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Introduction

This document provides an overview of the new features of IBM® Cognos® Business Viewpoint. For more information about new and changed features, see the specific product user guide.

Business Viewpoint provides you with the ability to model, maintain, govern, and share your dimensions and hierarchies.

Audience

This document is intended to introduce business users to the new features of Business Viewpoint.

Finding information

To find IBM® Cognos® product documentation on the Web, including all translated documentation, access one of the IBM Cognos Information Centers at http://publib.boulder.ibm.com/infocenter/cogic/v1r0m0/index.jsp. Updates to Release Notes are published directly to Information Centers.

You can also read PDF versions of the product release notes and installation guides directly from IBM Cognos product disks.

Accessibility features

Accessibility features help users who have a physical disability, such as restricted mobility or limited vision, to use information technology products. Business Viewpoint Studio has accessibility features. For information on these features, see "Improved accessibility for users with physical disabilities" (p. 7).

Forward-looking statements

This documentation describes the current functionality of the product. References to items that are not currently available may be included. No implication of any future availability should be inferred. Any such references are not a commitment, promise, or legal obligation to deliver any material, code, or functionality. The development, release, and timing of features or functionality remain at the sole discretion of IBM.

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Chapter 1: What’s new in IBM Cognos Business Viewpoint?

IBM® Cognos® Business Viewpoint gives business and financial analysts the ability to create, maintain, govern, and share the dimensions and hierarchies that the business uses to drive performance.

This New Features Guide describes the new and changed functionality in the current release.

Business Viewpoint Studio

The following are new features in IBM® Cognos® Business Viewpoint Studio.

Improved accessibility for users with physical disabilities

IBM® Cognos® Business Viewpoint Studio now includes accessibility features to help users who have a physical disability, such as restricted mobility or limited vision, to use the product.

You can now use the keyboard to perform most tasks in Business Viewpoint Studio.

In addition, the documentation now includes alternate text for all graphics so that screen readers can interpret graphics.

For more information, see the IBM Cognos Business Viewpoint Studio User Guide.

Enhanced validation rules

Validation rules are expressions that put one or more constraints on the values that an attribute can have.

New values that are entered for members are evaluated against the validation rule. Existing values are also evaluated and are highlighted as errors or warnings if they do not follow the rule.

The following enhancements have been made to validation rules:

- You can apply validation rules to the Name and Description attributes.
- You can now use picklist and lookup attributes in validation rules.
- You can find out if a multiple-select picklist attribute or multiple-select lookup attribute contains a specific value or set of values by using Contains.
- You can test if an attribute value is unique among all values for all members in the selected dimension or list by using IsUnique.
- You can specify that an attribute is required by using Not in combination with ISBLANK.

For more information, see the IBM® Cognos® Business Viewpoint Studio User Guide.
Calculated attributes
You can now create calculated attributes in IBM® Cognos® Business Viewpoint Studio. Calculated attributes are calculations that combine operators, functions, attributes, and values (such as text strings and numbers) into an expression that evaluates to a single value.

For more information, see the IBM® Cognos® Business Viewpoint Studio User Guide.

Dimension templates
You can use a dimension template on your system as a starting point for additional, similar dimensions. You can also share the structure, and optionally the members, of a dimension with users on another system.

A dimension template includes the objects of the dimension such as lists, hierarchies, relationship tables, and sets. Attributes, validation rules, and the default values for attributes are all included in the dimension template. You can also include the members of the dimension.

For example, you created a dimension for one product line and want to use its structure for a different product line.

You can do the following when working with dimension templates:
- Create a template that is a copy of a dimension.
- Use the template to create dimensions more quickly.
- Export the template in a password-protected file to share with other users.
- Import templates that other users send you.

For more information, see the IBM® Cognos® Business Viewpoint Studio User Guide.

Moving data
In IBM® Cognos® Business Viewpoint, you can now move fact data into IBM Cognos TM1® from a number of external data applications including other IBM Cognos TM1 servers. This capability enables you to easily bring in information that is critical to being able to more fully define your business view for planning and analysis. For example, you need to share data between your revenue plan and income statement, or between regional and consolidated applications.

To move fact data between source and target data stores, you create a link. The link captures dimension and member mappings as well as filters on unpaired dimensions to drive how the fact data is moved. To help ensure data quality, links can automatically leverage dimension and member mappings that are included as a part of approved master dimensions. Additionally, you can create the mappings when you create the link. Members can be mapped based on name or substring.

