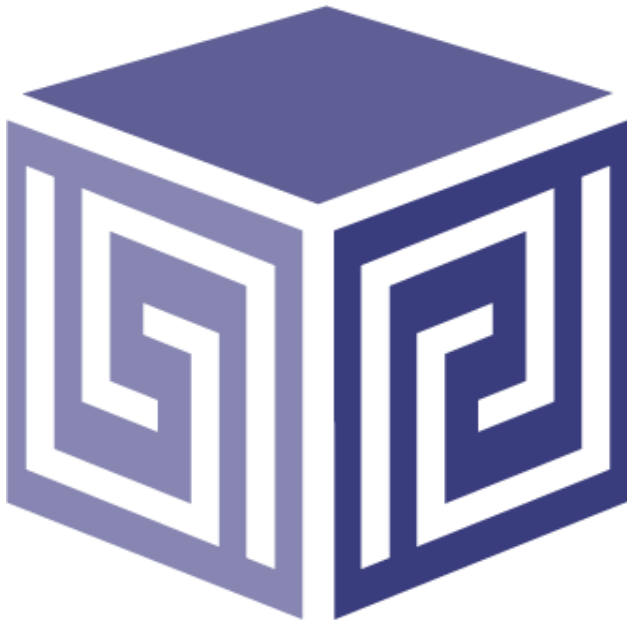


# **Tales From The Front: Strategies for a Successful OBIEE Implementation**



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# Vlamis Software Solutions, Inc.

- Founded in 1992 in Kansas City, Missouri
- Oracle Partner and reseller since 1995
- Developed more than 200 Oracle BI systems
- Specializes in ORACLE-based:
  - Data Warehousing
  - Business Intelligence
  - Data Transformation (ETL)
  - Web development and portals
- Delivers
  - Design and integrated BI and DW solutions
  - Training and mentoring
- Exclusive supplier world-wide for Windows-based Oracle BIC2G BI & EPM VMs
- Expert presenter at major Oracle conferences
- [www.vlamis.com](http://www.vlamis.com) (blog, papers, newsletters, services)



# Dan Vlamis

- Developer for IRI (former owners of Oracle OLAP).
- Founded Vlamis Software in 1992.
- Wrote portions of Oracle Sales Analyzer.
- Beta tester for Oracle products including OBIEE 11g.
- Oracle ACE.
- Expert speaker at Oracle conferences.
- Co-author of new book “Oracle Essbase & Oracle OLAP”.
- Conference Chair for 2008 BIWA Summit.
- BA Computer Science Brown University.

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# Divide and Conquer

- DBA
  - Data Warehouse Specialist
  - Subject Matter Experts
  - End Users / Executives / Analysts – “The Business”
  - User Interface Specialist
  - Metadata Developer
- 
- *Business Sponsor*



# Nothing Stops a Train

- Training for everyone on the project
- Cross-discipline training
- No lag between training and project



# Traditional Technical Specs are SO 20<sup>th</sup> Century

- OBIEE is a dynamic, fluid product
- Flexible development methods
- Rapid development capabilities
- Forget voluminous specs
- Explain to a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader
- Short deadlines
- *The use of traditional technical specs can cause your project to fail.*



# To Contract, or Not to Contract, That Is The Question

- Get help from someone who's "been there, done that".
- Situations you might not have thought of.
- Approaches you might not have thought of.
- Familiarity with the nuances of the product.
- Metadata Architect vs. Report Designer



# Any Way You Slice It

- Your security model should be one of the first, second, and third things you consider.
- Data security – VPD, OBIEE, physical database





# What's In A Name

- Standardized naming convention
- “Dimension” table vs. “Fact” table
- BI\_D and BI\_F
- Aliases for Physical Tables
- Match Source Columns (Dims and Facts)



# Who's On First?

- Project Team Training
- User Meetings
- World's Largest Whiteboard
- Wish Lists
- “What If We Could...”
- Find the Pain
- Seek First To Understand... at 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Level
- “Single Version of the Truth”
- Don't build more of the same old stuff



# You Want WHAT?

- Start with small scope
- Do we have the data?
- Highlight functionality of OBIEE
- We paid \$\$\$ for this??
- Break the wish list into manageable chunks
- Each chunk = a project phase
- Phased approach for pilot



# Stars, Snowflakes, Constellations, and Other Unnatural Phenomena

- Logical Business Model = Star
- Physical Model = Star if at all possible
  - Lower query overhead
  - Simpler to maintain
- Initial Physical Model for prototyping can be any schema



# Aggregates, OLAP, and Cache, Oh My!

- Data Caching in OBIEE
- 10g-11g Query Rewrite
- Oracle OLAP cubes
- Essbase cubes
- OBIEE 11g can drill down embedded total hierarchies



# Users and Other Difficult Concepts

- Pilot User Group
- Subject Matter Experts
- Involve Pilot Group in initial wish list sessions
- Evangelizers
- Business Sponsor
- Commit to max 2 hours per week after first design sessions



# Jammin'

- Use post-implementation jam sessions to enhance everyone's knowledge and expertise
- Spread knowledge of the business into IT
- Spread knowledge of IT into the business
- Suggest process changes
- Suggest data changes
- Suggest content changes



# Summary

- OBIEE is fast to develop
- OBIEE is fun to develop
- Forget 75% of what you've ever done before
- All disciplines involved
- Stay flexible!





# Questions?

