Results Software™

Enterprise Performance Management

vs

Power BI and Tableau
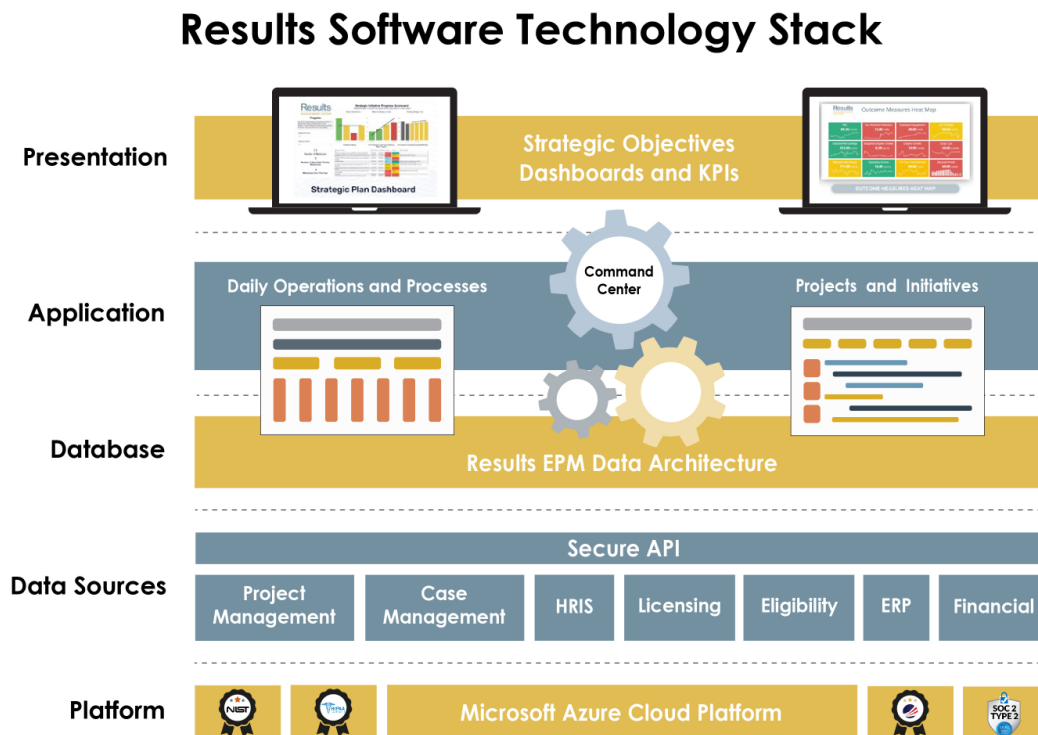
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Introduction

In our dynamic business environment, an enterprise performance management (EPM) system is essential for organizations to effectively manage their performance. An EPM system is a framework that aligns an organization's strategy with its operations, optimizes resource allocation, and enables data-driven decision-making. While Power BI and Tableau are excellent data visualization tools, they are not EPM systems. This paper discusses the components of an EPM system and differentiates the capabilities of Power BI and Tableau from a true EPM system.

Results Software is a fully integrated Enterprise Performance Management (EPM) system. As illustrated in the "Technology Stack" below, Results Software provides all the critical functionality of an EPM solution. Importantly, the Results Software architecture leverages applications such as Power BI and Tableau for the "Presentation" layer. But, as we will discuss below, a complete EPM solution goes much deeper than the presentation layer.

Results Software Technology Stack

EPM Systems have five (5) main components:

1. **Strategy management:** This component involves defining and communicating the organization's strategic goals and objectives. Often referred to as Strategic Portfolio Management, an EPM system provides a framework that enables an enterprise to prioritize, select and manage initiatives based on their impact on the organization's strategic goals.

2. **Planning and budgeting:** An EPM system enables organizations to develop and manage budgets, forecasts, and financial plans that align with their strategic and operational goals. These processes enable organizations to allocate resources more effectively and make informed decisions based on financial data.

