

KING'S
College
LONDON



Why commodity technology adds up

Ian Casselton

Web & Enterprise Applications

Information Services & Systems

ian.casselton@kcl.ac.uk



Excerpt from “Effective Management” KCL 2006-16 Strategic Plan

“Decision support the processes that underpin effective planning, the management of information that supports it and the way decisions are reported”



Route to where KCL is now

- Recognised M.I. no longer leading edge
- Recruited into Strategic Reporting role
- Commissioned Strategic Review
- Presented to ISS Senior Management
- Presenting to College Operations Executive



Recommendation summary for KCL

- Introduce consistent corporate data structure
- Common currency of data structure to be Finance's account codes
- Work towards the introduction of a BICC
- Build a DW/BI solution leveraging SQL Server 2008 and Sharepoint

DW/BI: What are we trying to achieve?

*“Data Warehousing and Business Intelligence are fundamentally about providing business people with the information and tools they need to make both **operational** and strategic business decisions”*

From the Introduction to *“The Microsoft Data Warehouse Toolkit”* by Kimball et al, 2006

What aren't we trying to achieve?

- Concurrency of an airline ticket booking system
- Go/no go decision criticality for a space shuttle launch
- Turnaround speed of a bond trading system

Which model to use to achieve it?

- Top-down (Inmon)?
- Bottom-up (Kimball)?
- Hybrid?
- Federated (Hackney)?

Why might a DW/BI project fail?

- Over-reaching in the delivery
 - Scope too great and/or funding not great enough
- Design: Keeping up with the business
 - Generic, Reusable, Decoupled, Federated
- Heritage
- Data: Quality and Integration

Technology costs and commodity solutions

- SQL – The truly commodity solution
- The Microsoft DW/BI Stack
 - Works in the KCL context
 - Circa 50% extra for “non-commodity” solution
- ETL is re-usable
- Remember – projects can fail!

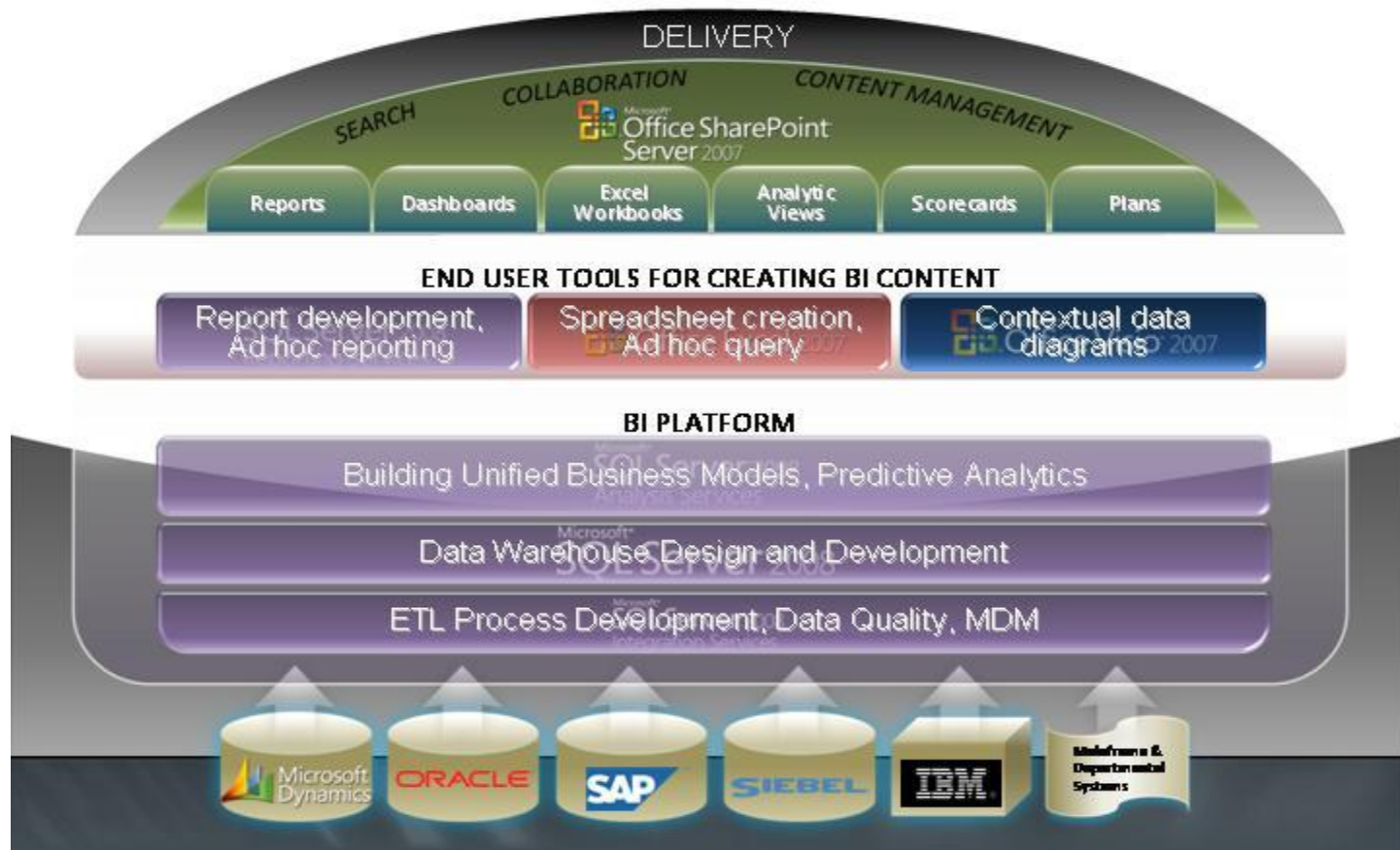
Vendor Risk

- Microsoft: Where has “Planning” gone?
- Oracle: “Dead-end” Discoverer?
- SAP: Step-change from B.O. 6.5 to XI
- IBM: Integrating TM1 with Cognos

