

## Business Intelligence

Business Intelligence is a set of methodologies, processes, architectures, and technologies that transform raw data into meaningful and useful information used to enable more effective strategic, tactical, and operational insights and decision-making.

There are various ways of doing BI:

- Front end tools
- Reporting tools
- Custom development projects
- Pre-built data warehouse and OLAP tools (BI4Dynamics)



BI is about using the data you gather to provide insight into your business.

BI4Dynamics is a standardized (pre-built) Business Intelligence Solution for Microsoft Dynamics NAV. It comprises of a complete enterprise scale data warehouse and several OLAP cubes, covering all of the Dynamics application areas. It is open and completely customizable and it also serves as a framework on which you can extend the solution to fit your needs.

BI4Dynamics is a back-end solution and you can use any front-end tool to connect to data stored in the data warehouse or OLAP cubes.

## Data Warehouse and OLAP Cubes

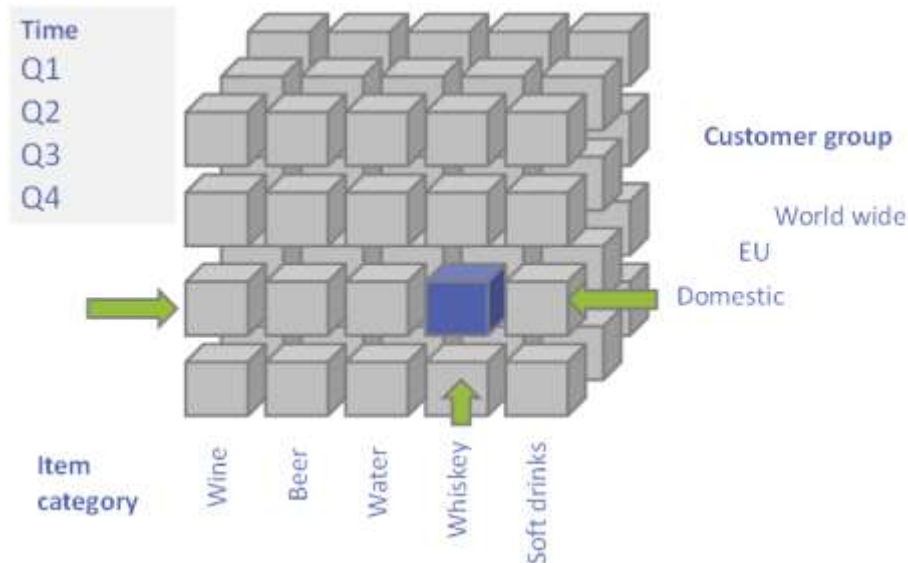
In computing, a data warehouse (DW) is a database used for reporting and analysis. The data stored in the warehouse is uploaded from the operational systems.

A data warehouse maintains its functions in three layers: staging, integration, and access: Staging is used to store raw data for use by developers. The

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integration layer is used to integrate data and to have a level of abstraction from users. The access layer is for getting data out for users.

An OLAP cube (online analytical processing) is a data structure that allows fast analysis of data. It can also be defined as the capability of manipulating and analyzing data from multiple perspectives. The arrangement of data into cubes overcomes some limitations of relational databases (used by transactional systems such as NAV).



## Pivot Tables

Pivot tables can be seen as a simplification of the more complete and complex OLAP concepts. In other words they are your best choice when dealing with multidimensional data stored in OLAP cubes. The most used tool to work with pivot tables is Microsoft Excel.