3. **Performance monitoring and reporting:** An EPM system provides real-time visibility into performance data across the organization, enabling leaders, managers, and employees to monitor progress towards their goals. It serves as an "early warning system" by identifying areas for improvement. This helps organizations make data-driven decisions and take corrective action when necessary.

4. **Analytics and data management:** An EPM system includes tools for collecting, analyzing, and managing data from various sources. This helps organizations gain insights into their operations and make informed decisions based on data-driven insights.

5. **Risk management and compliance:** An EPM system includes tools and processes for managing risks and ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements. This helps organizations mitigate risks and avoid costly penalties for non-compliance.

Results Software: A Complete EPM Platform

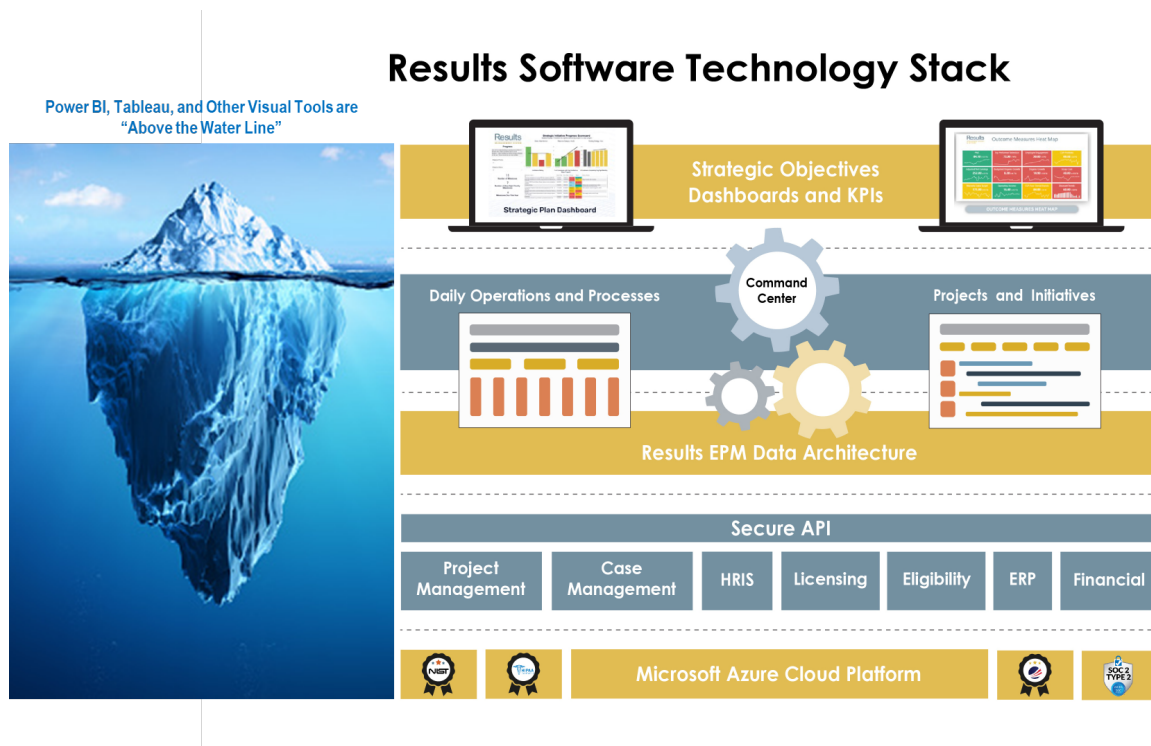Results Software provides key capabilities that enable enterprises to manage and improve their performance:

- Results Software provides a customizable framework for establishing and monitoring key operating metrics, including process measures and outcome measures. Process measures are "leading" indicators that represent a forecast of future performance. Outcome measures are "lagging" indicators and are the historical summary of performance. By enabling the Results Software user to compare real-time process measures and outcome measures

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against pre-established goals, performance can be easily quantified and problem areas quickly identified.

