



Maintaining a sustainable Future for IT in Higher Education

Wednesday 15th June 2011

Time: 14:00 - 14:30

Switching to Open Source Business Intelligence: Report on a Two-Year Experience and Next Opportunities in Higher Ed

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Abstract:

Cineca, an Italian Consortium made up of 50 HigherEd public institutions, provides ICT services to its members and to the wider HigherEd community. Since 1999 it has been developing Business Intelligence applications, from reporting to strategic analysis and planning, based on commercial platforms. Today a total of 70 Cineca BI applications run in 29 Universities throughout all Italy. However, constraints and incorrect practices have emerged, limiting the value of such solutions: licensing restrictions for number of users (cutting out Academic and Research units and other divisions/centres) and information delivery, expensive enhancements for integrations and customizations of reports and functions. Following up the paper presented at EUNIS 2010 in Warsaw, Cineca will report on the progressing project to switch its BI solutions to an Open Source platform. After tests, experimentations and software selection in 2010 Cineca chose the Pentaho Open Source BI platform and started to develop new solutions and to migrate the applications previously installed. Particularly, this year Cineca will describe:

- complete vision on its Business Intelligence architecture switched on open source components, from ETL to reporting, from analytics to dashboards and KPIs.
- new applications based on Pentaho: Research analytics, Students-Teaching analytics, Management Control, Dashboards and KPIs.
- results and outputs of the first analytical applications deployments on Pentaho in a couple of HigherEd Institutions.
- advantages from a "business" viewpoint, such as performance analysis processes, report delivery features, rise in number of users.
- advantages from a technical viewpoint, such as solution engineering, configurations, customizations, integration features.