ROLTA

Rolta SmartMigrate™

*Accelerating
the Move to a
Unified Analytics Platform*

Accelerating the Move to a Unified Analytics Platform

Business Intelligence continues to remain a top spend priority for CIOs[1]. Organizations have deployed a variety of business intelligence reporting, analytics, and self-service tools over the years, often driven by departmental considerations rather than a corporate-wide initiative. This has led to the proliferation of several tools performing similar functions within the same organization. The costs associated with multiple BI tools are substantial, and include license fees, support and upgrade costs, administrative, training, hardware and maintenance costs. Over the life of a business intelligence tool and its associated application, these costs can rapidly spiral.

In an increasingly competitive environment, organizations need to continually harmonize their BI strategy and associated IT landscape. CIOs are under tremendous pressure to standardize their company's analytics platform – often to a single, enterprise-wide business intelligence suite – and sunset legacy and siloed BI applications. This allows an enterprise to lay the foundation for adopting new applications providing prescriptive and predictive analytical capabilities on a single platform. Furthermore, CIOs have to enable and adopt emerging technologies like mobile, cloud, Big Data and social applications to stay competitive. On top of all this, IT budgets are under constant pressure and expected to deliver more for less.
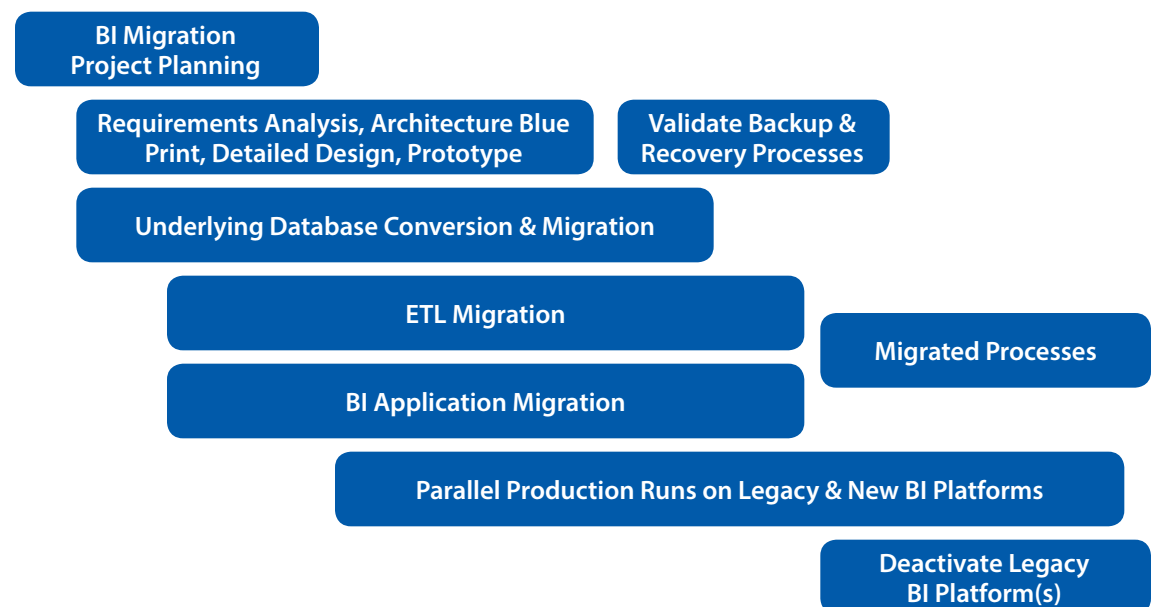
BI Application Consolidation Challenges

Organizations that have adopted an enterprise BI suite as their corporate standard need to plan and migrate their existing BI applications on to this enterprise BI suite to truly achieve efficiencies. A typical BI migration lifecycle involves a complex approach with many calculated steps that need to be executed in sync for a successful execution.

This can be a major initiative, and often tends to be time consuming, resource intensive and expensive, which acts as a deterrent for consolidation, as listed below:

1. **Time:** Typical migrations are long and tedious, primarily due to the complexity and high volume of reports involved. Experts believe BI migration project timelines should be curtailed to less than 9 months. Any projects requiring more time need to be broken down into smaller and more manageable projects.

2. **Cost:** Migrations cost a lot of money due to long schedules and the need for large IT teams to handle the project. Manual migration efforts also add to re-work and quality / consistency related issues.

3. **Complexity of business logic:** Embedded business logic is hard to decode in legacy BI platforms. Decoding this logic calls for domain / functional SMEs in the organization, whose tight schedules do not permit them to spend the quality time required to decode business logic for such migrations.

