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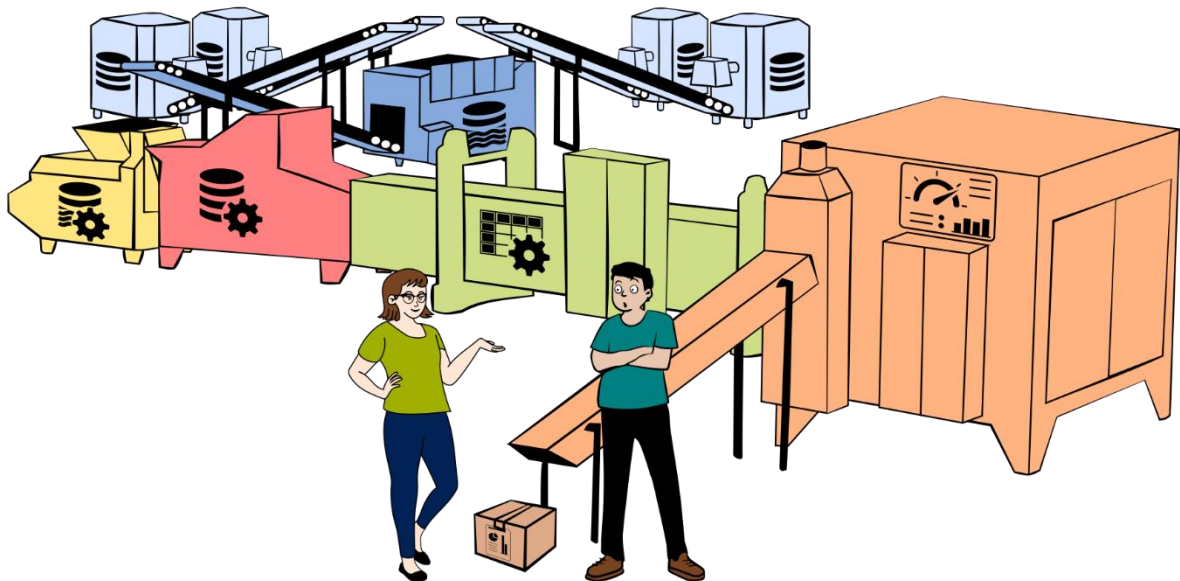
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Whitepaper

BI-Modernization

In 5 STEPs to a fully automated data plant



Abstract

Background

Business Intelligence (BI) modernization holds great potential for benefits at the strategic, tactical, and operational levels. Often, existing BI solutions in organizations are not designed for agility and sustainability, which means they cannot adapt to and grow with constantly changing requirements.

Through conversations with experts and customers actively engaged in this area, we have come to the realization that BI should function like a "data factory": a flexible, automated, and sustainable system where users can access relevant data products without having to compile or verify them themselves.

Dimensions of BI Modernization

As a result, a model was developed in a workshop with external experts, characterizing the dimensions of BI in both "outdated" and "modern" forms. Below is a list of the dimensions with a partial outlook on the "modern" form:

- Strategic importance: Data is viewed as a corporate asset
- Data-driven management: Actions are triggered by data products
- Financing: Continuous and recurring investment in BI
- Project approach / Time-to-Value: Agile, BI-specific development processes
- BI organization & control: Established BI organization and defined processes
- Data literacy / Knowledge transfer: Users are trained and educated
- Technology / Suppliers / Service provider selection: Users are involved in the selection
- Platform location / Scaling: Scalable (cloud) solutions are in use
- Degree of automation: Processes are (partially) automated
- Types of data sources: Relational, semi-structured, internal, and external data sources
- Data governance: Integral part of the system architecture
- BI usage rate: Data is used throughout the organization
- Standardization of notation: Design based on notation standards (e.g., IBCS)
- Distribution: Users can independently consume data products
- Advanced Analytics: Forecasting and optimization models are in use

Based on these dimensions, an approach was developed to allow our customers to implement BI modernization as efficiently and transparently as possible.

Using the 5-STEP approach to the modern data plant

The goal of the 5-STEP approach is to minimize the time-to-value for users. Consequently, initial results should be usable as quickly as possible, and users should be empowered for data-driven decision-making. The transformation should be sustainable, and the customer should actively participate in it, being empowered to operate the data production lines and ultimately the entire data plant themselves.

