The Largest IndependentGathering of the Microsoft User Ecosystem

#414: A Real-World Data Journey with PBI & AX/D365: A Client Story

Decrease Complexities, Deliver Results.

@ 2022 Dynamic Communities



Michael G. Simms – VP Strategy and Change

Columbus US – Strategy and Change

#ItsAllAboutTheData #TheDataIsTheData

Columbus at a glance



8,600 Business applications implementations



29 years of business



45 countries with clients running our business applications & services



1,700,000 hours of consultancy every year



50+ award winning solutions



4,200 Customers world-wide



1,750+ employees

across the world



5X Microsoft Global Partner of the Year) 24/7 global support

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For Users, By Users





- Introduction
- Background
- Problem Statement
- Vision
- Architecture
- Power Bl
- D365 Integration

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COMMUNITY

For Users, By Users

Introduction & Background



For Users, By Users

- Michael Simms
 - VP Strategy and Change at Columbus Global
 - MGS@columbusglobal.com
 - Linked

In: www.linkedin.com/in/michaelgsimms

- Carol Wills In Memory of
 - Controller for CymSTAR, LLC
 - MTax, CPA, CMA.
 - At CymSTAR over 13 years.
 - Quickbooks, Deltek, AX now D365

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Introduction

- CymSTAR Companies
 - Repairs, Modifies, Upgrades and Builds Flight & Other Simulators for the US Military.
 - In 2006 we were \$1m Revenue, 15 people using QuickBooks
 - Now two companies with combined Annual Revenue of about \$75m and about 250 people.
 - Long time customer



Introduction

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- CymSTAR had a failed AX2012 Implementation in 2013-2014. Michael & team at CSG came into rescue.
- Many customizations to AX that were buggy. Some areas never worked properly.
- Over time we moved Payroll to ADP, Expense Reports to Concur, and Timesheets to Journyx.
- Quarterly reporting involved large, complicated, spreadsheets and hours of duplicate manual entry.
- As company grows this is not sustainable without hiring an army of accountants. Yet we must be good stewards of taxpayer dollars. (The proverbial \$500 hammer.)

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Background

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Architecture - Past

Systemic Issues

- Bad underlying data
 - Lack of system understanding = bad processes
 - Bad configurations
- Customization Issues
 - Business logic wrong
 - Hard coding data
- Limited Reporting
 - Data dump to Excel
 - Pivot Tables & Lookups

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Data Chaos

Data Chaos can lead to

- Intangible and tangible costs (which can be difficult to quantify)
- Lack of trust in reporting
- Inefficient usage of resources
- Manual corrections
- Information delivery can become time consuming and tedious with error potential
- Bottom line: Data Chaos creates RISK in the organization

Decrease Complexities, Deliver Results.

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Problem



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- Quarterly reporting involved large, complicated, spreadsheets and hours of duplicate manual entry.
 - Each active project & high probability bid has a forecast done in a spreadsheet by Program Management staff.
 - Each low probability bid requires Accounting to apply "templates" to high level data to create a forecast.
 - Accounting transfers to a massive Excel breaking set of spreadsheets for financial forecasting. It takes 2 ½ weeks, 3 people to create financial statement forecasts every quarter. (300 man-hours ~\$70k/year)
 - Engineering Management transfers again to another set of Excel spreadsheets for planning staffing needs. Weekly Manual Updates.
 - No Time to Analyze & Recommend Improvements

Problem

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- What-if Analysis takes 2 3 days for any change.
- Manual entries are opportunity for errors.
- Data is actionable, but not timely.
 - 6 weeks after the end of the quarter.
 - Never implemented Budgets Module Budget to Actual reporting is quarterly only.
- Users lacked confidence in AX data because of historical issues.
- New AX reports are SSRS
 - Michael is not cheap!
 - Reports should not be code-changes.
- Multiple disparate databases each with its own data & reporting.

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Problem

Data Chaos

Projects Cube v1

- Fixed setups
- Fixed Processes
- Better business logic
- Built Projects Cube
- Built SSRS Reports
 - Reliable, accessible reports
- System Understanding improves over time

