



Pentaho

An overview of Pentaho BI Suite 3.5

Table of Contents

Background	2
Copyright and License	2
About the Author	2
Evaluation Methodology	2
Pentaho: A Leader in Open Source BI	3
Community and Enterprise Edition	4
Open Source, Open Core, and Proprietary Software	4
Understanding the Product Line	4
Company Strengths and Opportunities	7
Company Challenges	8
Product Strengths and Differentiators	9
Product Challenges	9
Summary Scorecard	10
BI Best Fit and Recommendations	10

Background

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About the Author

Jos van Dongen is the co-author of *Building Pentaho Solutions* (Wiley, August 2009) and the author of a Dutch-language book on open source BI. He has been involved in software development, business intelligence, and data warehousing since 1991. Before starting his own consulting practice, Tholis Consulting in 1998, he worked for a top-tier systems integrator and a leading management consulting firm. Over the past 15 years, he has implemented data warehouses and BI solutions using a variety of BI platforms. Jos covers new BI and DWH developments for the Dutch *Database Magazine* and speaks regularly at national and international conferences.

Evaluation Methodology

BI Scorecard 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
- Unique capabilities identified while evaluating products
- Vendor marketing claims that are either a point of differentiation or confusion

To evaluate products, we rely on vendor briefings, customer feedback, and newsgroup postings. To ensure an objective, consistent comparison of products, we also evaluate the software hands-on. When a task is not apparent via the menus or online help, we rely on vendor documentation. Poor documentation for complex products can hurt a vendor's evaluation.

Each feature is assigned a score of 0 to 3:

Score	Explanation
3	Exceptional capabilities.
2	Very good capabilities.
1	Limited capabilities, difficult to do, or may require a work around.
0	Minimal capabilities out of the box. The software may require customization or coding to accomplish.

Summary scores are determined by an evaluation of approximately 300 detailed criteria. The Pentaho community edition and Pentaho Enterprise BI Suite 3.5 has been tested hands on in Q3 2009.