LOVE YOUR

BI DASHBOARD

Data, Data, Everywhere

The way companies operate is rapidly transforming. We're becoming more mobile and distributed, but there's one common thread that binds us all – the ever-growing data stream that flows through every business.

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> ### If your people cannot create or maintain dashboards easily & quickly then it's simply not good for business.

Making Sense

As this flow of data becomes more and more seamless, uninterrupted and unhindered across and through enterprises and systems, the more vital it is to harness, analyze, understand, and act upon it. For this is the lifeblood of your company, and your Business Intelligence (BI) dashboard is its beating HEART.

Critical Tool

As the crucial control hub of your company, the BI dashboard needs to be strategic and informative, yet clear and concise. It should transform all that fluid real-time data into vital insights that your company can act on at exactly the right moments to optimise, innovate and grow everything that you do.

Is Your BI Dashboard Up To Scratch?

Our top 10 essential tips follow, along with examples of how a good dashboard will truly evolve businesses - and even save lives!

Hold On, My Dashboard Looks Great?

At first glance, all modern dashboards are dazzlers, regardless of the underlying technology and the people who built them. If you explore beyond the façade, significant differences in capabilities emerge, each with good and bad points. Very few are great all-around performers.

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Our Top 10 Essential Tips

01 Interactive Visuals

At the least, you'll want to see your company data displayed as heat maps, gauges, geographic maps, waterfall charts, and other browser-based HTML5 and JS-based visuals. Get all the information instantly with interactive data tables featuring in-cell graphics and grouped, cross-tab reports with drill-down and drill through. And it should be self-service, allowing end-users to create and configure the visuals without tech support.

02 Mobile Support

Dashboards need to be responsive and resize to your various devices. Smaller screens may require separate web pages to make information comprehensible, and touch interactions are a must.

03 A Web Platform

Easy to set up and scale, dashboard applications must be agnostic – happily sitting on any hosting infrastructure (e.g., on-premise, remote data center or cloud services such as Amazon Web Services and Microsoft Azure). Proprietary, in-house solutions are yesterday's news – avoid them.

04 Accessible Data - Any Format, Anywhere

Useful BI dashboards are usually a single view of data sourced from multiple applications, databases or files. Connections, extractions and integrations across sources should not require building intermediate warehouses or complex data models. Everything developers need should be readily available.

05 Rapid Development Environment

A feature-rich platform isn't useful if it lacks the tools for hyper-efficient creation and maintenance of dashboard applications. When fewer engineers work faster, the business ROI is higher. That benefit goes directly to the bottom line.

Life-saving BI Dashboards

Healthcare Provision

A major metropolitan healthcare system has multiple hospitals and clinics that together provide a full range of services and capabilities. But each location has finite resources and capacities, so the demand for services at that location sometimes outstrips what the facility can provide, particularly critical when local demand for emergency services cannot be met.

Balancing Resources

A BI dashboard solution consolidates views of service loads across all locations in the healthcare system and provides the real-time information needed to rebalance demand instantly. Data comes from several applications and databases. Drill-downs provide a clear understanding of specific factors that trigger threshold alerts.

Super-efficient Services

In non-emergency situations, staff at any locale can offer a choice to patients: "Our first available appointment here is in three weeks; or you can have an appointment tomorrow at our office on the other side of town."

Life-saving Changes

But sometimes it's a question of life and death: when the closest emergency room is overwhelmed, ambulances can be redirected instantly to a less busy facility that doesn't need to triage cases.

Risk Reducing BI Dashboards

Hospital Patient Monitoring

Pediatric hospital wards sit at the frontier of intensive care and saving lives. Monitoring solutions based on recent technological advances are nothing short of amazing. But highly sensitive instruments are not enough.

Real-time Displays

The huge volumes of data they generate are consolidated, analyzed, and distributed to the ward staff continually. Real-time dashboard displays at central nursing stations are common, but each station needs to be staffed by multiple people to prevent any possibility of momentary observation gaps.

Data Freedom

What if those dashboards could also display on mobile devices? When people aren't tied to locations, a private conversation or a trip to the supply closet is no longer a logistical challenge. That freedom doesn't necessarily mean the ward could operate with fewer people, but it could make them more productive without incurring additional risk.

