SAP BW vs. SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence Functionalities



Applies to:

SAP BW, SAP BusinessObjects. For more information, visit the **Business Objects homepage**.

Summary

This document discusses BW Bex/WAD and SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence (WEBI) basic report functionalities. This document will be helpful for new users and developers for WEBI to relate known BW functionality with new BO-WEBI functionality. This document has been written for BO XI 3.0 / 3.1. This is the first in a series of article on this topic.

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Introduction

This document focuses on some of the basic functionalities that can be done in BW Bex/WAD and SAP BusinessObjects Web Intelligence (WEBI). This document highlights the following:

- Functionalities that can be done in BW and BO WEBI in different ways, but can also be transferred from BW to BusinessObjects (BO).
- Functionalities that can be done in BW and BO WEBI in different ways, but cannot be transferred from BW to BO in current BO version (BO 3.0/3.1) like Text Variables.

This document discusses the following functionalities:

- Row totals / Subtotals
- Text Variable
- Exceptions or Alerting
- Multiple tabs
- · Broadcasting or Scheduling
- Drill down
- Downloading reports
- Applying Filters

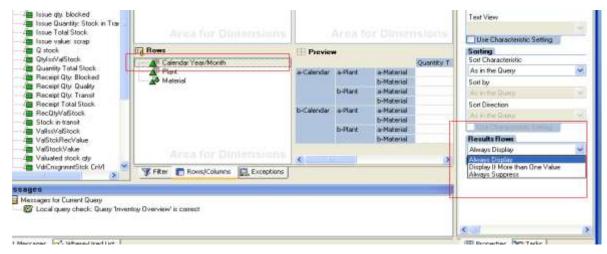
The focus of this document is on WEBI functionalities only. For corresponding Bex/WAD only high level details of a particular functionality are given.

There might be different way to achieve functionality in WEBI but this document focusing on only one most common method used.

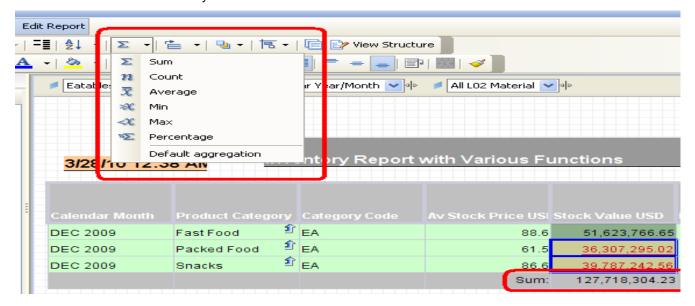
Row totals and Subtotals

SAP BW Bex/WAD

In BW Totals and subtotals can be defined on a characteristic at a query level as shown in screen shot below.



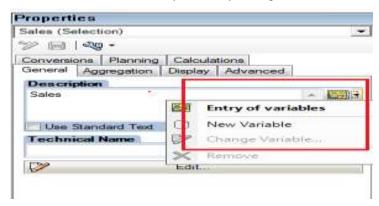
Subtotals don't get transferred from BW to BO as such, but can be defined locally in BO InfoView. The screenshot below shows the way to achieve the same in WEBI.



Text Variable

SAP BW Bex/WAD

Text variables are used to dynamically change the column/row labels. Refer screen shot below for Bex/WAD.

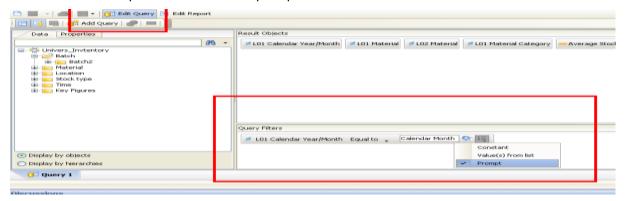


SAP BusinessObjects WEBI

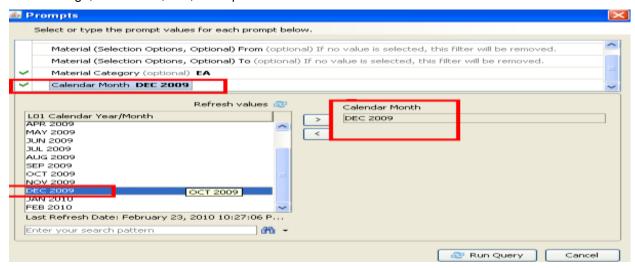
In current version (BO XI 3.0 /3.1) this functionality is not directly transferred from BW to BO. The reason that it is not dynamically filled is because this results in a change in the metadata for the universe. We can achieve this functionality locally in WEBI with a Function 'USERRESPONSE'.

The following section discusses step by step details to create text variables like functionality in WEBI: Create a prompt variable in BO based on which you want to change column name. In this example let's assume it is Calendar Month.

1. Select Prompt. Define text for the prompt. In this case it is 'Calendar Month'



2. Refresh the report. Enter the desired selected month. Define the properties of the prompt like single, range, in between, etc., as required.