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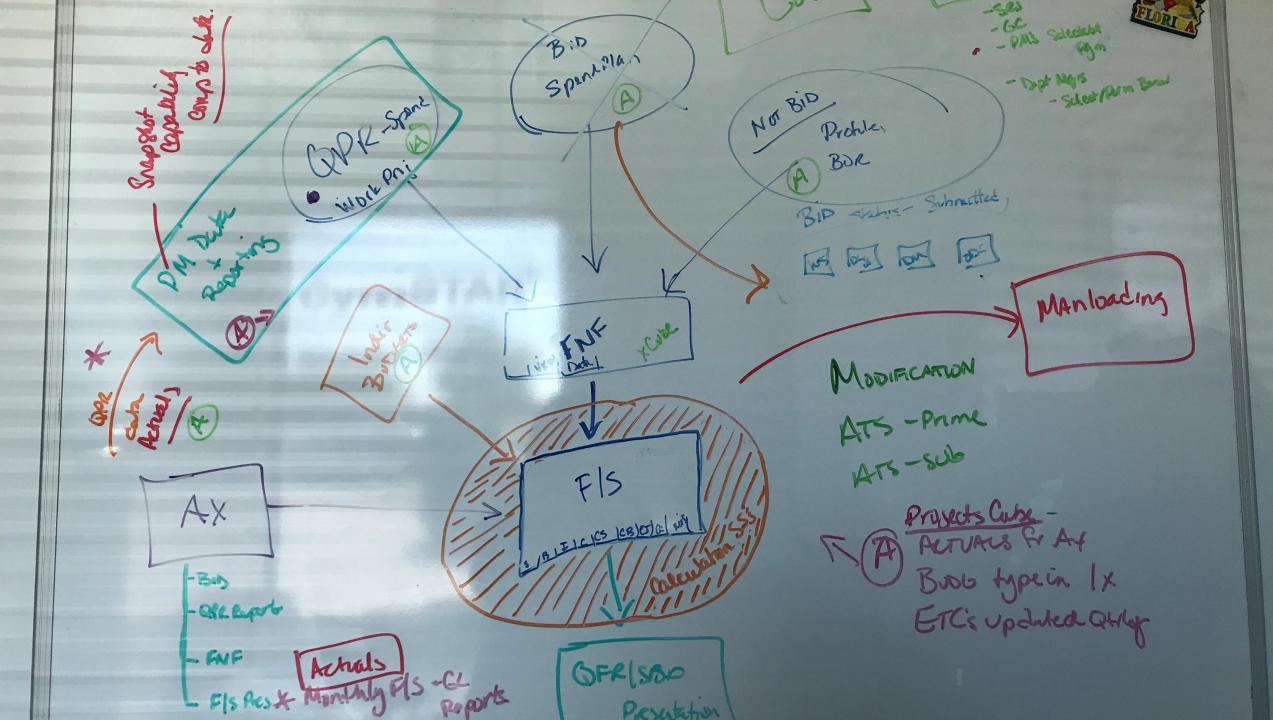


For Users, By Users

Vision



For Users, By Users



Carol's Hallucination Vision





Seamlessly integrate disparate data from ERP, Timesheets, Expense Reports



Eliminate triplicate data entry (PM, Accounting & Engineering Mgmt)



Eliminate as many spreadsheets as possible – Automate!

Real time actual data reporting

距 Rapid What If Analysis

Agility to react to changes



Minimize dependency on Michael & Co for reporting needs

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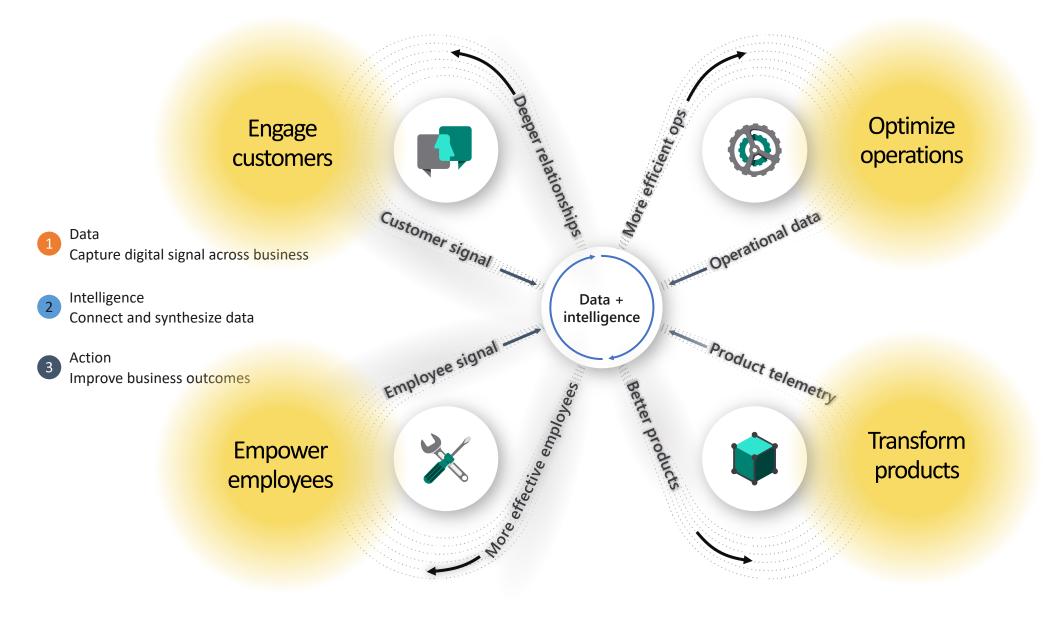
Decrease Complexities, Deliver Results.

