

A new Generation of Reporting for  
Campus Solutions! University of  
Cambridge and Phytorion in partnership

**Session #23442**

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# Your Presenter

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# Overview

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- The challenges we faced on upgrade from 8 to 8.9
- The partnership we formed with Phytorion.

# What shall we talk about?

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- Background to our reporting need
- History of what we had done in v8.0
- The challenge of v8.9 and the drivers to re-implement
- Specifically, the Phytorion project

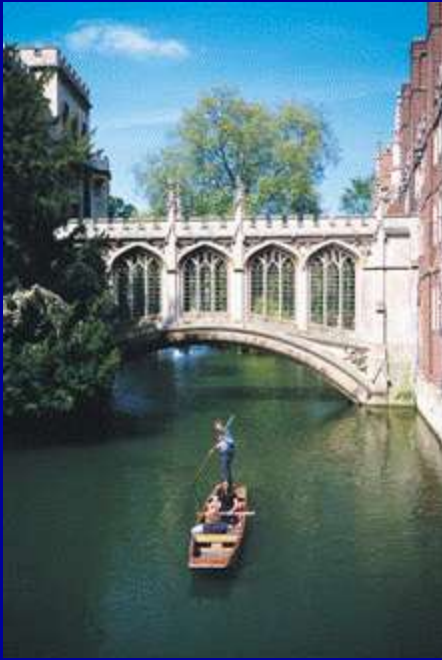
# What we won't talk about

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- Not an introduction to data modelling
- Not a Master class in Cognos
- Costs

# The University of Cambridge: Ancient.....

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# The University of Cambridge: ..... and Modern

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# The University of Cambridge: ..... A major tourist attraction





# The CamSIS Project

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The CamSIS Project was the first UK implementation of Campus Solutions. Now in our third year of live running with all modules after a 2 year implementation Project.

# Reporting Background

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- Our reporting need
- Our v8.0 solution
- The challenge of v8.9

# Partner Choice

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- Why partner?
- Finding the right partner
- Partnership philosophy
- The pitfalls!

# The Phytorion Project

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- Preparation
- Investigation
- Review and prioritisation
- Design
- Build
- Transfer of ownership
- Operational running

# Preparation

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- Consider 'genuine' reporting need
- Think in terms of business cycle
- Think about security!
- Sell the idea of 'day old data'

# Investigation

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- Identify tables that contain that data
- Identify columns within the tables.
- Identify data upon which security should be based

# Review and prioritisation

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- Review to prioritise the build process
- What areas are already well supported?
- What areas may change in the near future?
- Agree a program of work with your Partner



# Design

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- Design will have a direct effect on performance
- Design is a skill in its own right

# An introduction to star schemas

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“The star schema is the simplest data warehouse schema, consisting of a single ‘fact table’, with one segment for each ‘dimension’ and with additional columns of additive, numeric facts”

