

Cognos 8 BI Transformer: Designing OLAP Models (version 8.3)

Cognos 8 BI Transformer: Designing OLAP Models (version 8.3) is a four-day, instructor-led course that teaches OLAP modelers how to design, build, and maintain PowerCubes for use with Cognos 8 BI. Attendees will participate in hands-on demos and workshops that illustrate key concepts while learning how to use the product.

Topics Covered

- Overview of Cognos 8 BI
- Discuss the fundamentals of OLAP modeling
- Plan, design, and work with the model plan
- Work with data sources and build a model
- Examine the time dimension and relative time
- Use multiple data sources and address uniqueness
- Work with measures and currency conversion
- Create alternate hierarchies within a dimension
- Advanced dimensional modeling
- Customize cube content
- Examine Cognos 8 security
- Apply security
- Maintain models and PowerCubes
- Optimize and partition PowerCubes
- Model for Drill-Through
- Identify common data structures

Intended Audience

- OLAP Modelers who will build PowerCubes for use in Cognos 8 BI

Prerequisites

- Understand the business need for ad hoc queries and analysis
- Cognos 8 BI: Reporting and Analyzing Data for Business Authors (version 8.3) (recommended)
- Experience using basic Windows functionality

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1: Overview of Cognos 8 BI

- discuss Cognos 8 and Performance Management
- describe Cognos 8 BI components
- explain how to extend Cognos 8 BI

2: Transformer Fundamentals

- discuss the basics of OLAP analysis
- discuss the importance of business requirements
- review Transformer and Cognos 8 BI components
- define categories and members

3: The Transformer Development Process

- describe the purpose of a model plan
- match business requirements to the model
- discuss an approach for creating a model plan
- review the relationship of the model plan to the Transformer model

4: Data sources in Transformer

- discuss the types of data used by Transformer
- create data source files and define properties
- preview source data and SQL
- add Cognos 8 data sources to the model
- discuss data filtering

5: Building a Model

- create model structures and modify property sheets
- confirm the data source origin
- generate categories to populate the model
- modify the model using the dimension diagram
- verify the model and create a PowerCube
- publish as a data source and package

6: The Time Dimension

- discuss the purpose of a time dimension
- review properties of a time column
- define a regular time dimension
- examine standard and nonstandard time dimensions
- limit the range of valid dates

7: Relative Time

- compare trends over time
- set the current period
- create relative time categories
- customize relative time categories

8: Use Multiple Data Sources

- discuss the use of multiple data sources
- plan the data source
- define data source types

9: Uniqueness

- identify and resolve conflicts between data sources
- validate a multiple data source model
- discuss a unique move

10: Working with Measures

- discuss the purpose and uses of measures
- describe regular and calculated measures
- set measure properties
- compare rollup options
- create a calculated measure
- create calculations before or after rollups
- create a category count

11: Allocated Measures

- discuss measure allocation
- allocate measures as a constant and by another measure
- check measure distribution

12: Currency Conversion

- apply and use currency conversion techniques

13: Alternate Hierarchies within a Dimension

- discuss primary and alternate hierarchies
- describe the benefits of alternate hierarchies
- create an alternate drill-down path
- define convergence levels and identify uniqueness issues

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14: Advanced Dimensional Modeling

- discuss techniques for customizing dimensions
- add a new source level to an existing dimension
- create and populate a manual level in a dimension
- create orphan categories
- modify a dimension using a subdimension
- create a special category
- create a scenario dimension
- create and use calculated columns and categories

15: Customize Cube Content

- create various types of PowerCubes
- omit dimensions and exclude measures
- create and apply dimension views

16: Examine Cognos 8 Security

- examine the Cognos 8 security environment
- identify the Cognos 8 BI security model
- define authentication in Cognos 8 BI
- define authorization in Cognos 8 BI
- identify security policies

17: Applying Security

- review model security
- create custom views
- assign security to custom views
- assign custom views to PowerCubes
- combine custom views with dimension views
- examine a union of custom views

18: Optimizing PowerCubes

- examine cube groups
- plan for disk space
- examine optimizing factors
- optimize PowerCube inputs and outputs
- determine factors affecting PowerCube build time

19: Partition a PowerCube

- identify the pros and cons
- develop a partitioning strategy
- create a Time-based partitioned cube
- automatic vs. manual partitioning
- understand multifile PowerCubes

20: Maintain Models and PowerCubes

- maintain models and PowerCubes
- understand data source, model, cube updates
- synchronize the model and data source
- incrementally update PowerCubes
- describe model types and data entities
- define members and member unique names
- address changes that Impact a MUN

21: Model for Drill-Through

- define a report drill-through
- identify drill-through combinations
- identify conformed drill-through values

Blank Model Plans (Optional)

- example model plans

Identify Common Data Structures (Optional)

- examine the characteristics of operational databases and databases designed for reporting
- examine relationships and cardinality
- identify different data traps
- examine OLAP data sources