Digital Transformation



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Digital Feedback Loop



Power Platform

One connected platform that empowers everyone to innovate



Analyze

Make sense of your data through interactive, real-time dashboards and unlock the insights needed to drive your business forward



Act

Build apps in hours—not months—that easily connect to data, use Excel-like expressions to add logic, and run on the web, iOS, and Android devices



Automate

Include powerful workflow automation directly in your apps with a no-code approach that connects to hundreds of popular apps and services





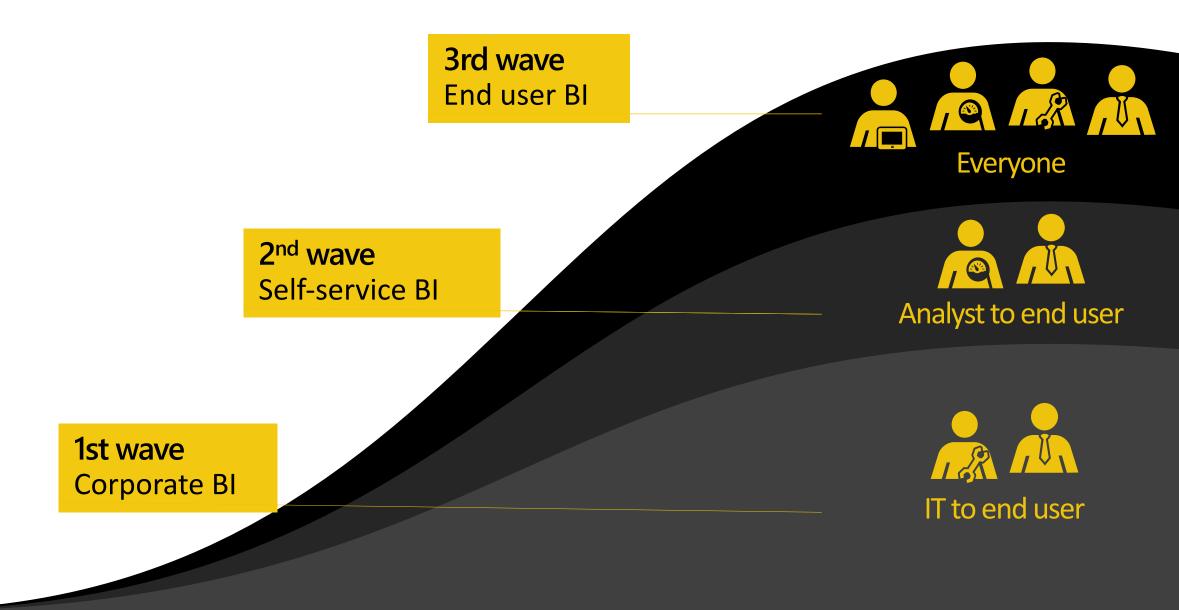
Power Apps

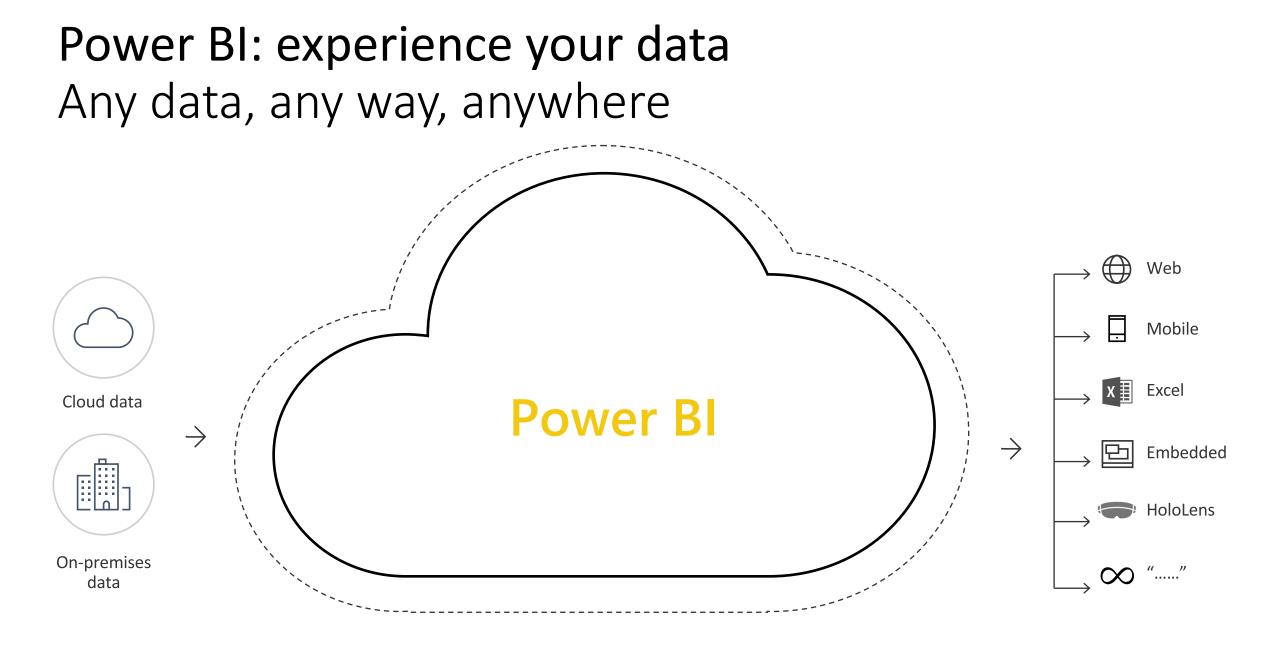


Power Automate

Microsoft Power Platform

The Evolution of BI





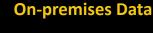
Data sources



SaaS solutions e.g. Marketo, Salesforce, GitHub, Google Analytics



Organizational Corporate data sources or external data services





Azure services Azure SQL, Stream Analytics...



