Information systems towards better analytical and decision-making for international reserves portfolio investment

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2019
IT Development Evolution for Managing International Reserves
Excel Spreadsheets

Too many formulas...
Building time series it’s not easy...
Large Excel files crashing
Acquiring Vendor Softwares

- Not satisfying all requirements
- Lack of customized reports
- Not fully integrated
Back and Front Office

- Not satisfying all reports requirements
- Lack of key return and risk indicators
- No native module for portfolio limits (enhancements)
Middle Office

Transactions, Holdings & Returns

Performance Attribution & Risk Indicators - Tracking Error, VaR, cVaR etc.

Not fully integrated
Investment Policies

Internal Models for Yield Curves, Asset Allocation, Risk Indicators, etc., in MatLab, @Risk, CrystalBall

- Gathering a large amount of data semi-manually.
- Saving output in spreadsheets.
IT Area Client - Server Developments

- Tailored Applications Power Builder and SQL - Oracle Databases.
- **Maintenance in charge of IT area.**
- New customized reports mean asking IT for new developments.

Information Islands
Complementing IT Developments with our own VBA Apps

- Extracting data from several sources with automatic procedures.
- Attempt to integrate heterogeneous data.
- Autonomy vs. programmer dependency.
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Perceived Problem

- No easy task to combine heterogeneous data taken from different sources and technologies.
- Considerable time, with high operational risk, to generate customized reports.
- The several developed applications led to 'information islands' that are difficult to maintain over time and integrate them with each other.
Solution identification

Creation of a Centralized Database ('Datamart') and a Business Intelligence System (BI) oriented to the multidimensional query of historical information for tactical / strategic decision making in the process of efficient management of International Reserves.
DATAMART

- A centralized database where mixed information is stored from around 12 heterogeneous information sources (1300 variables).
- Historical information since December 2007 which is updated daily and in some cases in nearly real-time.
Business Intelligence System

- Allows the **multidimensional exploitation** of the information stored in the Datamart through the creation of customized reports and dashboards without deep knowledge of a programming query language.
- **No classic IT dependency** for creating and modifying reports.
- The exploitation of the information is through thematic **ROLAP cubes**. ROLAP cubes are cubes whose data is gotten directly from the source database and is not kept in the cube.
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"Datamart - BI" applied to the International Reserves Area
Phases & Improvements

- **2015** - "Enhancements": covering and adapting more data sources, building more Dashboards & Reports, defining Alerts & notifications.
- **2018** - "Senior Management Dashboard" & "Geovisualization": more Strategic, Tactical and Operational BI Dashboards. Maps Visualization.
- **2020**: "Business Analytics Capabilities" - "SaaS/APIs":
  - Adding BA to the BI Solution: "R Language"
  - Adequacy to more External Data
  - Exploring Big Data capability connections.
Oracle Data Integrator (ODI)
Oracle Database 12c
Oracle Business Intelligence (OBI)
Wide Variety of Applications for International Reserves Division

Overview

- Functionality
  - Monitor
  - Analyze
  - Details

- Users
  - Executives/Board
  - Managers/Analysts
  - Operations Staff

- Dashboards
  - Operational Dashboard
  - Tactical Dashboard
  - Strategic Dashboard

- Additional Applications
  - Investments Reports
  - Executive Dashboards
  - On-Demand Reports & Researches
  - Audit Requirements
  - External Manager Monitoring
  - Security Lending Program
**Investments Reports**

- Content
  - Transactions, Holdings & Returns (M-Mkt, Fixed Income, Forex Swaps)
- Limits
  - International Financial Information (USA / Eurozone, etc.)
- Uses
  - Weekly Report, Annual Report, Investments Committee
- The same information is also available daily. In some cases nearly real-time.
Executive Dashboard
On-Demand Reports & Researches

- Historical “pick up” above LIBOR of our Arbitrage Transactions (Fx Swaps)
- Benchmark Adequacy from Historical Positions (Liquidity Branch) vs LIBOR
- Implied Ratings Accuracy to forecast Long Term Ratings
- Security Lending Performance Research
- Customized Historical Positions, Durations & Returns Requirements
- etc...
Audit Requirements
External Manager Monitoring
Security Lending Program
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Extending the value of BI through Analytics

Intelligence vs. Analytics

Traditional BI
- Standard reports and dashboards
- Ad hoc reports – Current performance
- Query Drill down
- Cube analysis – Slice and dice
- Alerts

Vs.

