

Foodstuffs North Island Accelerates their SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.2 Ramp Up and Migration **Foodstuffs** ^{NZ}

New releases of SAP BusinessObjects often include compelling features and capabilities that can create business value drivers for customers to migrate to the new release. Historically, customers might wait for several dot releases to follow before deciding to implement. SAP has maintained a long-standing "Ramp Up" program to create a benchmark set of customers to be early adopters. This previously came with the requirement for the customer to engage SAP for a Ramp Up Coach and associated team members to guide the customer through this process. Recently though, SAP lifted the requirement for a Ramp Up Coach and with that, Foodstuffs North Island (FSNI) in Auckland, NZ, selected EV Technologies to assist with a new platform and implementation of SAP BusinessObjects BI4.2.

A Thoughtful Plan

How do we help customers get through a successful SAP BusinessObjects upgrade? With Sherlock, of course. Some time ago, we spoke candidly on our vision for 10 steps to get to BI4. One of those was to start with a [solid approach to sizing](#). As we continue down our partnership with SAP, one of the most valuable outcomes has been our redevelopment of the [BI 4 Sizing Dashboard](#). This data-driven approach to sizing has allowed us to accomplish a few key things:

1. Realisation that we could retire Netweaver for Tomcat as the web tier for this landscape.
2. Proper sizing and distribution of services for SAP Design Studio and SAP Lumira.

The new BI 4 Sizing Estimator, powered by Sherlock

SELECT	SAP BI Tool	% OF TOTAL CONTENT
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Web Intelligence	81.5 1%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dashboards	2.5 1%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Explorer	5 1%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Crystal Reports 2013	10 1%
<input type="checkbox"/>	CR for Enterprise	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Design Studio	2.5 1%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lumira for BI Platform	1 1%
<input type="checkbox"/>	Analysis for OLAP	
Total		100.0

This application is designed to provide a minimum system requirement for an SAP BusinessObjects BI4.x landscape. With any minimum recommendation, a thoughtful and careful design is needed. Use this as a guide to address all resiliency requirements for your landscape.

Overcoming Obstacles

As with most upgrade projects, and especially with SAP BusinessObjects being in Ramp Up, there were some bumps along the road. However, FSNI is an existing Virtual Platform Management (VPM) customer of EV Technologies, which meant that the EV Technologies team had a great understanding of FSNI's systems and architecture. Each challenge was overcome with EV Technologies playing the liaison between SAP Support, FSNI business users, the internal FSNI project team, FSNI Basis support and the expertise of the EV Technologies team to resolve all project issues. This significantly reduced the risk and potential barriers to moving the project forward for FSNI.

Furthermore, timing is everything! A key landmark for the project was that FSNI was poised to go through its financial year close at the end of March 2016, which coincided with the implementation of the new SAP BusinessObjects 4.2 platform. Thanks to the partnership between FSNI, EV Technologies, and SAP, we were able to meet the timeline and see a successful year-end close.

Exploiting the New Capabilities

With FSNI now upgraded from 4.0 to 4.2 and in a business-as-usual state, it was time for them to leverage the new functionality and tools in the BI 4.2 platform. Both SAP Design Studio Dashboards and SAP Lumira storyboards are being developed and rolled out to the business as key innovations. Coming from a typical Analysis for OLAP and Web Intelligence site, the new visualisations in SAP Design Studio and data discovery capability in SAP Lumira are being warmly received by the end users who hadn't historically had access to these tools before. As part of the new architecture, FSNI are also looking at a Mobile deployment strategy, which is included in the BI Suite. The mobility features free management from their desks to be able to view reporting and analytics on the move and make effective decisions on the shop floor.

Final Word from FSNI

"Empowering our Members and the broader cooperative to make educated, insightful and timely decisions based on fact is a key enabler of the Foodstuffs North Island mission; 'Making sure New Zealanders get more out of life'. With the upgrade to SAP Business Objects 4.2, our Analytics team has provided the cooperative a significant step towards enabling our BI goals for our Brands. Partnering with EV Technologies, leveraging their deep technical expertise combined with their integral relationships with the SAP products teams, was pivotal in ensuring a successful outcome in challenging circumstances."

With that, there are some key learnings:

- Ramp Up provides you with great early access to the software, but be aware that the product you are working on will need to be patched up to the General Availability release.
- Always test the new functionality rigorously to ensure it meets yours as well as your end users' expectations.
- Don't underestimate the dependency on the greater team such as VM, Networks, Database, SAP Basis and Security.
- When doing an upgrade from XI 3.1 or BI 4.0, a side-by-side upgrade is the upgrade path with the lowest risk, as you can always rely on your older system if your BI 4.2 system has issues that need to be ironed out.
- When doing a side-by-side upgrade, be sure to allow for plenty of time for the LCM process if coming from a BI 4.x system.
- Be ready to answer to the increased appetite for content from your end users, especially now with SAP Lumira documents being able to run in your BI Platform.

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