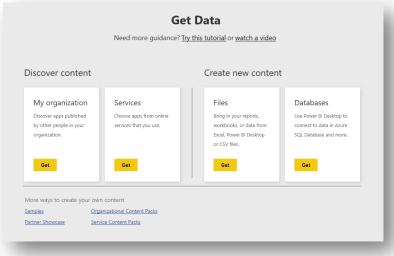
Excel files

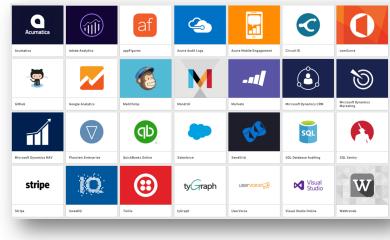


Power BI Desktop files Data from files, databases, Azure, and other sources Connect to 115+ data sources, both on-premises and cloud

- Data from Applications
 - SaaS services that you already use
- Data from your organization
 - Content published by others in your org (Datasets and Dataflows)
- Big data and more
 - Azure data services, e.g. SQL DW, ADLS.
 - On-premises data sources, e.g. Oracle & SSAS
- Data from files
 - Import data from Text, CSV, Excel and Power BI Desktop files

Access all your DATA







Gartner

Magic Quadrant for Analytics and Business Intelligence Platforms 2022



Decrease Complexities, Deliver Results.

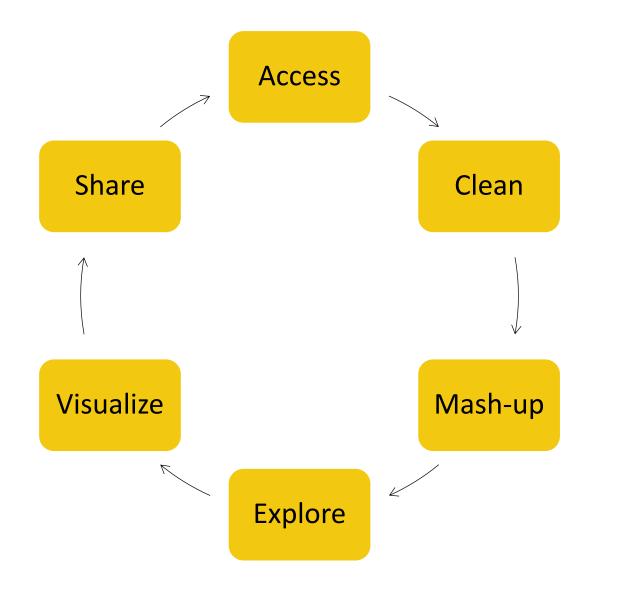
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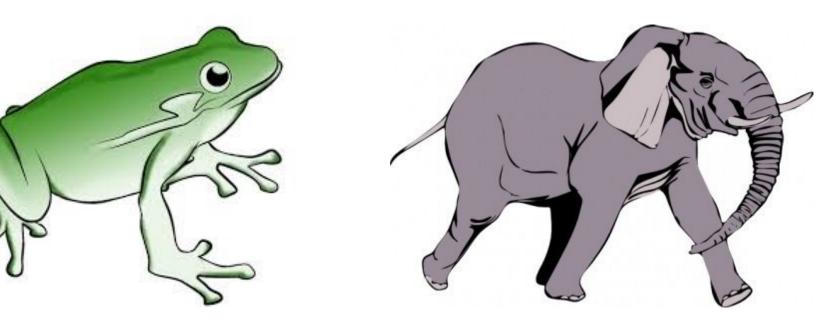
End User Needs





Decrease Complexities, Deliver Results.

From Problem to Vision with Frogs & Elephants



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How do we get from Problem to Vision?

Get Executive Support

- Sell the Solution
 - Integrity, Timing & Political Capital
 - Strategy
 - Business Case
 - The Budget <u>must</u> be in the Savings

• Execute

- Manage Expectations
 - Flexibility is Key
- Change Management
- Choose the Right Team
- Dedicate enough Time
- Avoid Scope Creep Phase 2



How do we get from Problem to Vision?



