WHY DO YOU NEED CENTRALIZED BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE?
A Quick Introduction

It’s pretty simple. For businesses today, data is king—it helps you forecast trends, project customer needs, analyze finances, enhance efficiency, predict sales and, in general, just make better decisions. But when you have your data saved in OLAP cubes, finding a BI solution that is centralized AND integrates naturally to your Microsoft stack may seem like an impossible task.

Fortunately, organizations now have at their disposal increasingly advanced software and dashboards to cut hours otherwise spent sifting through reports and other documents. While this may seem like a big, mind-boggling investment, just remember the factors pushing the need for business intelligence: millennials, native Microsoft technologies and the need for data accuracy.
Millennials, perhaps more than any other generation (let’s forget about Generation Z, for now—they’re too young for consideration), grew up with the Internet. They’re savvier when it comes to apps, programs, dashboards, online media and are more than likely your most experienced, long-standing workers. In fact, millennials are what we can call “digital natives.”

It should come as no surprise then that rather than being wary of smart data’s abilities, they consider its use to be a given and desirable tool. This is a generation that expects information to be collected, analyzed and delivered quickly and efficiently. If you don’t do this? Well, they will find another company that does. In fact, by 2017, millennials will have more buying power than any other generation, a pressure to which competitors will surely react. Deploying business intelligence to create highly targeted cross-platform marketing strategies will be a necessity to attract and maintain this generation. Centralized Business intelligence allows companies to do this through creating a unified data analysis that highlights generational trends and insights allowing for more effective decision-making.
With millennial employees, the key to boosting business adoption is by fitting millennials’ needs, not vice-versa. Businesses can begin to do this by assessing how the data is used and on what platforms, and how they can make the experience more collaborative.

Millennials are all about collaboration and connection. This is why Federated BI—working in silos in different departments—does not work for them. This generation needs to work in a centralized environment that allows them to analyze data in attractive dashboards and share the information with colleagues. They want to receive automatic KPI alerts whenever data changes because millennials are like that, they want to know everything at the exact time it happens.
The only way to cater to millennials’ needs is to deploy Centralized Business Intelligence. This ensures that IT will govern over the data, giving the appropriate permissions so that business users can work with the data, while protecting the data and keeping only one version of the truth.

Centralized is practically made for this generation’s needs. It provides connection, collaboration and sharing, while also providing data security and accuracy. How? Because everybody sees the same data, the same truth, and they all work together.

Business Users decide what solutions they need to solve their business pains, while IT decides how to deploy such solutions to maintain data accuracy throughout the whole enterprise. IT will also advice business users on the best BI solution to integrate with their Microsoft data sources.
Integrating Your Existing Microsoft Stack With a New BI Solution

Most organizations are already realizing that they need to implement business intelligence to drive competitive advantage. They are also realizing that the business intelligence solution needs to be centralized in order to protect their data while also allowing business users to create their own reports. But they have one big challenge: how to integrate BI to their data sources and their existing SSAS.

It seems like a hard task, but really all it takes is the right communication between business users and IT. They need to communicate clearly what are the business needs, and what is the IT background of the company. The IT team can do the right research and find a centralized solution that will integrate in a native way to their OLAP cubes and Microsoft technologies. There are BI solutions like Panorama Necto that have a native integration with OLAP, and are also centrally managed.
The Search For One Version of The Truth

Like we mentioned earlier, millennials are a generation that have access to so much data that they question everything. They always want to know what is going on and they want to know the truth.

Centralized BI is the only BI model that ensures one version of the truth. In federated or decentralized BI, users work in siloes, they edit and save data in their own desktop and then the data is impossible to merge. It becomes data chaos or what some call “Excel Hell”.

On the contrary, in a centrally managed environment, departments can share insights and resources. Data is kept accurate thanks to IT setting the right permissions. The BI tool connects to the native Microsoft data sources and allows users to analyze data while IT governs over it.
Now What?

As previously mentioned, BI is a priority for businesses. And to achieve the best results when implementing a BI project, they need a centralized tool that connects to Microsoft SSAS. Centralized is about governability. It provides a solution that is just one environment, both power users and business users can log in to the same environment. Line managers keep the decision rights over what services should be delivered, but IT has the authority over how the services are delivered. This aligns the organization.

Nowadays millennials demand automation of dashboards, automatic insights and exceptions, plus the ability of the users to define their own thresholds, data anomalies, etc. Businesses need solutions that will notify them while monitoring KPIs and distribute reports automatically.

A good BI solution must provide an easy deployment, beautiful dashboards, top of the line analytics, automatic insights and KPI alerts; all in a centrally managed system. Users need to connect multiple data sources, consolidate and mashup all the data. They need to scale and deploy in a secure manner, in a centrally administered environment that does not require scripting. Users need to be able to automatically receive KPI alerts and notifications all the time to be aware of what is happening in the business.
And all this needs to happen in a BI platform that can integrate naturally to SSAS. This will make sure that existing Microsoft technologies within the company do not crash with the BI project, but rather, they will complement each other. Organizations that have Microsoft SSAS and OLAP need to consider this when making a choice in BI tools. After all, this is the way their data is essentially organized, so the BI tool should be able to adapt to it and integrate easily.

Necto connects natively to SSAS, since Panorama was the original developer of OLAP and then sold the technology to Microsoft in 1996. With Necto, enterprises have access to a centralized BI solution that allows you to collaborate, share, and discuss your findings. It uncovers the hidden insights in your data and presents them in beautiful dashboards with infographics that users can understand better. It is an on premise solution with a web deployment, that is centrally managed and secured.