What does “The Business” really want?

- Cognos: Tried and died
- Business Objects: Burden on I.T.
- Oracle: Consultancy and more consultancy
- Microsoft
 - Excel: Good ol’ faithful
 - Sharepoint: “Rules the waves”

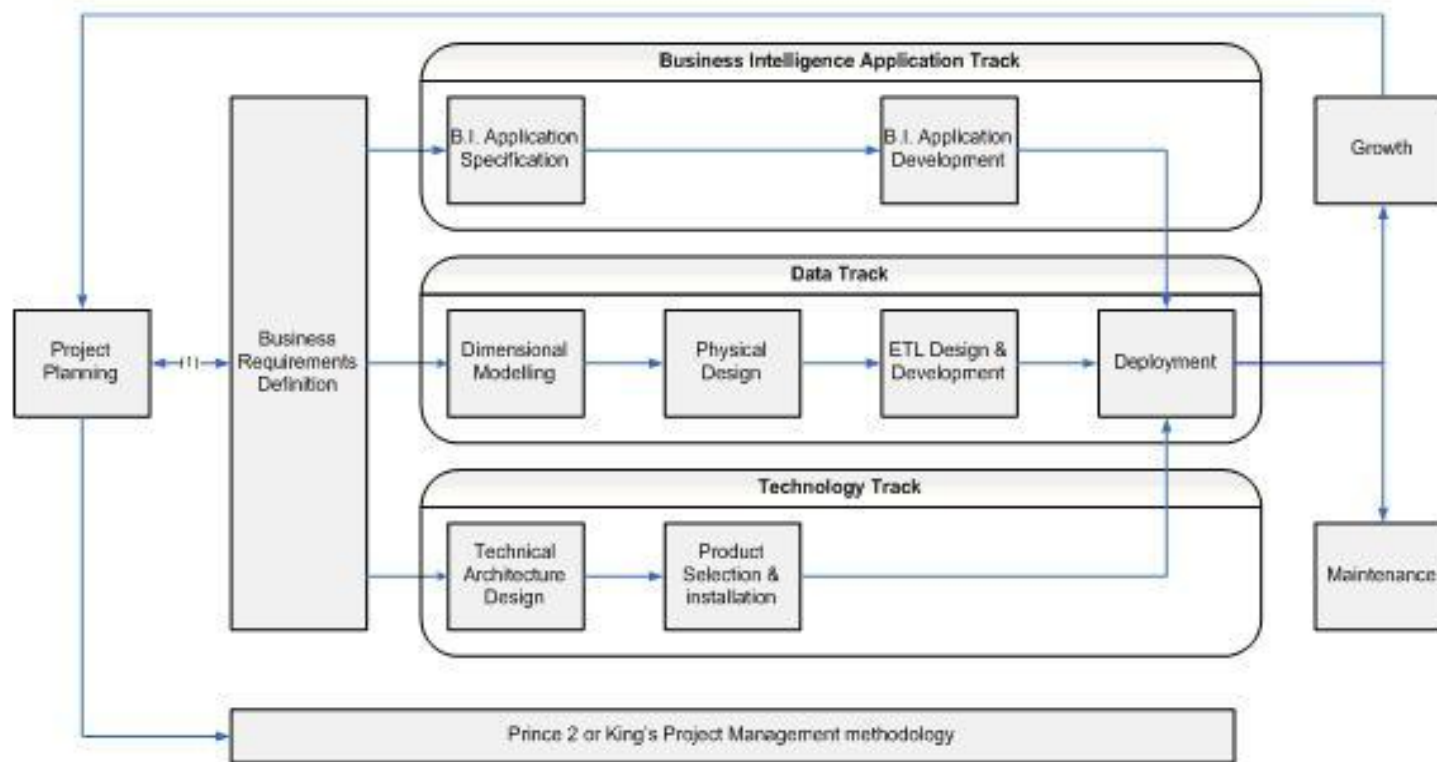
The Microsoft DW/BI Stack



DW/BI Consulting Companies

- Solstoneplus
 - Mick Bull: mick.bull@solstoneplus.com
- Waterstons
 - Michael Stirrup: michael.stirrup@waterstons.com
- Blueprint
 - Ben Griffiths: bgriffiths@bpms.co.uk

Business Dimensional Lifecycle



Adapted from “*The Data Warehouse Lifecycle Toolkit*” by Kimball et al, 2008



So, why does commodity technology add up?

Because technology isn't really the problem or the solution!

Questions?