

Project Announcement

This newsletter is to let you know of a financial systems project that is getting underway and will take approximately 9-12 months to complete. Since going live with the new Oracle systems in July, 2007, we have noticed some problems with the underlying organization of data within the data warehouse. As a result, we need to make some structural changes to the data warehouse. Most of this work will be "invisible" to the financial end-user community.

We have also recently learned that Oracle Corporation, the company that created the software our financial systems use, will no longer support Hyperion IR, the reporting tool we use for our financial reporting. We therefore need to transition to a new reporting tool, and will coordinate this change with the updates to the data warehouse. Obviously, this change will impact the financial end-users who will need to be trained on the new tool.

Transition Plan Overview

Over the next few weeks, an initial group of beta users (less than 50) will be selected to transition to the new tool to test the reports and provide feedback before the tool is rolled out to all end users. It is anticipated that these beta users will begin using the tool sometime in September 2008. Regular updates will be sent to all current Hyperion Report users so that you will be aware of the progress. Most users will not be affected by this initial roll out. If you are not part of this beta group, you can anticipate receiving an announcement regarding a demo of the tool after September. Once timelines have been more firmly established they will be communicated through the newsletter format and posted on the web site as noted on page 2 of this issue.

Why Now?

The timing of this project results from our desire to address the data warehouse issues as soon as possible. The more we accumulate financial data (as we do every time transactions are posted and historical data is saved to the data warehouse), the more problematic the data warehouse becomes. Since we have a clearly identified solution to the problem, it is in our best interest to move forward quickly to develop a stable data warehouse infrastructure which will support the accumulation of financial and non-financial data to meet our short- and long-term reporting needs.

When we revise the data warehouse infrastructure, we will need to rewrite the financial reports which draw data from this source. We will coordinate the timing of this rewriting of financial reports with the rollout of a new financial reporting tool, OBIEE, so that we only need to rewrite our reports once. If these efforts were not coordinated, we would need to rewrite

(continued on page 2)

What Will Change?

- Spring of 2009, the Hyperion financial reporting interface will be replaced with a new tool called Oracle Business Intelligence Enterprise Edition (OBIEE).

What Does Not Change?

- Year-end procedures for FY'08
- Chart of accounts
- GL, OGA, AR, AP processes (this includes Web ADI and SPUD)
- Procurement data/reports
- Non-compensation HR data/reports
- Hyperion Planning
- Discoverer Reports

From Adam Keller Project Sponsor

When the College transitioned to new financial systems in July 2007, we anticipated needing to make some refinements, given the magnitude of the system changes.

I view the need to make these revisions to our data warehouse as one of those refinements. I am pleased that the team has been quick to recognize and develop a sound solution to the problems with the data warehouse, and I am confident they will implement these solutions with Dartmouth's long-term needs in mind.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and support.

Institutional Reporting and Analysis: Financial Release Project Organization

Project Sponsor

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EVP - Finance and Administration

Project Steering Committee

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Susan Zaslaw

The project newsletter is distributed electronically on the Financial-Reports LISTSERV and can also be viewed from the project web page on the Fiscal Services web site.

(continued from page 1)

all reports twice: once to recognize the new data structures in the data warehouse, and a second time to transition existing reports from the current Hyperion IR tool to OBIEE.

Please be assured that the information we retrieve from the data warehouse today is accurate; the problems we have with the data warehouse do not in any way affect the accuracy, quality, or consistency of the information we retrieve from it. You should be confident in the systems we have and in the oversight we have in place to manage these systems, to identify problems and develop appropriate, timely solutions.

Related Web Site Changes Taking Place...

The Fiscal Services web site is the new name for what has been the OASIS web site.

The address for the site will be www.dartmouth.edu/~fiscalservices

At the moment going to that address redirects you to the OASIS site. When the transition is complete, all OASIS pages will be moved to the Fiscal Services site. Anyone who goes to an OASIS page will automatically be redirected to the corresponding Fiscal Services page.



Questions?

Send BlitzMail to Institutional.Reporting.and.Analysis@dartmouth.edu



Project Information

For project information, go to www.dartmouth.edu/~fiscalservices and follow the link to Institutional Reporting and Analysis: Financial Release.

There you will find this newsletter, a project organization chart, and a PowerPoint presentation.

As more material becomes available, such as the project schedule and training plans, that information will be posted in this location.