Business Intelligence applications developed with IBM's Cognos

Technical white paper

Consulting Engineering

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Business Intelligence

Our time and efforts has been devoted to developing Business Intelligence applications using IBM Cognos. We tend to leverage most of Cognos' platform to bring out customer satisfaction at highest level possible. So far, two applications have been developed and are successfully maintained, supported and upgraded.

From tabular reports with crosstabs and lists, to various charts to visualize gathered data – we have mixed them all. In addition, reports we developed augment results with external web services, refresh data on daily basis and historise dimensions of interest. Our applications bring unique experience and assist our end-users in analyzing gathered financial data to bring business decisions with great ease!

Succeed BI

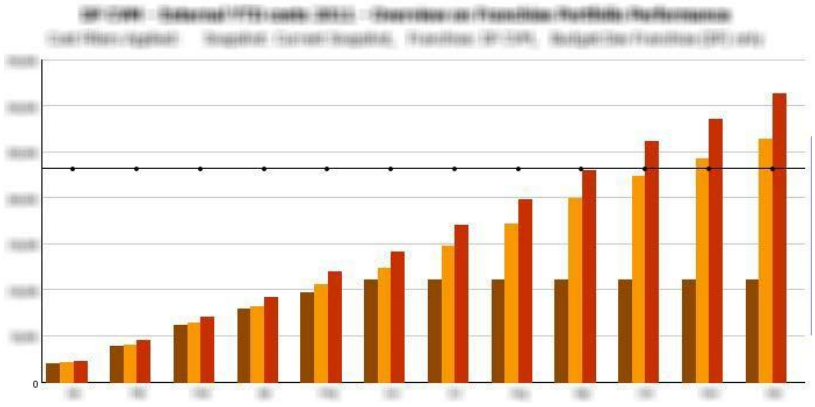
A financial dashboard with customized control for users to pick different dimensions when generating a financial report. Users can use more than 30 filter dimensions which can be combined to deliver a report that only displays data which concerns the individual running the report.

Features:

- Customized dimensions to choose for filtering
- Daily data refresh
- Dimension data historization
- Multiple report output types available
- Boosted report generation with database optimization

Lifeline

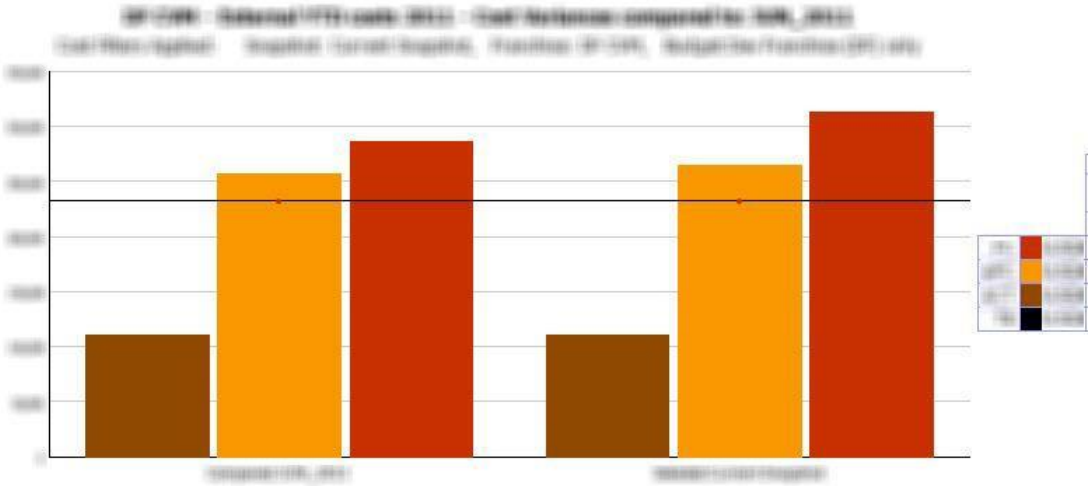
Multilevel, drillable application for project budgeting. Backed up with charts for data visualization, the financial part of this project aims to help financial teams estimate; track and compare expected budgets with actual costs for each project. The milestone part of the application is used for tracking set milestones within individual organizations



Features:

- Multilevel data granularity
- Drillable interface for level migration
- Historized dimension data
- Easy comparison of forecasts, budgets and actual costs