Adoption & Human Engineering

- Know Your Users
 - Handholding
 - Convincing
 - Instructions
 - Directives



- Sell the Solution to Users
 - Identify their pain & eliminate it
 - Multiple potential solutions & choice
 - Naysayers & We've always done it this way!
 - Never promise what you aren't sure you can deliver
 - Under Promise & Over Deliver
- Champions & Dictators
 - Know which you need & when to use them

Achitecture



For Users, By Users



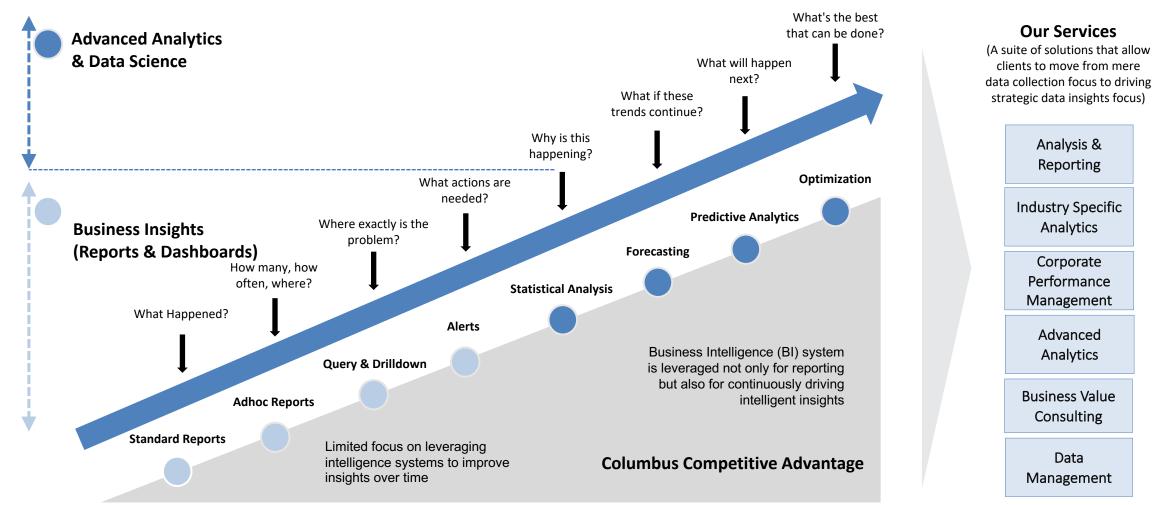
Develop Power BI Reports

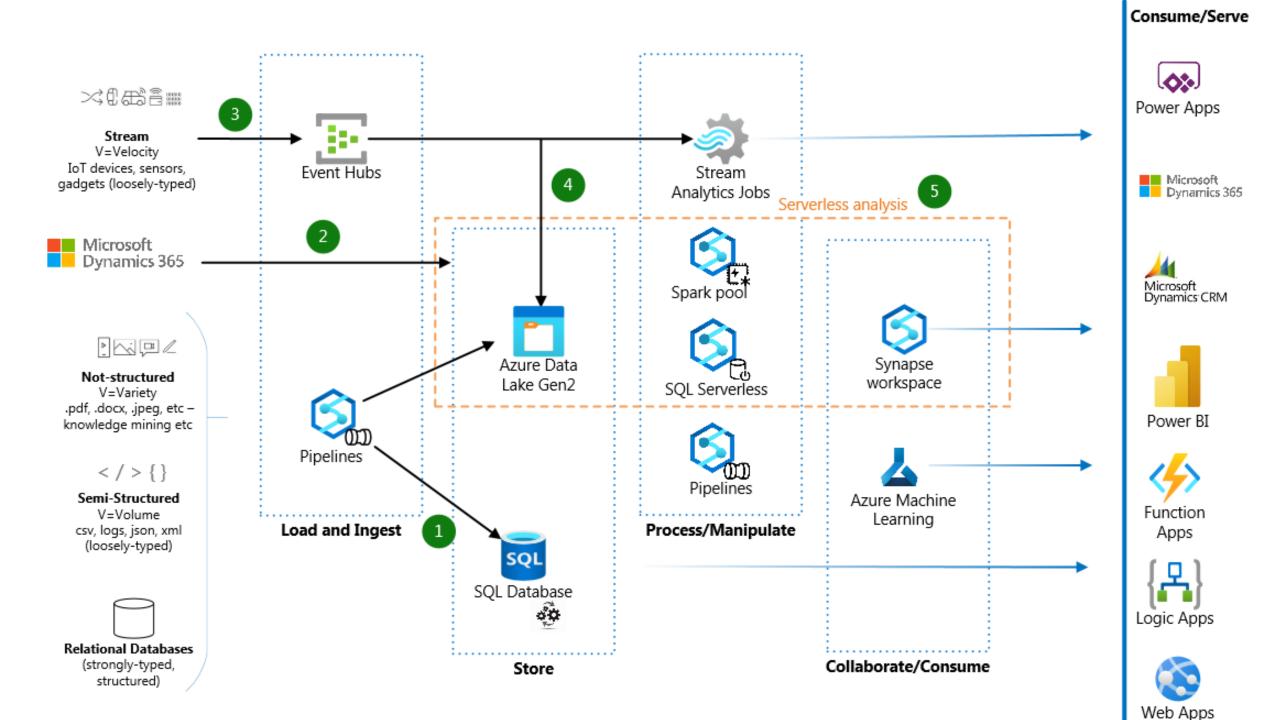
- Connect to AX2012 Cubes to get timely cost data for Active Projects
- Connect to Journyx Timesheet system for up to the minute hours reports
- Connect to existing Budget spreadsheets for Department Manager reports

Upgrade AX2012 R2, CU7 to D365

- Eliminate custom code = Eliminate bugs & gremlins
- Leverage new features & functionality
- Launch Budget & Forecasting modules
- Change perspectives about "the system"

