

BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE FOR DISTRIBUTORS

WHAT IS BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE?

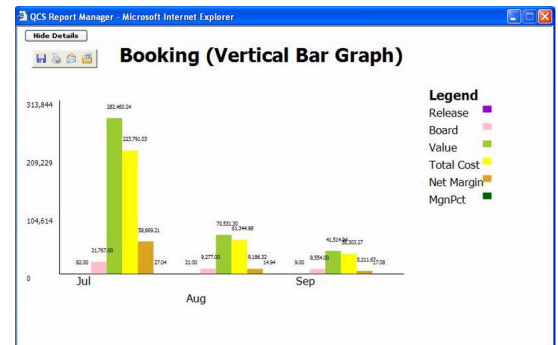
It is the up-to-the minute decision-supporting information you need, summarized from the vast amount of data you already have in your distribution management, logistics and/or inventory control software. And that information is presented the way you want it, anywhere, any time. It is information you can understand at a glance and take action on quickly and confidently. Business intelligence software takes advantage of today's computer technology to deliver that intelligence right to your computer screen in both graphical and tabular form.

HOW CAN BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE HELP ME?

Your distribution business may have some unique characteristics, but you probably share some basic challenges with other distributors. Some examples: making and winning quotes; booking orders, managing open orders to meet commitments; filling orders on time; managing inventory; managing orders to suppliers and business partners; managing customer mix and product mix.

Spotting trends and problems quickly is very difficult without business intelligence and very fast and easy with business intelligence. For example, in less than a minute, you can:

- See that the margins on booked orders so far this week are below your target gross margin percent. Then, with one click of a button, see a detailed job list for the week and spot the jobs that are dragging the margin down.
- See the total value of your open customer orders and how that will translate into invoices in the upcoming days or weeks. Then bring up a list of those customer orders to see if some of them can be pulled in, thereby accelerating the revenue
- See that the bookings from an important customer are declining recently. Look at some detail to determine the probable cause. Work with the customer to reverse the trend or focus more strongly on customers with upside potential.
- When you receive a call from a senior customer executive, quickly see up-to-date financial, quality, and delivery facts about your business with that customer. Use the information to improve the relationship and negotiate from strength.



These are only a few examples of the many uses of business intelligence in manufacturing organizations.

WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

Business intelligence comes from your own data. You have data in your financial/accounting system and you have data in your distribution management, logistics and inventory system. The business intelligence comes from putting related sets of data together, summarizing it and displaying it in a useful, readable way – the way you want to look at it.

HOW DO I PROCEED?

You can obtain the QCS Business Intelligence Manager through one of our Resellers. Please check out website at www.q-c-s.net for Reseller contact information. You have two choices:

- You can obtain the software, license, and documentation and have your own IT resources carry out the implementation, or
- You can obtain a QCS Business Intelligence Solution from some of our Resellers.

WHAT IS THE QCS BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE SOLUTION?

Many Resellers offer an attractively priced "turnkey" Business Intelligence Solution that will give you the specific business intelligence capabilities that you decide will be most valuable to you. For example, you may decide that the most important areas you want to be able to manage more strongly are quotes, shipments, and inventory. Or you might choose to focus on bookings, open orders and shipments. Or you might choose to focus on quotes, PO's to suppliers, and inventory.

WHAT ARE THE ELEMENTS THAT MAKE UP THE SOLUTION?

There are two parts to the Business Intelligence Solution: software and implementation service.

SOFTWARE

The QCS Business Intelligence Manager does the work of extracting data from your financial and/or business process software's database. It presents the business intelligence in two ways: as instruments on a digital dashboard on your computer screen and in related reports. It uses Microsoft SQL Server 2005 to manage some technical data tables of its own and to retrieve your data from your existing database – without requiring any change or upgrade to your database.

IMPLEMENTATION SERVICE

Our implementation team has expertise in manufacturing applications, database processing and retrieval, and the QCS Business Intelligence Manager. They will install the software, analyze your chosen dashboard instruments and report designs, write "Structured Query Language" logic to retrieve and summarize the data into business intelligence, and train the users to use it effectively.

The implementation team will work hand-in-hand with your IT staff. They will not lose the vital control over the integrity, reliability, and security of the network of systems on which you depend. And the implementation team will train them so that they are fully comfortable.

WHAT CHANGES DO I HAVE TO MAKE TO MY BUSINESS'S SOFTWARE?

None at all.

The QCS Business Intelligence Manager works separately from your existing business software. It reads data out of your software's databases and processes it to produce the dashboard text and graphs and to produce more detailed "drill down" reports. It does not modify any of your data. It does not require that your business software be replaced or changed in any way.

WHAT CHANGES DO I HAVE TO MAKE TO MY BUSINESS OPERATION?

None at all.

The business intelligence you get from the QCS Business Intelligence Manager is all about your business operation as it is working. You will be able to make very effective use of the business intelligence without changing any aspect of how your business works.

That said, over time your use of the business intelligence may cause you to see some ways you want to make changes to improve operations. But that's your choice to make.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO GET IT UP AND RUNNING?

The time to get up and running varies based on a variety of factors, many of which are under your control. Typically from start of the project to live, production use is 3-6 weeks.