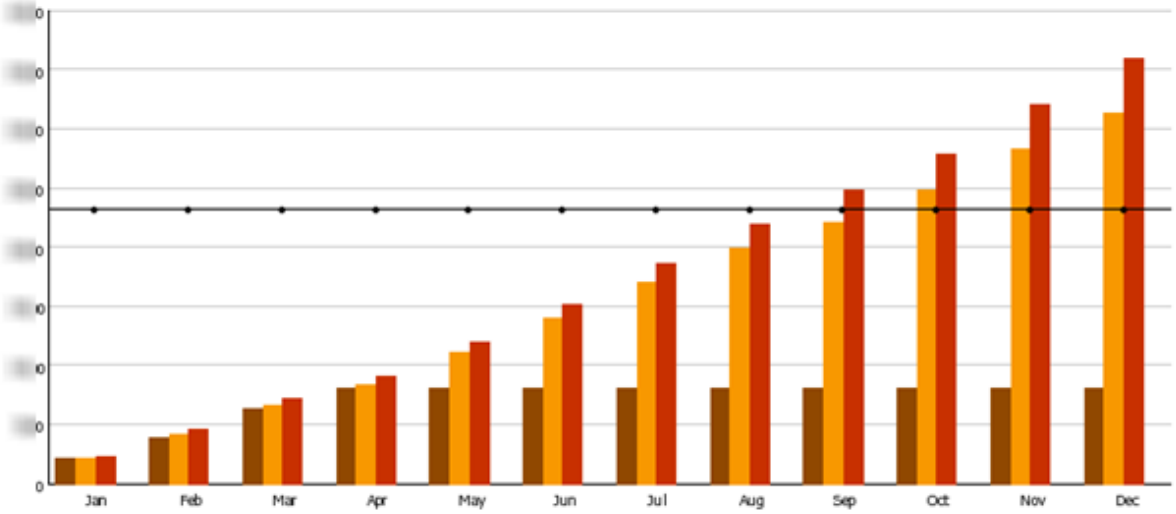
- Multiple report output types available
- Variance calculations



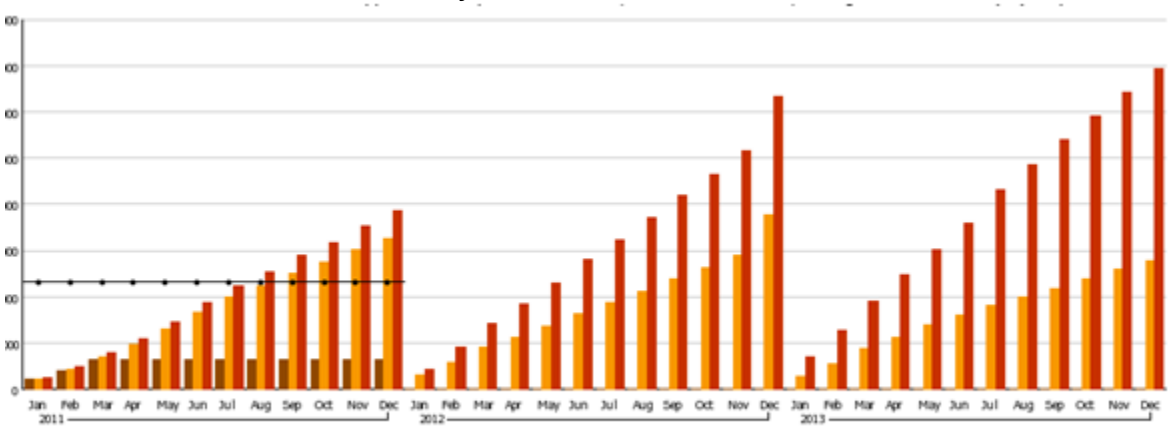
Since data is gathered from a living application, its quality must be checked and confirmed. Therefore we developed a stand-alone QA tool for data integrity. Many times it helped find and correct errors in the data which originate from the data source application.