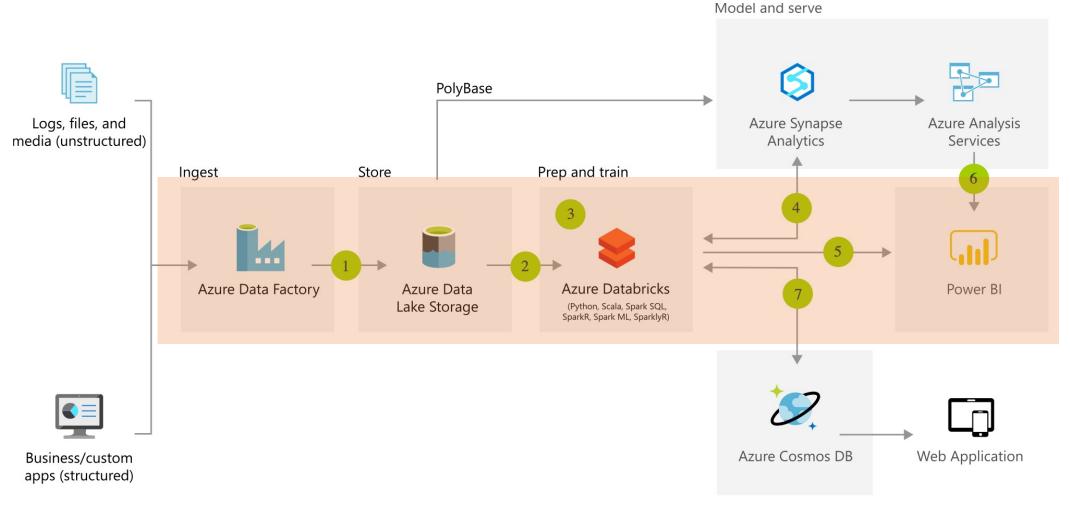






Architecture





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Power Bl



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Power BI Usage & Savings



Usage

- Executive Daily Monitoring
- Program Manager Program Cost
- Department Manager Dept Budget v. Cost
- Employees Program Cost & Historical Reference

Savings

- Reduce your AX/D365 License Costs
 - PBI < AX/D365
- Eliminate repeating data download/format/report process
 - Build it once & let it update
- Eliminate Risk of Data Errors

Getting Started with Power BI Reporting

- 1. What questions do I want to answer?
- 2. What data do I need?
- 3. What data do I have?
- 4. Do I need Calculations?
- 5. Where is the data?
- 6. How good is the data?
- 7. Static v. Dynamic?
- 8. Choose the right visual & make it pretty
- 9. User Access & Security Constraints
- 10. Power BI Skills, Training & When to call Michael

By Users

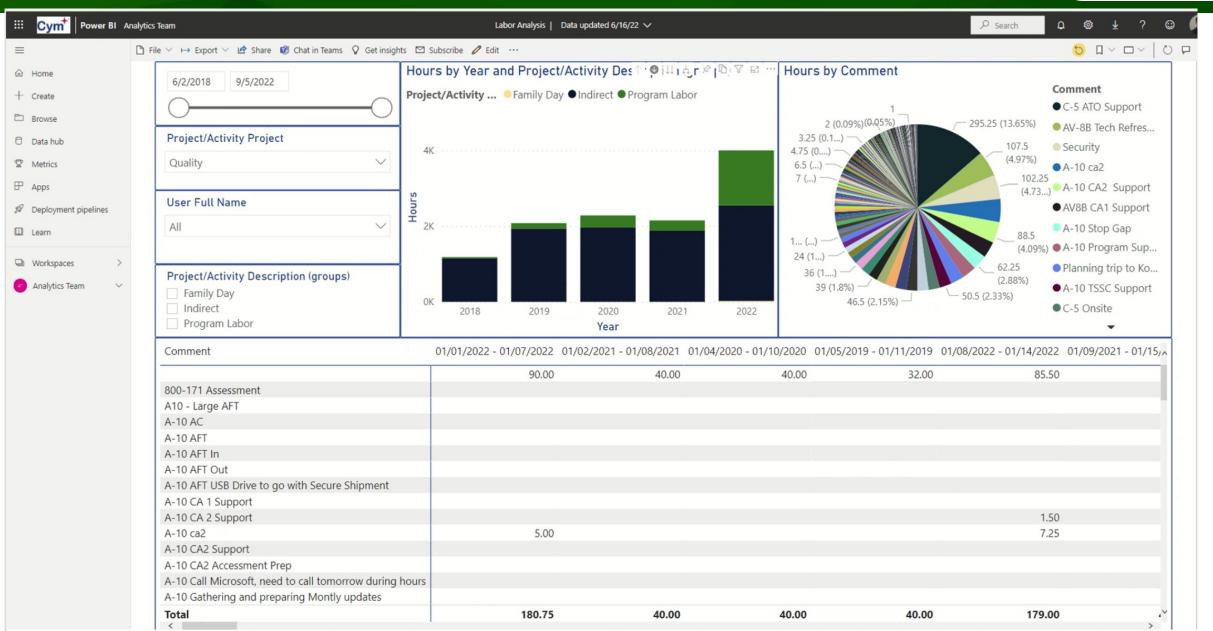
Program Financial Health



III Cym ⁺ Power Bl	Analytics Team			Program Financial Health	Data updated 9/1	5/22 🗸			٩	Search	® ± ?) © 🍕		
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Labor Analysis





