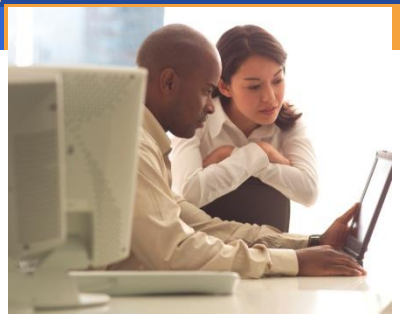
Can a Vendor Truly Partner with You?
LBCC and Phytorion:
Reporting and Analytics

Session 23748
2:00 – 3:00 PM
Orlando, Florida



Overview

- The challenges we faced
- The process to pick a partner
- The project
- College roles and partnership
- Reporting tools and functionality
- Data warehouse demo
- Questions

Long Beach City College

- Two year community college
- Associate degrees, certificates, and transfer to four year university
- Each term we offer about 1100 courses and over 3,000 class sections

Long Beach City College, 4901 E. Carson Street, Long Beach, CA 90808

Picking a Partner

- We knew about other data warehouse solutions
- We wanted a group that understood our issues, scope and timing
- We wanted a model that would work for others but had ourselves in mind
- They used the most current type of schema

What did we need?

- A degree of independence for Business Analysts
- A way around limits imposed by joins and number of tables
- The ability to access data without impacting production
- Flexibility and fleetness of product was very important

Departments in Data Warehouse

- Counseling Datebook & Assessment
- Financial Aid
- Admissions & Records
- Human Resources
- Academic Services
- Student Services
- Financials

Highlights of the Data Available

- Characteristics of Students
- Degrees, Certificates, Honors
- Information about each course
- Information about classes
- Roll ups →Division → School → Dept → Subject
- State reporting and complex derived fields
- Financial information
- Human Resources employee information
- Student GPA, load, status, test scores
- ISIR, PELL, & Financial Aid characteristics

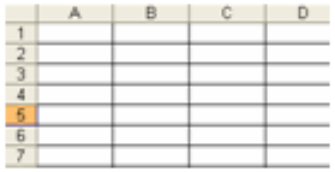
Derived Fields - A Virtual Miracle!

- **Course Key**: Hist 10 (Subject + Catalog Number)
- **FTES** full time equivalent student: If attendance type = "W" then count residents enrolled * class hours/meeting * 17.5 / 525
- **Weeks of Instruction**: actual weeks calculated according to dates
- **Days**: converted from Y & N's to Monday, Tuesday, etc.
- **Meeting Patterns**: converted to MWF
- Saves time and cuts down on errors
- Whatever you may have dreamed about!

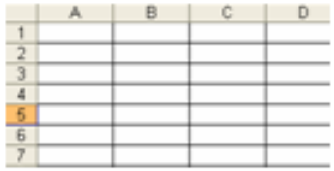
How Did We Get Data Before?