You can work with a visual representation of data links and their relationships using a new business view diagram. The business view diagram shows how data links are coordinated between various data sources. You can see how data flows between parts of a solution or between parts of different processes.
For example, a business view diagram can help you to understand how expenses are stored in separate applications for the United States, Canada, and Europe, and then consolidated into one application.

To help verify your data link, you can preview data before and after you run it. Previewing enhances your understanding of the details of the data. For example, you can preview the data to see the magnitude of the values, or whether a value is positive or negative. After running a link, you can preview the data again to ensure that the data movement completed successfully.

For more information, see the IBM® Cognos® Business Viewpoint Studio User Guide.

**Copying a dimension**

You can create a copy of a dimension. A copy contains both the structure and members of the original dimension.

For more information, see the IBM® Cognos® Business Viewpoint Studio User Guide.

**Changes to hierarchies**

The following enhancements have been made to hierarchies:

- You can more easily view the children and descendants of a member in a dynamic hierarchy in the grid. You can also view the hierarchy in a hierarchical structure in the grid.

- You can build dynamic hierarchies from a picklist attribute, a lookup attribute, or a calculation that returns a picklist value or a lookup value.

- In addition to cross-referenced lookup attributes, you can now use relationship tables to define the relationships between members. Relationship tables help you create complex hierarchies. Relationship tables are used to define many-to-many relationships between lists in the same dimension. The relationships are used when you create dynamic hierarchies.

  Use a relationship table in the following situations: when the relationship allows many-to-many associations between the members, or when you want to create and test alternate hierarchies before deciding which one to use.

For more information, see the IBM® Cognos® Business Viewpoint Studio User Guide.

**Initial default value**

You can specify a default value that is displayed for all new members. You can specify this value when you create the attribute or you can edit an attribute to add a default value.

For more information, see the IBM Cognos Business Viewpoint Studio User Guide.

**Deleted members in the Change Management tab**

When you delete a member, the member appears in the Change Management tab. If you are a reviewer, modeler, or administrator, you can reject the deletion of a member.

For more information, see the IBM® Cognos® Business Viewpoint Studio User Guide.
Chapter 1: What’s new in IBM Cognos Business Viewpoint?

**Business Viewpoint Client**

The following are new features in IBM® Cognos® Business Viewpoint Client.

**Enhancement for all adapters**

In all adapters, you can name subscriptions. There is a column for the subscription names that makes it easier to find a subscription.

**Enhancements to the relational data source adapter**

In addition to improving the user interface for nominations and subscriptions, the following enhancements have been made to the relational data source adapter:

- You can import data into existing lists or hierarchies in IBM® Cognos® Business Viewpoint Studio.
- Database schemas and tables are displayed in folders.
- The relational adapter will determine if a join is necessary to correctly retrieve the data and allow you to specify how tables are joined if data from more than one table is mapped into the same Business Viewpoint object, such as a list or level.
- You can define which column is the key in the table when creating a subscription.
- If the database connection becomes out-of-date, such as a changed password to the database, you are prompted to re-enter the connection information and then update the subscription with the new information.
- You can use the [Specify Primary Key Settings](#) page to select the primary key generation type for the table that you are nominating to the Studio. You can also nominate and subscribe without defining a primary key.
- You can more easily connect to the database by using separate fields to enter the user, password, server name, port number, and database name. There is now a **Test** button for you to test the connection information you enter.
- You can subscribe hierarchies to database tables.

For more information, see the IBM® Cognos® Business Viewpoint Client User Guide.

**Enhancements to the TM1 adapter**

The following enhancements have been made to the IBM® Cognos® TM1® adapter:

- You can now nominate a TM1 subset into IBM Cognos Business Viewpoint.
- You can create a subscription with multiple dynamic hierarchies to create one TM1 dimension.
- If a TM1 dimension has a weight attribute, it is carried forward to the Business Viewpoint master repository when nominating or subscribing to a static or dynamic hierarchy. Weight determines the contribution of an element to its consolidation in TM1.
Chapter 1: What’s new in IBM Cognos Business Viewpoint?

For more information, see the IBM® Cognos® Business Viewpoint Client User Guide.
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