

Business intelligence for smart management (BI4SM)

João José Neves Faria

BACKGROUND: Currently we live in a very competitive world where enterprises must deal with very rapid business changes. Every day, managers are faced with important decisions that require immediate responses. To support these decisions, managers need tools that allow them to easily access to useful and up-to-date information.

Nowadays, there are a vast number of software tools that can be used to provide business intelligence solutions. However, these solutions require software licences and/or information technology services that make them very expensive and inaccessible to small enterprises.

Even very small enterprises and independent professionals use software to manage their business data. Most countries have introduced accounting and tax laws that imposed the adoption of standards for electronic exchange of accounting data from organizations to tax authorities. In Portugal, every invoice and accounting software exports data in the Standard Audit Files for Tax Purposes (SAF-T) format.

OBJECTIVES: Using the SAFT files as the data source, this project aims to develop a business performance assessment system, easily configurable and accessible to any small enterprise. The system will provide tables, data graphics and Key Performance Indicators (KPI), presented in easily accessible and customized dashboards. This solution can be deployed at very low costs and targeted to most small or very small enterprises.

METHODOLOGY: The "Design Science Research" methodology is characterized by accuracy, ease of implementation and efficiency. This methodology was adopted because its generic activities are perfectly suited to the software development process.

RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS: A set of financial and management KPI will be elicited from scientific literature, requiring to be aligned with the available data from SAF-T files. It will be developed a prototype of a Web platform to demonstrate this concept.

Keywords: Business intelligence, Business management, Small and Medium Enterprise