financial applications.

“Takes MDM to a new level”



Solution

UNiFYdata creates a master view of your organisation and maps multiple dimensional sources via a single application.

UNiFYdata simplifies and reduces the effort required to perform data consolidation, master data management (MDM) and financial reporting.

Consolidation

UNiFYdata allows your organisation to consolidate financial data and apply rollup structures by:

- Creating a master view of your organisation
- Building multiple hierarchical views of your organisation
- Mapping dimensions to hierarchical views
- Managing change control and approvals via integrated workflow
- Mapping analytical dimensions to hierarchical views
- Providing a solid foundation for standardising reporting, output formats and dashboards
- Applying a user security model to control maintenance

Hierarchical Views

UNiFYdata creates hierarchical tree views of your organisation in which all financial sources may reside.

Views may inherit attributes from other views.

Reporting Formats

UNiFYdata allows reporting structures to be centrally available to all software components. Reporting formats such as Profit & Loss, Balance Sheet, etc. are configured within **UNiFYdata**.

Reporting attributes such as; font and background colours, rollup sub-totals, headings footings/totals are all configured and managed within **UNiFYdata**. Structures and report formats may be used as report prompts.

This allows all related software products and components to access the same structures. Imagine having a PnL structure within **UNiFYdata** which is consumed by your BI reporting environment, dashboards, cubes, planning and budgeting tools, business portals and other content management applications.

Governance

Access controls across the BI reporting lifecycle are essential for effective change management.

Power users may be selected to maintain hierarchies, views and reporting structures. Subject matter experts may be assigned to maintain subsets within the master views.

Changes are logged centrally to provide a history of updates across all structures

UNiFYdata provides stewardship through full integration with Microsoft's Active Directory (AD).

- Roles are managed within AD groups then applied to the structures
- Role and User security may be applied to any level within a structure with access permitted to it and all it's children
- Security can be deployed within applications, reports and report prompts
- Security may be sourced from multiple AD domains.

Workflow controls the management of structures by providing authorisation before changes can be deployed. The workflow manages the following operations: Edit, Submit, Approve and Publish.

Published changes can be forced at any time. However, depending on the implementation, changes may be dynamic or re-applied during the standard ETL process.



Additional Capabilities

KPI Engine

Managing KPIs across any business is a complex process. The **UNiFYdata** KPI engine defines and manages KPIs across hierarchical structures over time.

KPIs may comprise measures from many sources which become standardised into a common environment. Sources may be a combination of financial and/or operational measures.

KPIs can be created using formulae algorithms including time based functions. The KPI engine manages time into the commonly used timeframes, for example last month, this year-to-date, current period, etc. This process also understands the difference between 'rollup' and 'as at' measures.

Once created the KPIs may be consumed by any application or reporting environment.





Centrally control your entire financial reporting environment with ease

Analytics / Cubes

The hierarchical views can be consumed by cubes and can also be applied as a dimension within a cube. Hierarchical views are also available as a source to other software such as business analytics tools, financial modelling applications.

Date Relative

Date standards are automatically managed and aligned to the current date.

Some examples of these relative dates are; Current Month, Current Month Last Year, Last Month, Calendar Year-to-date, Financial Year-to-Date, Last Financial Year-to-Date, Rolling 6 Months, and others

Additional date ranges can be added as required.

Management Packs

Management Packs significantly drive the adoption of BI within any organisation.

Integrated with **UNiFYdata**, **UNiFYpacks** builds packs comprising reports, dashboard components, documents, KPIs and other relevant content. Users may add text or other selected objects to the pack.

Management Packs substantially reduce the time required to process and present a comprehensive set of reports. The Pack process uses **UNiFYdata** structures to order and control the output.

Technical Requirements

Reporting / BI Product

UNiFYdata can be consumed by most BI or reporting products.

Connectors

- **UNiFYdata** comes standard with an ODBC connector to import dimensional data from any compliant source.
- Data Integration: Standard interfaces allow for easy integration to reporting, cubes, packs, ETL routines and integration.

Software Requirements

- Microsoft SQL (2008 or above)
- Microsoft Active Directory
- WEB server to deploy the application.