

Reporting & BI Solution Choices	How do these kinds of solution work?	What are the benefits of these solutions?	What are the challenges?	Where do these kinds of solutions work best?
Large, Complete Package Solutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o BO o Cognos o Hyperion o Etc 	Analysis and reporting functions work together to provide an integrated user interface to provide a single solution to users	Sophisticated analysis can be accomplished against business data with large numbers of pre-built reports, against large data sets	Complicated to set up (requires a programmer), and very costly. Users sometimes do not feel well-served since IT has to set up everything	Works best with large ERP Finance or HR systems such as PeopleSoft or SAP, where users expect reporting to be pre-built for them
Small, Application Specific, "Canned" Reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Embedded in an application o Static factory delivered reports 	Analysis and reporting functions are integrated within a business application, such as a case management system, to provide pre-packaged reports	Look and feel are usually similar to the overall application, which helps provide access to reporting that can be intuitive to users that are familiar with the application	Typically limited in scope of reporting and analysis features, and users often have to get new functionality delivered by the programmers that are responsible for the application	Works best with a dedicated business-specific application, where reporting only needs to be targeted to specific needs when working within the application itself
Client Server Tools for Advanced User Reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Visual Studio o Crystal Reports o etc 	Individual installations of reporting tools are placed on a user's machine, in support of personal data retrieval requirements	Specialized job functions can be served by installing a few copies of the client server tool, without having to support the tools across large user populations	Requires a sophisticated end-user to make use of the toolset, and necessitates individualized maintenance of user machine installations	Works best with advanced analytical users, where specialized functionality, such as high-end statistical analysis, is needed
Web Access, Ad-Hoc, Self Service Reporting against data from multiple sources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Cizer.Net Reporting 	Individuals access reporting functionality through their browser, making use of server-based reporting tools to create reports on-the-fly	Requires no installation on end-user machines, and can enable users to accomplish reporting and analysis without waiting for IT to help	The reporting features are less robust in a browser, where everything must be accomplished within an Internet Explorer environment	Works best with large user populations, or geographically dispersed users, who need self-service reporting against a variety of data, and who have little or no knowledge of SQL to pull data without technical assistance.
Web Access Complete Business Dashboard Solutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Cizer.Net Reporting with MS Business Scorecard Manager o Vertical Specific Portal Applications 	Reporting, analysis, and measurement (the 3 pillars of business intelligence) are presented in an integrated dashboard interface, sometimes known as an executive information system or decision support system	Users can see the health of their organization portrayed on the screen, and use automatically connected analysis and reporting tools to examine data areas of interest or explore problems highlighted by the measurement scorecards	Requires a dedicated business intelligence server, with a properly designed fact-dimension arrangement of data pulled in from enterprise data sources	Works best where many users need to run an organization with one trusted source of measurement indicators, supported by analysis tools and reporting – brings a single version of the truth to meetings so areas of concern can be objectively handled