Business Analytics
- Statistical Analysis
- Forecasting
- Predictive modeling
- Optimization

Legacy Models developed in MatLab
Incremental Developing of Legacy Models in R & Python
Exploring Native Oracle BI Capabilities for Analytics
Adding Analytics to the BI Solution: "R" Language
Legacy Models in MatLab

- **Pros:**
  - Main developed models:
    - Yield Curve Construction
    - Yield Curve Prediction
    - Fx Risk Neutral Distribution
    - Robust Portfolio Optimization
  - **Proven model stability for years**
  - Robust models
  - **IT independence for quick models enhancements**

- **Cons:**
  - *Not easy task to collect data in a organized manner* (csv, Excel). Too much code for "Data Collection" & "Data Preparation"
  - Code Execution in Desktop Environment (**CPU & RAM memory limitations**)
  - **Operational risk** when running every time
  - High dependency of the programmer for modifying
  - **Lack of Data Management** & Data Governance
  - Excel/csv Output File System Storage
Incremental Developing of Legacy Models in R & Python

- Legacy Models Replication: trial and error approach
- Using scalable on-the-cloud Languages: "R" & "Python"
- Why R Programming? Oracle BI native capability
- Why Python Programming? Better to be prepared
Enabling R in Oracle BI 12c

- OBI 12c comes with 4 embedded R functions: Regression, TrendLine, Outliers and Cluster.
- Possible to invoke own custom R Scripts (EVALUATE SCRIPT)
Analytics in the BI Solution using "R" Language

- **BI Execution Approach**
  - Parametrized Proven Models in Batch Mode (daily process)
  - On-The-Fly: Interactive What-if Dashboards
- **Taking advantage of the On-Premise Server in Data Center**
  - Sun Oracle Exalytics Appliance (Server): 72 cores and 2 TB memory = 2000 GB RAM

Batch Mode (request data from pre-parametrized models which had run the night before)

On-the-fly Mode (running models at the moment of request considering customized parameters)
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Data Governance

- Data Management - Data Governance
- Agile Methodologies
- Business Process Management - BPM
- Operational Risk Management

Data Governance: a process for managing and improving data for the benefit of all stakeholders.
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Technical skills

• Knowledge in:
  • Finance & Investments (basic understanding)
  • Project Management & Agile Methodologies
  • BPM (Business Process Management)
  • Programming Languages (Visual Basic, PL-SQL)
  • Operating Systems (Windows Batch, Linux)
  • Databases (SQL, Oracle, DB2, Mysql)
  • Business Intelligence & Datawarehouse Technologies
  • Scientific Popular Languages (R, Python)

• Profiles:
  • Data Analyst / Business Analyst
  • Data Engineering
  • Data Scientist
  • Business Process Management Specialist

International Reserves
Database Area

Internships
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Critical Success Factors

- Each Project Phase
  - Senior Management Support
  - User area commitment for every crucial project phase
  - IT area commitment
  - **Realistic scope delimitation** (Sources, Variables and Data)

- Daily BI Activities and Continuous Improvement
  - "Data Management" & "Data Governance"
  - Operational Risk Management (Risk Assessment and Controls, Incidents Database, etc.)
  - Being Agnostic with Technologies and Languages
  - **Adopting Agile Methodologies.**
  - Quick IT Area Response and Support for incidental issues.

- Team with multidisciplinary background (Portfolio & Risk Management, Financial Markets, Accounting and IT (databases, programming, networks, etc)).
- Incorporating a new Profile: "Data Scientist"
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Benefits

- Improves the decision making process
- Makes it easy to access and share information
- Enables real-time analysis with quick navigation
- Helps identify waste in the system
- Helps you know your business
- Reduces the risk of bottlenecks

Information Availability in Time
- Access to a central repository of information
- Friendly construction of reports and dashboards
- New ways of information requests
- Rethinking...
- Decision Making Process
- Operational Risk Mitigation
- Web & Apps (Mobile)
Information Availability in Time

- Availability of a large amount of information in a timely manner.
- Response time improvement for inquiries about the management of reserves.
Access to a Central Repository of Information
Friendly construction of Reports and dashboards

Construction of reports and dashboards in a flexible, simple and adapted to the needs of each user.
New ways of information requests

Great capacity to exploit information previously not allowed (information combined, consolidated and allowing access to the highest level of detail).
Rethinking...

Rethinking and improvement of procedures, methodologies and calculations.
Decision Making Process

- Decision making process based on objective indicators, timely updated and with deep level of detail.
- Improved identification of opportunities and risks in the management of reserves.
Operational Risk Mitigation

- Reduction of the operational risk in the load of variables and generation of reports.
- Automation in data collection and aggregation.
- Access to variables and reports according to crucial aspects of IT Security and preventing from Cyber Attack.
Web & Apps (Mobile)

Accessible from Web and Mobile environments (Apps for iPad / Android).
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Forthcoming improvements

- Rebuilding of **internal legacy models** developed in **MatLab to R/Python** languages. (Data Scientist skills development).
- Integration of more External Data: information of interest through **APIs - WebServices - SaaS**.
- **Optimization of System Response Times** (persistent cubes) & **Real Time**.
- **Exploring BigData native connectors** in case of using this kind of data sources.
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The Web and App Interface
The Web Interface

Simple Reports

Visual Reports

Dashboard Reports

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The App Interface
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