Risk Item Report



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Purchase Order Status Report



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HR Deferral Audit



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		\$2,734.50	\$2,884.80	5.21%	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$86.54	\$82.04	is (All)
		\$3,533.19	\$3,533.81	0.02%	\$247.37	\$247.32	0.02%	\$0.00	\$0.00	Average of Roth 401k
		\$3,869.43	\$3,869.43	0.00%	\$270.86	\$270.86	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	is (All)
		\$2,692.31	\$0.00		\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	Average of Roth Catch
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		\$2,954.39	\$2,954.39	0.00%	\$147.72	\$147.72	0.00%	\$147.72	\$147.72	is (All)
		\$6,398.00	\$6,398.01	0.00%	\$383.88	\$383.88	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	Employee Roth 401k
		\$4,462.36	\$4,462.36	0.00%	\$312.37	\$312.37	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	is (All)
		\$482,399.88	\$478,464.39	1.64%	\$29,467.00	\$24,634.04	0.46%		\$5,715.25	 Employee Roth 401k is (All)

Max_Pay \checkmark \diamondsuit is (All)

Roth Catchup V 🖉

Engineering Dashboard



III Cym Power BI E	ngineering		Engineering Dashboard Data updated	d 9/15/22 🗸			P Search	Q @	¥ ? © 🧖
=	Pages	$\fbox{ File } \lor \ \mapsto \ Export \ \lor \ \not trained \ file \ \forall \ Export \ \lor \ \not trained \ file \ Export \ \lor \ \not trained \ Export \ \lor \ file \ Export \ Exp$	Teams 💡 Get insights 🖾 Subscribe 🥒 Edit 💀	•				() ଯ ଏ	✓ □ ✓ ♡ □ ☆
යි Home	Overview		a a wina a Da ala la a		Due europe		View		«
+ Create	Task Breakdown	Cym Engine	eering Dashbo	bard	- Program	i Level	view		YHI
D Browse	Task Hierarchy	Date	Project ID and Name	Loval 1 D	roject/Activity Name		Category		Total Hours
Data hub	Employee Task Breakdo	Last V 365 Days V			oject/Activity Name			\sim	181,486.53
Metrics	Redmine	Cast • 505 Days •	All	All			All	~	100.00%
₽ Apps	Resources	Hours by Employee			News	0/ Time		AV CT 11	Management
Ø Deployment pipelines		1			Name Kirkendoll, Zack		3 ,	%GT Hours	44,856.65
Learn		Kirkendoll, Zack Trang, Jimmy R	2.	3.1K	Trang, Jimmy R		Software Engineer Program Manager	56.74% 13.74%	24.72%
		Cambre, Mark S	2.7		Cambre, Mark S	1.48%	Electrical Engineer	11.31%	Design
Workspaces >		Wiles, Ralph A.	2.6K		Wiles, Ralph A.	4.400/	Regular	8.72%	44,894.90
🐼 Engineering 🗸 🗸		Garcia, Ruben	2.6K		Garcia, Ruben McVay, Nathaniel Logan	4 400/	Mechanical Engineer	5.00%	24.74%
		McVay, Nathaniel Logan	2.5K		Hoar, Daniel	1.40%	ILS Technical	1.81% 1.45%	
		Hoar, Daniel Kenna, Patrick Thomas	2.5K 2.5K		Kenna, Patrick Thomas	1 2 7 %	Assembly	1.19%	CDRLs
		Lee, Robert John	2.5K		Lee, Robert John	1.37%	Regular Cross Charge to CSS	0.02%	7,541.20
		Daxon, Caitlyn Renee	2.5K		Daxon, Caitlyn Renee Kriegbaum, Jacob Lee	1.37% -	Total	100.00%	4.16%
		Kriegbaum, Jacob Lee	2.5K		Total	100.00%			ILS / CDRL
		Lott, Donna Kay	2.4K		CLIN			Hours	43.54%
		Huynh, Nelson Pinkerton, Daniel Eric	2.4K					-	-
			2.4K	1. I	ENG - Engineering ENG.4 - PTO			23,951. 11,751.	Meetings
		ОК	1K 2K Hours	3K	ENG.1 - Indirect			8,030.	5,177.78
		Management Meeting CDPL Dec	sign and Install/Test by FULL_Date		ENG.2 - Training			2,024.	2.85%
					🗄 ENG.7 - Family Day			1,048.	
		 Management Meeting CDRL Design 	● Install/Test		ENG.1			935.	Install/Test
		글 0.5%			ENG.6 - Facility Relocation			161.	54,701.92
		📱 janhkakitha, Aba, dhani	hähnsadulusa,	and se	 □ 2101.0002 - OFP Upgrad □ 2101.0002.3 - Production 		(155C) - CLIN 1055A	11,740. 9,016.	30.14%
		Wanter and the second second second second						1,043.	Travel Days
		∑ 0.0% Oct 2021 Jan 2022	Apr 2022 Jul 2022 FULL_Date	6791946. IL I	Total			181,486.	2890

Power BI Isn't Everything

- Things to Consider
 - Learning Curve
 - Can be a crowded interface
 - Advanced ETL is limited
 - Large Datasets
 - Performance



Decrease Complexities, Deliver Results.