With BI dashboards that are available across all devices, mobility and readiness is the new norm.

06 Flexible Security

Multi-layered user access control is essential for all dashboard elements, including charts, application functions, columns, and rows. Single sign-on integration with popular security frameworks or homegrown applications (LDAP, Windows Active Directory, or custom databases that store user profiles) is mandatory. Server-side passing of credentials from custom applications for embedded use cases are highly desirable.

07 Embedding

As BI dashboards are often embedded in other applications, an open platform architecture should provide developers with the flexibility to customize the look and feel of their applications. Custom themes, CSS, and JavaScript are common mechanisms used to create unique user interfaces aligned with branding or other business requirements.

08 Write-backs, Process Initiations & Workflows

Dashboards aren't one-way information delivery channels any longer, where end-users would access another application or run separate software when a response was needed. Actions are taken from within the dashboard, so the platform must enable updates to databases, launch processes and participate in workflows. These features increase user productivity and dashboard ease-of-use.

09 Scale Without Limits

As BI dashboards have so many uses, they are used increasingly within companies as well with the extended enterprise (partners, suppliers, and customers). The platform should have no technical barriers to expansion as long as the processing, storage, and network resources are available. It's equally important that licensing terms specify cost structures to reflect company growth (e.g. number of employees, revenue, usage) as opposed to large step functions based on infrastructure components (e.g. server counts).

10 Other Customizations

A dashboard platform should be able to incorporate third-party data visuals and controls to meet a sector or industry requirement. A plug-in model is highly desirable, in order to future-proof and extend platform capabilities. Examples include executing unique business logic, implementing proprietary algorithms or complying with unusual data handling procedures.

Rapidly Responsive BI Dashboards

Financial Services

An aspect of banking that is less visible to the general public is the ongoing assessment of risk and applying those insights to decisions pertaining to investment and loans. This is an extraordinarily complex topic best left to PhDs in mathematics, statistics and psychology; but when all is said and done, decision-makers must be able to see, at any given moment, easy-to-digest conclusions and distilled versions of underlying assessments.

Respond to Rapid Change

The velocity of global financial markets continues to increase, so real-time updates are critical. That's why dashboards are so prevalent in the financial industry. A snapshot from a report generated an hour ago is useless. The turbulence of those markets also means that warning thresholds and algorithms for risk assessment change frequently.

Supreme Reliability

BI dashboards must evolve in lockstep and be capable of the advanced functionality for financial data engineers to respond to changes quickly without compromising reliability.

Adding BI Expertise
To Your Company

ChristianSteven Software is the BI brain providing robust and cost-effective solutions for the movers and shakers in today's innovative businesses the world over.

With over 10 years of Business Intelligence expertise, we help companies define, create and implement BI solutions.
Our goal is to partner with you as your BI expert 'arm' - to flex and scale with you and your needs, now and into the future.

Introducing True Dashboard Innovation

Create and consume visually exciting and real-time dashboards with ease - you specify the dashboards you need, and IntelliFront BI delivers it.

IntelliFront BI (**Intelli**gence **Front**ier) represents a major leap forward in capability, ease-of-use, and cost efficiency. It amplifies and extends the power of Crystal Reports and SQL Server reporting at a much lower cost than equivalent Microsoft alternatives.

Immediate cost savings and streamlined business processes mean the ROI payback period will be short, so the time to act is now. Join the data revolution and put Intellifront BI at the beating heart of your enterprise.

Trust In Us

So if you're looking to innovate your company by adding or upgrading BI dashboards, talk to us. We'll help you build a strategy that delivers solid business value and reduces costs.

We will target...

- Quick set-up and simple use
- Less or no repetitive tasks or manual processes
- Cost and labor reduction by automating business processes and reports from one application
- Reliable data provision and SOX Compliance, through automated report generation

- Happier customers via mass personalized distribution
- Browser-based interfaces for access anytime and place
- Making the most from your existing hardware and software investments
- Keeping training and implementation costs low
- A low total cost of ownership

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