IBM Cognos BI Upgrade Initiate Service for IBM SmartCloud Enterprise

Highlights

- Initiate your IBM Cognos BI v10 upgrade with confidence.

- Lower your hardware procurement costs with IBM SmartCloud Enterprise.

- Assess and execute the appropriate upgrade strategy.

- Explore new Cognos BI v10 capabilities in the context of your upgrade.

- Proven practices from IBM product experts with knowledge transfer on the upgrade process.

- Suitable for existing IBM Cognos BI v8 customers who are planning an upgrade to Cognos BI v10.

Considerations

To fully benefit from the new functionality of Cognos BI v10, the upgrade process requires a thorough understanding of the differences between the two platforms and consideration of the strategy and plans for your upgrade. Questions that often arise include:

- What alternative upgrade strategies and approaches should be considered?
- Which applications could best take advantage of new Cognos BI v10 features and functionality?
- What is the best means to compare and validate Cognos BI v8 and Cognos BI v10 content?
- How can IBM Cognos Lifecycle Manager provide for a smoother upgrade path?
- How does an IBM SmartCloud environment compare with an on-premise environment?

Overview

The IBM Cognos BI Upgrade Initiate Service for IBM SmartCloud Enterprise accelerates your upgrade process by leveraging the benefits of a cloud-based proving ground as a strong foundation for upgrading to Cognos BI v10.

Working collaboratively with your team, we will:
- Determine your most suitable upgrade strategy.
- Upgrade your existing Cognos BI v8 content in the IBM SmartCloud Environment.
- Validate a selected set of your Cognos BI v10 content.
- Explore new Cognos BI v10 functionality and opportunities.
- Recommend a go forward strategy for maximizing your Cognos BI v10 investment.

The value of this Service includes:
- Accelerate the time-to-value for your upgrade initiative.
- Uncover new opportunities to leverage Cognos BI v10.
- Lower your hardware procurement costs.

- Leverage the on-demand availability offered by IBM SmartCloud Enterprise.
- Build your Cognos BI v10 upgrade expertise.

Activities & Deliverables

The IBM Cognos BI v10 Upgrade Initiate Service for IBM SmartCloud Enterprise encompasses the following activities and deliverables:

Scoping & Kickoff

In order to establish a clear scope of activities specific to your needs, this Service begins by discussing with key business and IT stakeholders the compelling reasons for upgrading to Cognos BI v10, capturing and documenting those implementations that have high visibility, value, and complexity, and identifying where the opportunities exist to leverage new Cognos BI v10 features.

We will work with your key stakeholders to:

- Discuss alternative upgrade strategies
    - an all-at-once "Content Store upgrade" approach
    - a selected application "Deployment upgrade" approach
- Discuss objectives and priorities for the engagement

With a clear understanding of your upgrade alternatives, a formal kick-off meeting with appropriate sponsors, management and IT staff, together with the IBM team, will review the objectives and priorities, the proposed project plan, our mutual roles and responsibilities, any key assumptions or constraints, and the expected deliverables. This will set the delivery expectations and allow for the scheduling and staffing of the remaining tasks and activities.

There will then be two primary work streams that are aligned to prepare and execute the upgrade – the **Application Upgrade Work Stream** focusing on upgrading your IBM Cognos BI content and the **SmartCloud Readiness Work Stream** to verify the readiness of your IBM SmartCloud Enterprise Environment.

Application Upgrade Work Stream

With a confirmed scope and requirements in hand, this work stream will review your existing Cognos BI content, identify risks, and assess complexity for a successful upgrade. Working with your team, we will select a suitable Cognos BI application, model, and content for subsequent validation and then refine and update your Upgrade Plan.

We will then execute the upgrade according to your selected strategy (Content Store upgrade or Deployment upgrade) and

validate the selected application, reports, and IBM Cognos Framework Manager models using IBM Cognos Lifecycle Manager and compare the content between the two versions, addressing any concerns. We will document the validation outcomes as part of the *Upgrade Initiate Closure Document.*

Finally, we will conduct a Cognos BI v10 Features Overview Session during which we will review appropriate features and capabilities such as IBM Cognos Business Insight, IBM Cognos Business Insight Advanced and IBM Cognos Active Reports in the context of your upgrade. This will provide valuable input for your *Education Recommendation Document.*

SmartCloud Readiness Work Stream

IBM Cognos technical experts will conduct a readiness assessment for your previously established IBM SmartCloud Environment verifying your environment configuration, software environment conformance, and data access to your previously established data sources, either in the cloud or on-premise.

Project Completion

At the completion of the Service, you will have a selected set of upgraded BI content, in the IBM SmartCloud Environment, as a starting point for exploring new features and capabilities. Deliverables include:

- The *Upgrade Initiate Closure Document* providing observations and findings from the upgrade and validation process together with recommendations In addition, this document will contain specific go forward recommendations to ensure ongoing success and serve as a reference to realize the potential of Cognos BI.
- An *Education Recommendation Document*, developed collaboratively by IBM education specialists, which will serve as a reference of available education options and programs as well as a tailored training recommendation specific to your solution.

Engage Today

The IBM Cognos BI v10 Upgrade Initiate Service for IBM SmartCloud Enterprise is best for existing Cognos BI v8 customers who are currently planning to initiate an upgrade to Cognos BI v10 while leveraging the cost-effectiveness and on-demand availability offered by IBM SmartCloud Enterprise. This Service is available either on a Fixed-Fee or Time-and-Material basis. For the Fixed-Fee service, some limitations apply. Details are available from your IBM Business Analytics Software Services Sales representative.

If you wish instead to first start using IBM Cognos BI v10 with a new implementation, rather than upgrade from an existing IBM Cognos BI v8 environment, please use the IBM Cognos BI v10 Quick Start Service for IBM SmartCloud Enterprise located on IBM.com.

About IBM Business Analytics Software Services

As an integral part of Business Analytics software division within IBM Software Group, the Business Analytics Software Services organization provides education and expert services exclusively focused on the Business Analytics product portfolio. Our depth of experience and extensive proven practices help customers maximize their software investment, mitigate risks, raise the quality of their implementations, and build valuable skills. We have provided training, guidance, advice, reviews, assessments, and assistance to thousands of clients around the world helping to ensure their business analytics implementations are optimized to take full advantage of our product capabilities.

For more information about how IBM Cognos Software Services can assist you, complete the Services Request form www.ibm.com/cognos/contactus on our website. An IBM Cognos representative will respond to your inquiry within two business days.

About IBM Business Analytics

IBM Business Analytics software delivers actionable insights decision-makers need to achieve better business performance. IBM offers a comprehensive, unified portfolio of business intelligence, predictive and advanced analytics, financial performance and strategy management, governance, risk and compliance and analytic applications.

With IBM software, companies can spot trends, patterns and anomalies, compare "what if" scenarios, predict potential threats and opportunities, identify and manage key business risks and plan, budget and forecast resources. With these deep analytic capabilities our customers around the world can better understand, anticipate and shape business outcomes.

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