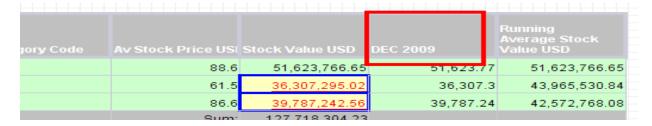


3. Define USERRESPONSE function for column whose label has to be dynamically replaced by selected month. Define the text of the prompt inside the USERRESPONSE function.

You can use some advanced functionalities for USERRESPONSE functions. Please click InfoView Help for more details.



4. The column label is replaced by Dec 2009, the selected month in this case.

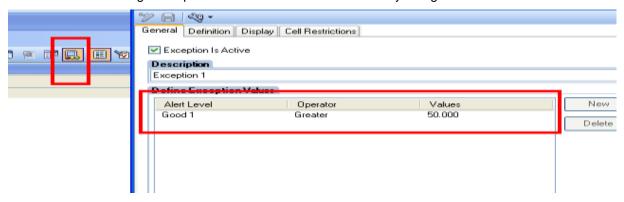


BW Exceptions vs. BO Alerting

Exceptions are used to highlight positive and negative indicators based on pre-determined criteria (for example, Sales is good if monthly numbers are more than USD 50,000 but is bad if it is less than USD 40,000).

SAP BW Bex/WAD

BW handles this through exceptions which can be defined in Query designer as in screenshot below.



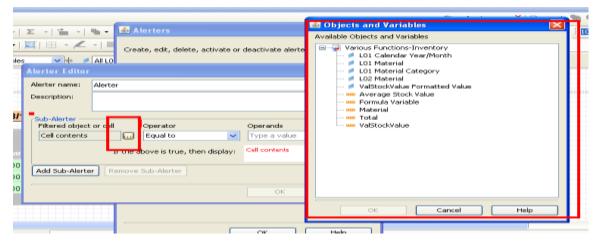
SAP BusinessObjects WEBI

1. Exception handling is done with the help of alerting and can be defined locally in WEBI report.

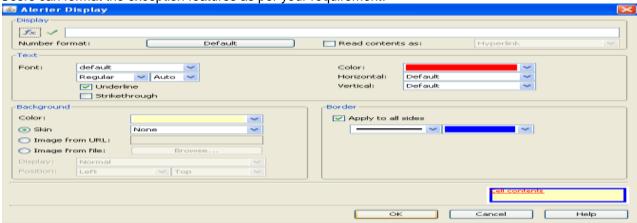


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2. Users can define cell content and select the objects to define an alert or exception.



3. Users can format the exception features as per your requirement.



The following results shows the exception/alerting with some formatting features.

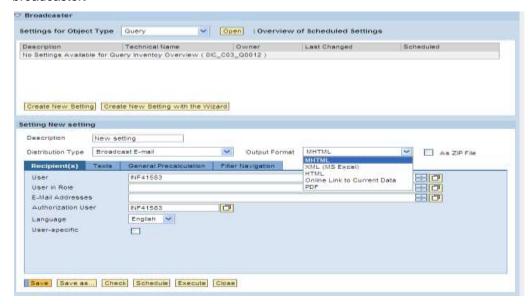


BW Broadcaster vs. BO Scheduler

Broadcast or Scheduler is used to broadcast reports to users in a predefined Format (HTML, Excel, PDF, etc.) and a predefined frequency.

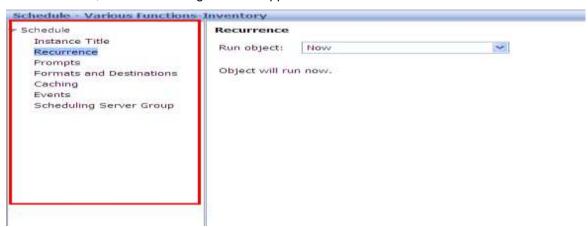
SAP BW Bex/WAD

BW Broadcaster used to schedule reports in SAP BW. The following screenshot gives a glance of BW broadcaster.



SAP BusinessObjects WEBI

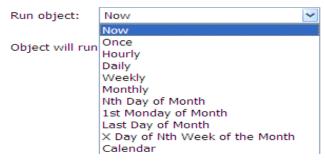
BO scheduler is used to schedule broadcasts in BusinessObjects. You can right click on any WEBI report, select schedule, and the following interface appears.



The following section discusses some of the BO scheduler details.

- Instance Title: Specify the title for the Broadcast here.
- Recurrence: Specify the frequency of the Broadcast.