Typical BI Migration Project Lifecycle

- BI Migration Project Planning
- Requirements Analysis, Architecture Blue Print, Detailed Design, Prototype
- Validate Backup & Recovery Processes
- Underlying Database Conversion & Migration
- ETL Migration
- Migrated Processes
- BI Application Migration
- Parallel Production Runs on Legacy & New BI Platforms
- Deactivate Legacy BI Platform(s)

Failure in large BI migration projects is typically attributed to two key reasons:

1. **Treating metadata and reports as same:** Many migration teams treat data and metadata as one and the same, which is a fatal trap. Metadata often displays a higher level of maturity because it is controlled by a fewer set of experienced designers, but is harder to port because of the vast complexity it encapsulates. Reports, on the other hand, might look simpler to migrate, but pose a different challenge due to the high degree of variability they exhibit – report designers bring their own skills and preferences in how to encapsulate business logic when building these reports.

2. **Mixing migration with redesign:** Several migration projects fail to implement industry best practices that dictate migration and redesign should be considered as two separate initiatives. They have different requirements, objectives, approaches and stakeholders. Mixing the two initiatives and using a big bang approach usually fails to produce desired results.

Recommendation – The Hybrid Approach

It is clear that a well designed approach that combines a discovery and assessment phase followed by a combination of automation and manual efforts would deliver substantial benefits in such migrations. A well developed and tested tool can eliminate mundane tasks, speeding up the migration process and help deliver desired results with high quality and better consistency with a smaller team. The migration team remains focused on core essentials of the process, with automation leading the effort of the migration, thereby vastly reducing business user involvement.

Rolta SmartMigrate™ is designed to address this complexity of migrating to a consolidated reporting platform. SmartMigrate helps organizations accelerate the consolidation of their BI reporting platforms to SAP BusinessObjects by delivering a high-quality migration solution that enables the conversion of their reports from one or more source BI platforms to SAP BusinessObjects with minimal loss of functionality and usability. The solution, delivered through a fixed-cost approach, involves a high level of automation combined with the expertise of SMEs to deliver substantial savings of time, money and resources. This enables time-bound migrations that deliver significant and easily measurable ROI.

SmartMigrate is executed in three distinct steps:

1. **Initial Assessment:** First we determine the scope and footprint of the existing BI system. An in-depth review of the current environment is used to understand the complexity of reports and define the project plan, timelines and sprints.

2. **Pilot Conversion:** A short Proof of Concept is then undertaken to not only showcase the offering, but the actual results are compared with the initial assessment to validate and refine the estimates. This also confirms the approach and findings of the assessment undertaken in Phase 1.

3. **Migration Sprints:** The actual migration project is executed in short sprints, migrating a pre-determined number of reports in each sprint. The SmartMigrate automated tool is supplemented with QA automation, manual efforts, and a final round of testing before final user-acceptance testing. The short sprints are designed to maximize the throughput of converted reports. They also allow for the early detection and resolution of issues.

SmartMigrate adopts a pluggable, technology-independent architecture. The core of Rolta SmartMigrate architecture is the Meta Model, which stores the metadata extracted from the source-reporting tool. The architecture supports single and batch mode migrations.

Pre-built Source and Target Adapters connect to the semantic layer and Reports Meta Model, allowing migrations between heterogeneous platforms. Source adapters connect to the Source BI platform and extract metadata related to the semantic layer, reports, filters, prompts, dashboards, etc., to create the Meta Model. They are completely parameter (configuration file) driven.

Customer Benefits

- Tested, proven, comprehensive and mature automated migration program delivered using a full service approach – from discovery to roll out and long term support

- Innovative IP-driven solution resulting in acceleration of the BI maturity journey to self-service BI: 2 to 3 times[2] faster than traditional approaches

- Assured quality, standardization and consistency

- 60-70%[2] direct cost savings compared to manual migration

- 80%[2] reduction of time spent by the organization's business and IT teams because of the unique, reverse engineered Meta Model

- Reduction in the migration cycle by more than 50%[2]

Contact us now

To know more about Rolta SmartMigrate™ and how it can help consolidate your BI reporting platforms, please email us at SmartMigrate@Rolta.com

References:
1. *"Gartner predicts Business Intelligence and Analytics Will Remain Top Focus for CIOs Through 2017"*
   www.gartner.com/newsroom/id/2637615 .
2. *Timelines are approximate and depend on the complexity of the current environment.*

About Rolta

Rolta is a leading provider of innovative IT solutions for many vertical segments, including Federal and State Governments, Defense/HLS, Utilities, Process, Power, Financial Services, Manufacturing, Retail, and Healthcare. By uniquely combining its expertise in the BI, Big Data, Engineering and Geospatial domains, Rolta develops exceptional solutions for these segments. The Company leverages its industry specific know-how, rich repository of intellectual property that spans photogrammetry, image processing, geospatial applications, business intelligence, analytics, field-proven solution frameworks, and deep expertise in cutting-edge technologies like Geo BI, Cloud computing, Software Defined Infrastructure and Big Data for providing sophisticated enterprise-level integrated solutions. Rolta is a multi-national organization headquartered in India. The Company operates from 40 locations worldwide through its subsidiaries, and has executed projects in over 45 countries.