

Self-Assessment Preparation

To receive the greatest benefit of the BI maturity self-assessment, you will need a broad range of knowledge regarding your BI environment. The following areas might require a bit of research in order to complete the survey with the best possible results.

Organization

With regard to organization, some questions may require you to do some fact finding. For instance:

- Are BI projects implemented using formal, standardized project management methods?
- How is funding done for BI in your organization? Is it provided entirely by a single sponsor or business unit? Is funding for BI separate from the IT budget? Is risk included in estimating the value of BI projects?

Users

From the perspective of BI users, you will want to know:

- How many Light (static reports), Medium (interactive reports and ad hoc analysis), Power (create reports and perform administration functions), and Analyst (data mining or advanced analytic tools) users access the BI environment?
- What type of training is available to your user communities? Is it robust and formal? Are users trained in the BI applications/tools necessary to do their tasks?
- Does your organization have an experienced BI team in place? Does the BI staff have the technical skill and expertise necessary for your BI environment? Which roles exist in your organization's BI team?

Data

For preparation, you may want to review a few questions below and gather responses.

- Is data quality mainly the responsibility of corporate teams?
- Are metrics used to monitor and maintain data quality in your BI/data warehouse environment?
- Is the data used in BI application credible/believable?
- What types of data quality controls are used in the BI/data warehouse environment? For example, unit of measure, retention requirements, format standards, archive requirements, granularity, and latency (timeliness) are used to control data quality.

Technical

When addressing the technical aspects of the BI environment, we examine the applications being implemented, analysis conducted, and the technologies used.

- What types of reporting and analysis is being conducted within your BI environment?
- Does your organization use standard or ad hoc reporting, dashboards and scorecards, data mining, forecasting, or rules-based automated processes?
- If you offer reporting to user communities, what type of flexibility is provided in your reporting? For example, ad hoc queries, drill down/roll up, drill across, flexible hierarchies, and flexible time periods.
- If any analysis is offered in the BI environment, is any performed in-database (within the data warehouse)?