Recurrence



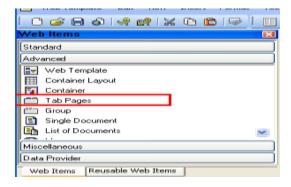
- Prompts: Enter or modify the selection conditions for which you want to run Broadcast like Calendar
- Format and Destination: Specify the format and final destination such as email or FTP server.
- Caching: Tab to pre-load the cache when scheduling (applicable to only WEBI).
- Event: Define events in CMC which can trigger broadcast example Cube load can generate a File on BO server and this file can be triggering event for Report Broadcast.
- Scheduling Server group: Define server options like 'User First available server 'or any specific server.

Multiple Tabs

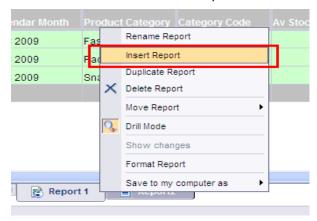
SAP BW Bex/WAD

In BW multiple tabs can be created in a Workbook (Bex Analyzer) or with the help of Web application designer. (There may be a need to do customized development for the latter option.)

- Create a workbook: Bex Analyzer
- Use Web item Tab pages to create tabs in WAD: Web Application designer



In WEBI this can be done with simple click as shown in screen shot below.

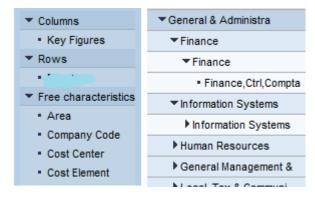


Drill down

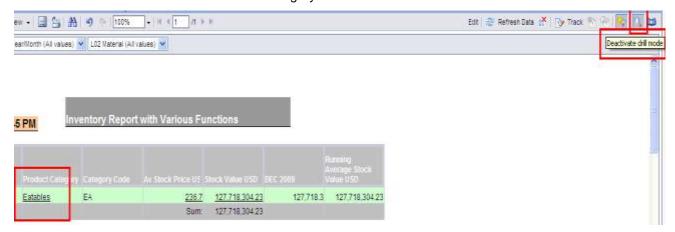
SAP BW Bex/WAD

In BW drill down is possible by

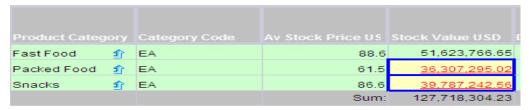
- · hierarchy structure
- moving free characteristics into a BW report for example from Area to Region to Country to City or moving free character of region, country, city, etc., into the report.



1. Drill down can be achieved by Activating drill mode as shown below on dimension here for example here it has been done for Product Category to drill to material level details.



Double-click on eatables (in this example), and it will drill down to one level down.



Downloading Report

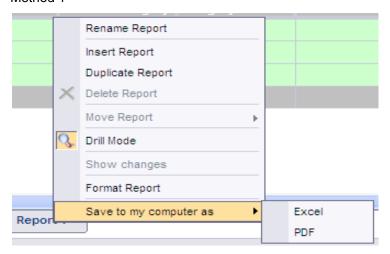
SAP BW Bex/WAD

In BW reports can be downloaded on Excel, Pdf (WAD Reports). These button are available as part of Standard content WAD template or can be created by existing Java scripts.

The only limitation is that formatting is transferred with some limitations like two horizontal aligned charts in report come as vertically aligned (one below another) in PDF. (Report designer can be used to overcome this limitation.)

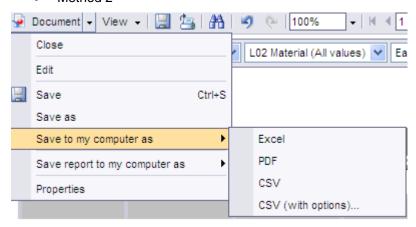
SAP BusinessObjects WEBI

In WEBI we can save reports in PDF, Excel, and CSV using one of the following methods in InfoView. Method 1



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Method 2

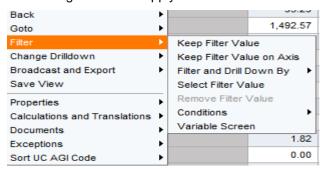


Applying Filters to reports

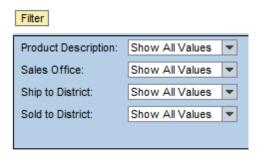
SAP BW Bex/WAD

In BW Filters can be applied on run time by two most common ways

Right click and apply filter.



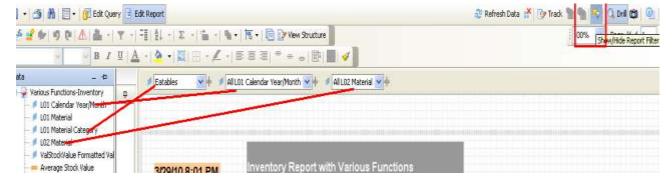
Selecting required filter value from drop down tabs (Same as WEBI).



Characteristics on which filter has to be applied needs to be added in characteristic restrictions in query designer.

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Filter can applied in WEBI report by clicking filter at top right hand side and then dragging characteristics on which filters are required. Please refer the following screenshot.



Related Contents

For more information, visit the **Business Objects homepage**.

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