
Cognos, an IBM Company

An overview of Cognos' BI history, impact of the acquisition by IBM, and evaluation of the 8.3 release

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Background

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Evaluation Methodology

BIScorecard® evaluates vendor products with the view of a customer who wishes to buy a full BI suite or integrated toolset. Products are evaluated according to major functional areas ranging from query and reporting to architecture and administration. Within each functional area, we score vendors on various features. This list of criteria is based on:

- Features that customers often look for in evaluations
- Capabilities that are generally available in competitive products
- Vendor marketing claims that are either a point of differentiation or confusion

To evaluate products, we rely on vendor briefings and demonstrations, documentation, and customer feedback. To ensure an objective, consistent comparison of products, we also evaluate the software hands-on. Cognos 8.0 was initially tested hands-on Q1 2006. Additional testing of dashboard capabilities was based on Cognos 8.1, maintenance release 2, tested hands-on Q1 2007. Commentary on 8.3 is based on hands-on testing in Q2 2008.