Query data out of PeopleSoft

Push it into Excel

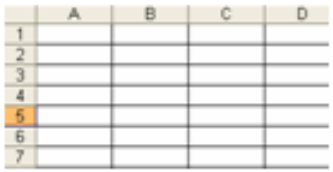


Access: combine and analyze



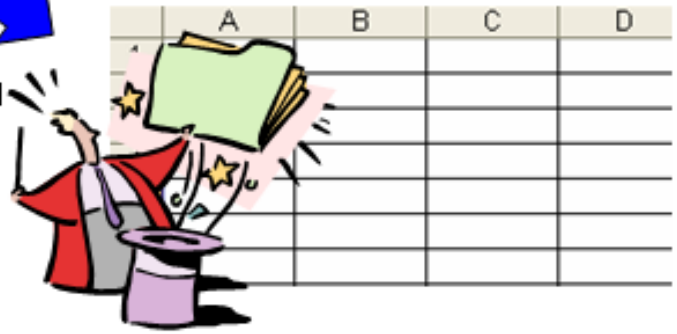
Back to Excel

Back to Access



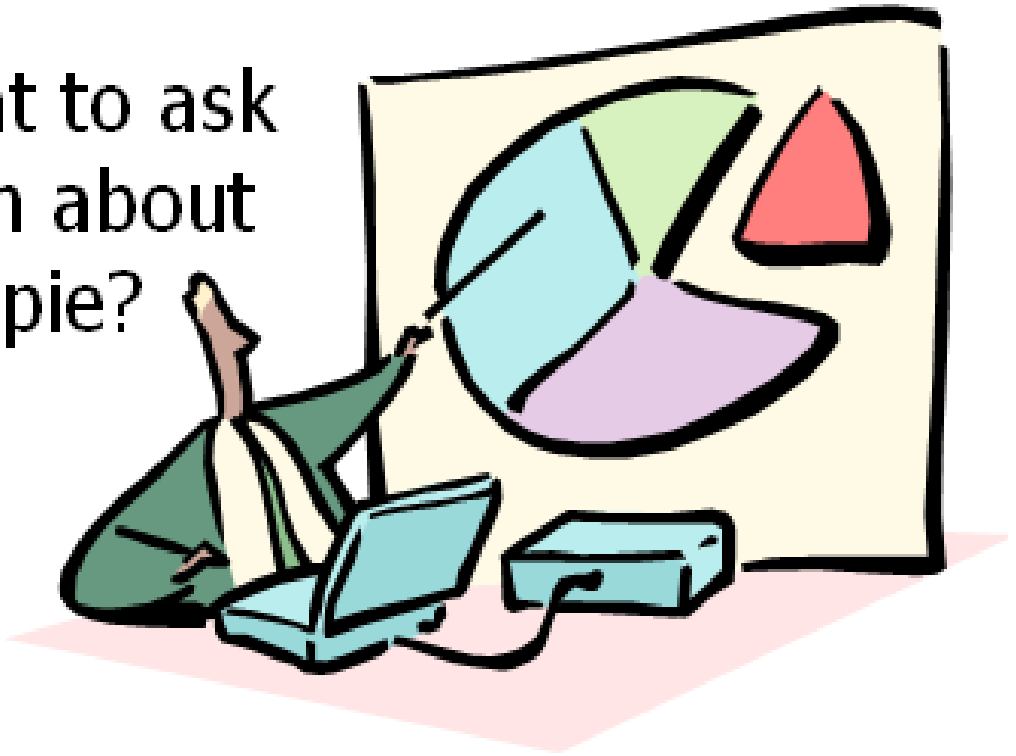
Back to Excel

Send out completed
Reports via email



Here We Go Again

What? You want to ask another question about that slice of the pie? Start over.



Transactional

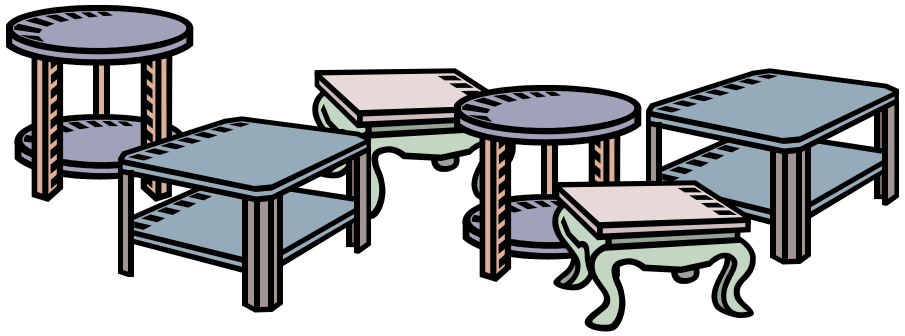
- Optimized for processing
- Thousands of tables
- Effective dated
- Tree structures
- Complex joins to report on needed data
- Live data

Dimensional Model

- Optimized for reporting
- Trees flattened to allow for quick rollup
- Effective dates transformed to valid date ranges and current flags
- Dimensions allow efficient “slicing” of data
- Lots of derived customized fields
- Near live data

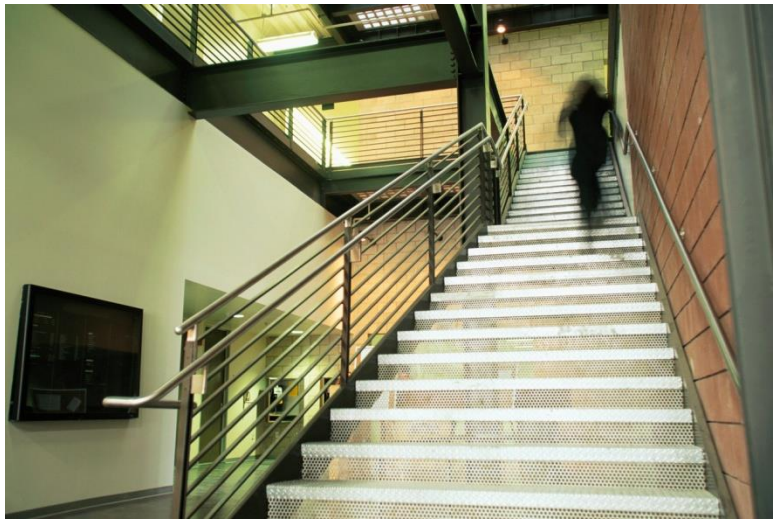
Joining Tables is Easier in a DW

- Surrogate ID's or SID's allow for high-speed efficient joins between fact and dimension tables
- Naming conventions ensure that there's never any doubt about which fields to join



Project Steps

1. What are the business questions?
2. Understand the requirements
3. What PeopleSoft tables are needed
4. Which data is fact and which is dimensional?



Project Steps

5. Decide level of granularity needed
6. Build the data warehouse
7. Test the data warehouse
8. Review the Visio documents and data maps
9. Start writing reports!

True Partnership with Phytorion

- Some solutions are turn key, Phytorion's was not
- Guided us through what was most useful
- Designed with us
  - Data elements we wanted
  - Unique derived fields were created
  - Our priorities
- We had naive users and Phytorion was patient
- Data warehouse team members were the intermediaries

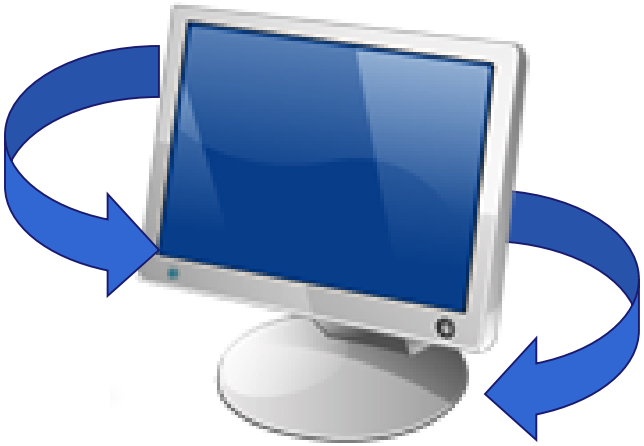
College Roles

- Executive sponsorship was critical
- Liaison from Executive Committee
- Project Team
  - Designers of project
  - Business Analysts
  - IT staff

Working with a Consultant

- Negotiating parameters and expectations
- Strategizing to solve *our* problems with best practice expertise
- Did not impose a solution
- A true collaborative approach
- Thorough documentation
- Excellent support
- No black box

Live Remote from California



Questions?

A True Partnership

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