

The Carbon Disclosure Project

SAP BusinessObjects BI OnDemand



Blueprint has been instrumental in one of the first successful implementations in Europe of BI OnDemand, the SAP BusinessObjects solution for cloud-based business intelligence. Our client, The Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), is a not-for-profit organisation that holds the world's most comprehensive database of corporate climate change information. This project, which enhances information management and reporting, was a key step forward in supporting CDP's mission to accelerate solutions to climate change by putting relevant information at the heart of business, policy and investment decisions.

The business case

Launched in 2000, the Carbon Disclosure Project operates the only global climate change reporting system. Around 3,000 organisations in 60 countries measure and disclose their greenhouse gas emissions and climate change strategies through CDP, helping them to set reduction targets and improve their environmental performance. CDP makes this data available to a worldwide audience, including institutional investors, corporations, policymakers and their advisors, public sector organisations, government bodies, academics and the public.

In 2009, CDP announced plans to build an improved version of its global climate change disclosure system to increase the quality of disclosure globally, meeting the demand for more detailed, consistent, comparable and actionable data. With the support of SAP, Microsoft and Accenture, CDP now has a new system that provides improved analytical tools and a streamlined reporting platform that can easily be accessed by institutional investors, corporations and regulators worldwide.

Previously, CDP relied on data held in a variety of formats and locations that could be accessed only in the form of spreadsheets or run-outs of individual corporate submissions. Improved data analysis was therefore critical to CDP in its drive to increase usage of its unique climate-change data resource.

The project

SAP recommended its BI OnDemand product as the basis of the new system and worked with Blueprint and US-based WCI Consulting to implement the project. The two consultancies were responsible for defining the requirement, configuring the BI OnDemand environment, loading current and historical data, and data infrastructure and report development.

Among the challenges facing Blueprint were the large amounts of text-based data received by CDP, the fact that CDP's questionnaires change every year as it continues to improve its reporting model, the different levels of secure user access required, and not least a tight schedule and budget.

Would you like to know more?

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The Carbon Disclosure Project

SAP BusinessObjects BI OnDemand application

For CDP's Maia Kutner, who was responsible for the management of the project, the Blueprint – WCI partnership quickly proved its worth: "It was a successful collaboration. For both Blueprint and WCI this was a unique kind of project, in terms of content and the way they worked together. They managed to build the entire database and create all the reports in a short time, so I was very impressed. Right from the beginning, Blueprint showed that they really understood what we wanted to achieve to ensure the solution fits the business purpose."

SAP BusinessObjects BI OnDemand allows users to access a full BI toolkit simply by logging on to an SAP-hosted remote network. Like other 'software as a service' (SaaS) technologies, it is ideal for organisations like CDP that do not have a full IT infrastructure or the resources to develop one. For CDP, BI OnDemand means that data contributors and data users do not have to invest in desktop BI applications in order to use the system.

The benefits

CDP can now offer online access to a full range of climate change data reporting tools, which allow its clients to perform benchmarking and market analysis and to identify areas of best practice. Users can explore and analyse data through user-friendly reports and dashboards, benefitting from the rich data and the power of a business intelligence approach.

Patrick Crawford of CDP, who has responsibility for the organisation's relationships with its technology partners, believes that the system will help companies with their carbon management process: "With these reporting tools, we are able to package products that will inform a company's carbon strategy to reduce emissions, investigate new opportunities and mitigate against the potential risks of climate change."

The BI system will also help CDP align its services more closely with users' needs: "Instead of producing data and then finding out what we can do with it, we're turning the process around," he said. "Now we're asking our users what questions they really want answered. This system gives us the flexibility to do that."

Importantly, easier access to CDP's data will help to change corporate mindsets: "Instead of board directors asking 'what is our sustainability strategy?', they're now starting to ask 'what should our business strategy be, in the light of these issues?'" said Patrick Crawford.

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Patrick Crawford of CDP



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