- Results Software provides a centralized "hub" to pull together data from many different data systems. Examples of these data systems include case management, project management, financial systems, HRIS, Eligibility, ERP and other information systems common to a large enterprise. By consolidating cross-system data into Results Software's centralized hub, users are able to readily access all of the data that impacts the processes, projects, and initiatives for which they're responsible.

- Results Software includes a proprietary data architecture which is purpose-built to "operationalize" an organization's strategic plan including goals, objectives, strategies, and tactics. By associating all relevant data from across the enterprise to each process, project, and initiative, Results Software provides the visibility and accountability needed to execute at a high level and accurately communicate status, roadblocks, and mitigation efforts throughout the organization.

- Despite the complexity within the application and data layers, access to data and visual analytics needs to be very easy and user friendly. By leveraging Power BI or Tableau in the presentation layer, Results Software provides easy visual access to all enterprise data in the context of its key processes, projects, and initiatives.

- As an enterprise-level EPM platform, Results Software effectively supports change management strategies with the use of customized storyboards, pop-up videos, and other media using an AI powered bot. The "tools and documents" section provides a single location for the most current versions of important templates, training materials, process improvement projects, work instructions, reference materials, and other important documents that aid enterprise performance. Similarly, as a central repository, Results Software maintains a historical record of each process, project, and initiative that drives enterprise performance.

EPM Platform: Complexity below the waterline

A complete, enterprise-scale EPM system includes substantial capabilities at multiple layers of the tech stack. The presentation layer – the charts and graphs that are visible to most EPM users – is an important but relatively minor part of the system.

Results Software Technology Stack

Power BI, Tableau, and Other Visual Tools are "Above the Water Line"

Power BI and Tableau as a component of EPM

Power BI and Tableau are popular business intelligence tools that allow organizations to visualize and analyze their data. While they are useful for data visualization and reporting, they are only a small component of EPM systems. Below are business and technical reasons why Power BI and Tableau are not viable solutions for building a full EPM system:

1. **Limited functionality:** Power BI and Tableau are designed for data visualization and reporting, and they have limited functionality when it comes to planning, budgeting, forecasting, document management, collaboration, and maintenance of historical record - capabilities which are fundamental to an enterprise-scale EPM system.

2. **Cost to develop and maintain:** Given the necessity to integrate and manage large amounts of data from disparate systems, Power BI and Tableau need to be coupled with a data lake. Development of this data lake requires significant cost, as does on-going maintenance of the APIs to ingest data from disparate systems. The data needs to be structured in ways that accommodate reporting across processes, projects, and initiatives, and the data model needs to be flexible enough to accommodate changes as the organization's operations evolve. Furthermore, comparison of process and outcome measures against

enterprise goals requires layers of logic that do not exist in either the data lake or Power BI/Tableau. There are significant security, user management, and automation considerations which must be incorporated into an enterprise-class EPM solution. Finally, an application layer needs to be built to enable use and management of the system.

3. **Time to live:** Developing an EPM solution from the ground up – leveraging Power BI or Tableau and a data lake – will require a minimum of 2 years with a dedicated team. And by the time the system is built, tested, and functional, it is likely to require further changes to reflect evolution of the enterprise. For organizations that recognize the importance of an EPM solution to their performance, a custom solution based on Power BI or Tableau is simply not viable.

In summary, Power BI and Tableau are useful tools for data visualization and reporting but are not a complete solution for building a full enterprise performance management system. An EPM system requires a range of tools and processes for managing performance data, project information, documents, financial planning, forecasting, and budgeting, and it must be able to handle large volumes of data, integrate data from various sources and systems, provide collaboration features, and be scalable to meet the organization's needs.

Contact Us to Learn More
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