*(source: wikipedia)*

# An introduction to star schemas

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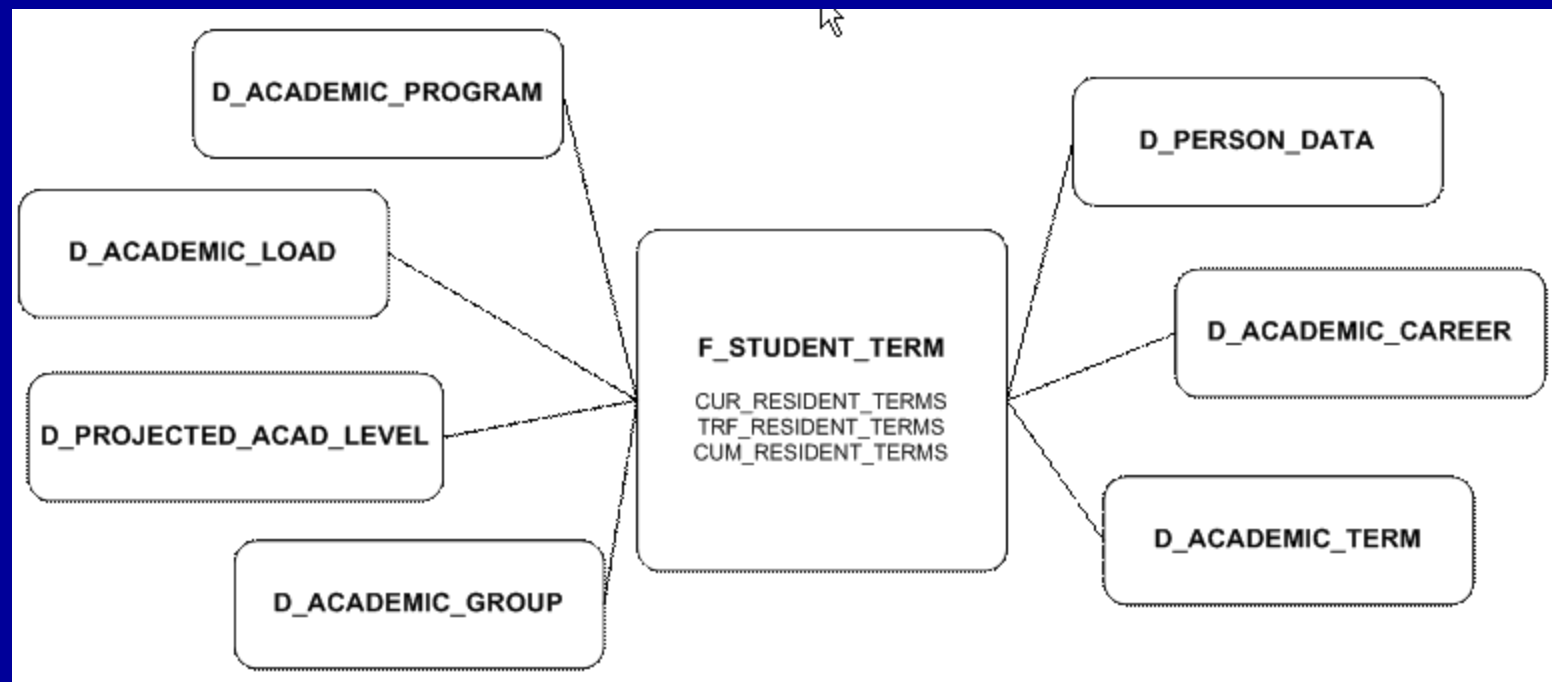
“a dimension table contains attributes or (fields) used to constrain and group data when performing data warehousing queries”

“a fact table consists of the measurements, metrics or facts of a business process”

*(source: wikipedia)*

# An introduction to star schemas

Put them together....



# Build

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- Not necessarily an everyday skill of a programmer or DBA
- Validation of datamart contents
- What to do with bad data?

# Build process design

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<C:\Documents and Settings\hb10001\Desktop\Datamart creation route.vsd>

# Transfer of ownership

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- Vital if working with a partner.
- The build is now ours
- Documentation:
  - Facts
  - Dimensions
  - Star schema designs
  - Source tables and columns
  - Usage matrix



# Documentation

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C:\Documents and Settings\hb10001\Desktop\Committee Membership Fact.docm

C:\Documents and Settings\hb10001\Desktop\Committee Dimension.doc

C:\Documents and Settings\hb10001\Desktop\Campus Community.vsd

C:\Documents and Settings\hb10001\Desktop\Cambridge SDM Builds.xls

C:\Documents and Settings\hb10001\Desktop\Fact and Dim Xref.xls

# Operational running

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- Define your own standards
- Procedures to deal with bad data
- Complete re-build or iterative updates?

# Roundup

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## What are the important things?

- Distinguish between a datamart creation and the delivery of an ad hoc reporting system
- Identifying need
- Good design is key to efficiency
- Partner choice makes all the difference
- Communicative, Collaborative, not Contractual
- 23 Star schemas in 9 weeks speaks for itself

# Choice of Partner

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# Questions?

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# Contact

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**Presentations from previous meetings are also available**