D365 Integration: The Future



For Users, By Users

Architecture - Future



Automation

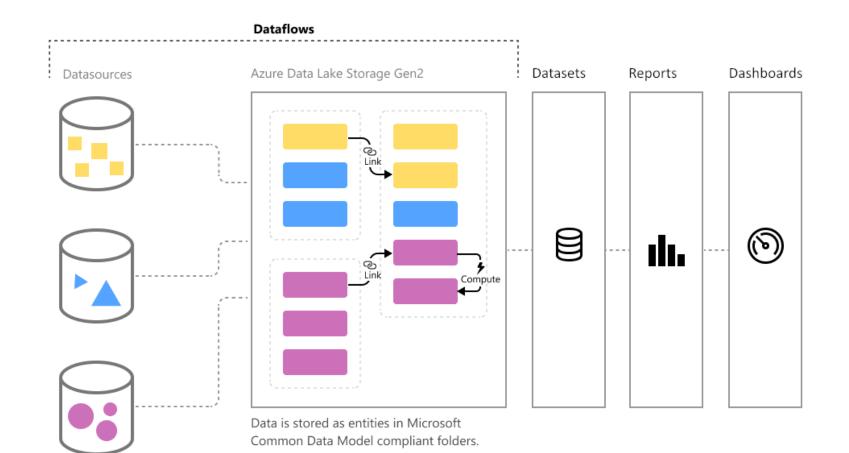
- Quarterly Reporting
 - Programs
 - Financials
- Budgeting
- Forecasting
- Manloading
- Resource Planning
- Identify Policy Compliance Issues

Analytics

- What if we _____?
- Use Past results to predict future
 - Program monthly cash flow
- Use Past Results to create competitive advantage

Azure Data Lake Integration with D365

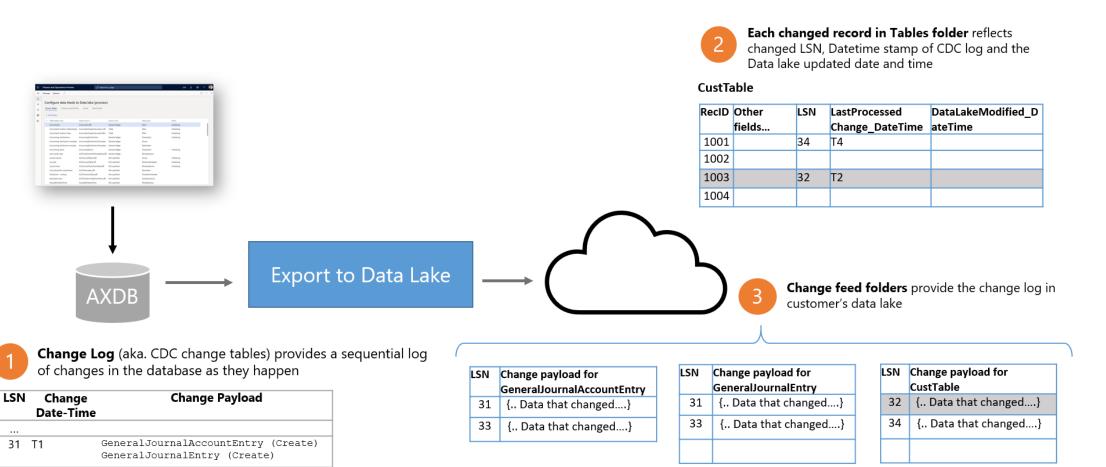




Decrease Complexities, Deliver Results.

Change Feeds & FSC





32 T2

33 T3

34 T4 35 T5

36 T6

CustTable (create)

CustTable (modify)

CustTable (delete)

GeneralJournalAccountEntry (Create) GeneralJournalEntry (Create)

GeneralJournalAccountEntry (Create) GeneralJournalEntry (Create)

Machine learning



Sophisticated pretrained models To simplify solution development	Vision	لِلِ Speech	人 之 Language	Search
Popular frameworks To build advanced deep learning solutions	O Pytorch	TensorFlow	Keras	Onnx
Productive services To empower data science and development teams	Azure Databricks	Azure Machi	ne Learning	Machine Learning VMs
Powerful infrastructure To accelerate deep learning	CPU	GP		FPGA
Flexible deployment To deploy, manage models on intelligent cloud & edge	On-premises	Clo) ud	Edge

Decrease Complexities, Deliver Results.

Decrease Complexities, Deliver Results.

Questions?



For Users, By Users



Thank you for attending!

I truly appreciate your feedback on my Session #414



Decrease Complexities, Deliver Results.

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