

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

Session #23442

Alliance Conference
Orlando, Florida

Your Presenter

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Overview

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

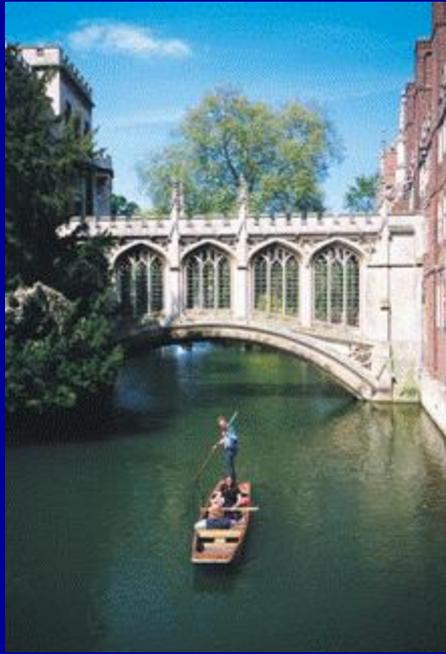
What shall we talk about?

- 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 Phyltorion project

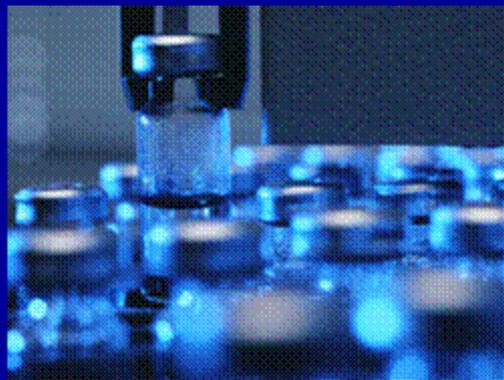
What we won't talk about

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

The University of Cambridge: Ancient.....



The University of Cambridge: and Modern



The University of Cambridge: A major tourist attraction



The CamSIS Project

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

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

Partner Choice

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

The Phytorion Project

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

Preparation

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

Investigation

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

Review and prioritisation

- 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

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

An introduction to star schemas

“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

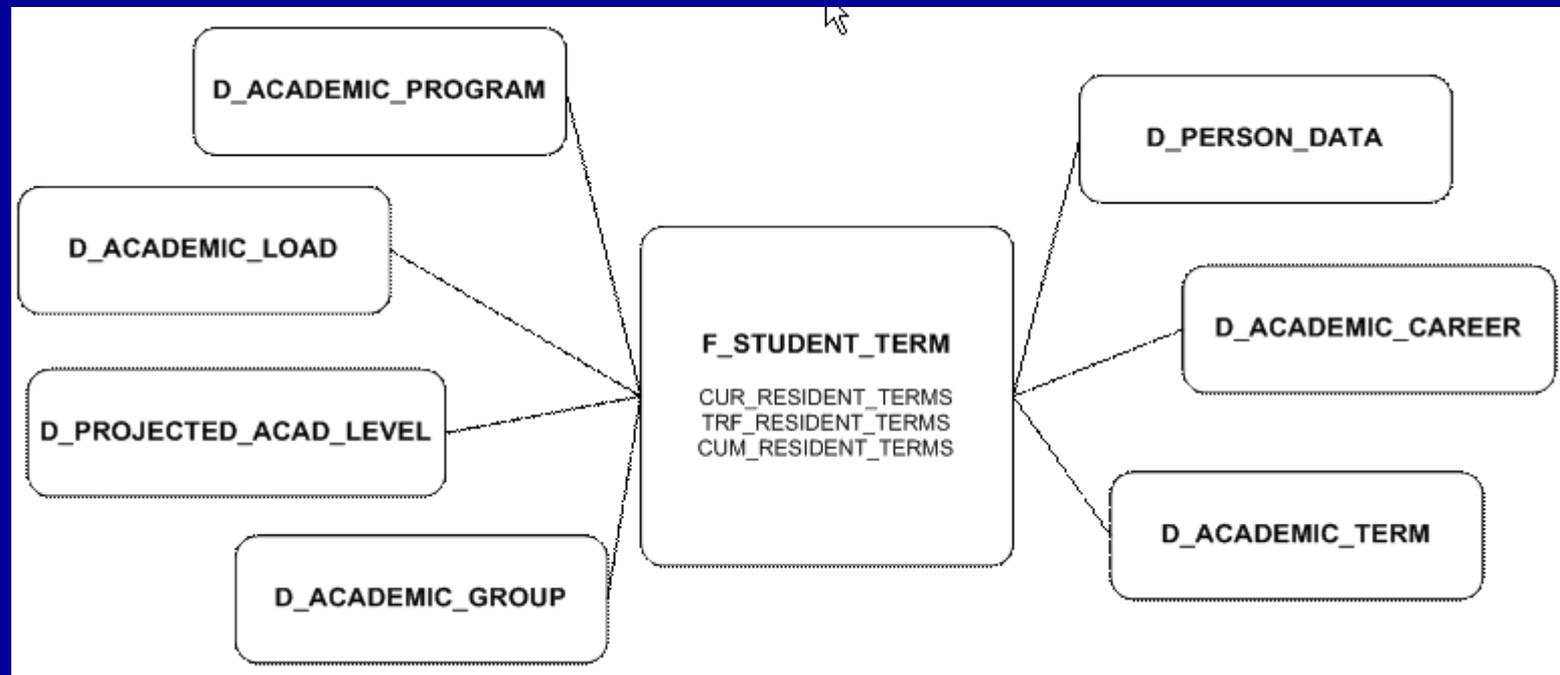
“a dimension table contains attributes or (fields) used to constrain and group data when performing data warehousing queries”

“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

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

Build process design

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

Transfer of ownership

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

Documentation

<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

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

Roundup

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



Questions?

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