Report and chart features

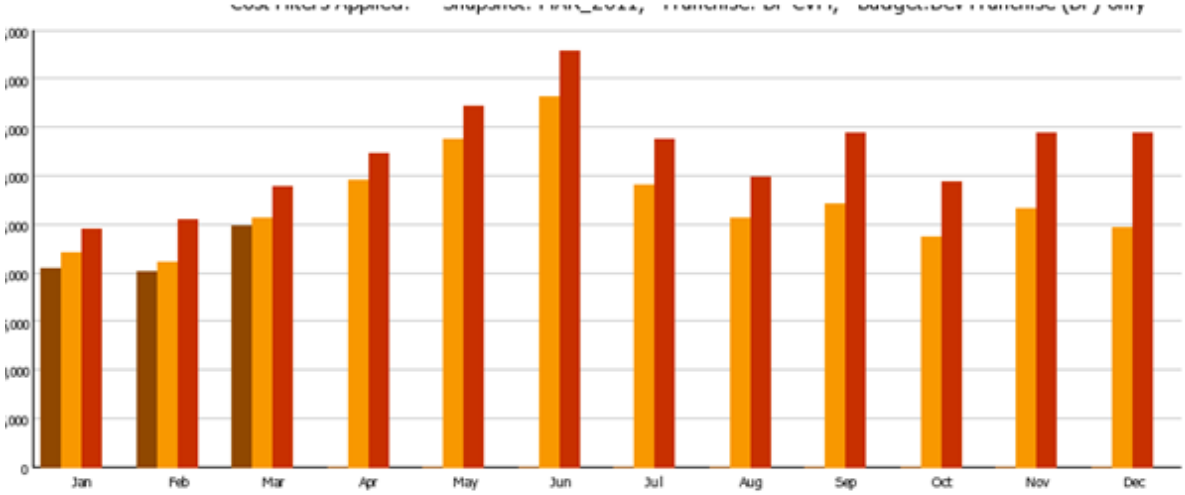
- YTD calculations based on one year



- YTD calculations in more than one year view



- Monthly view of the costs

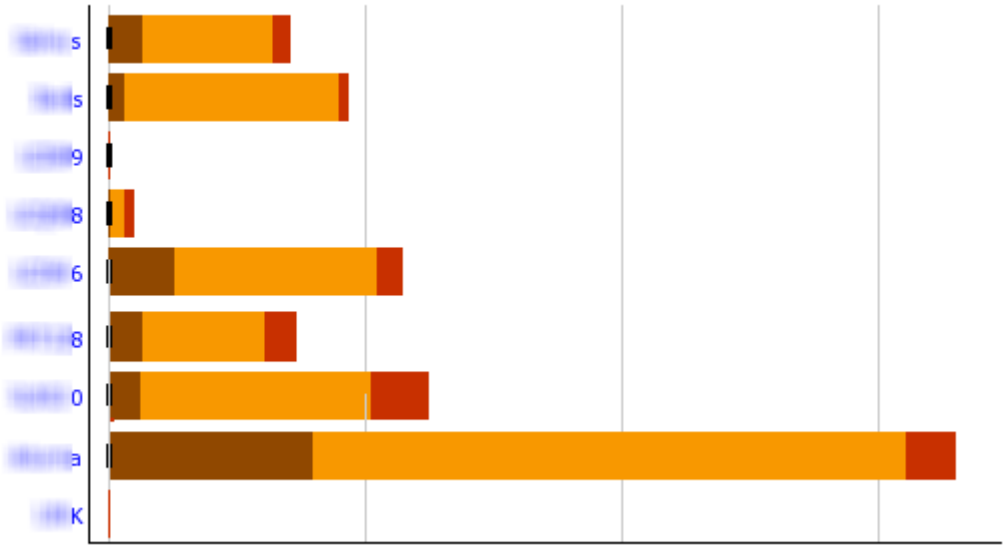


- Dynamic created legends for the charts

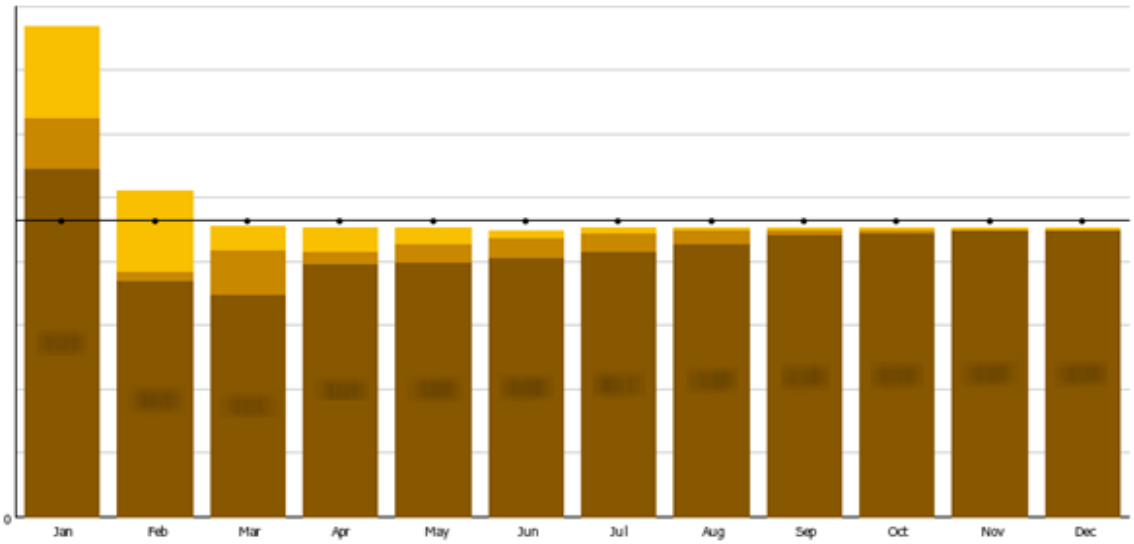
		Compared to:	Selected:	Variance:	
		JUN_2011 (=JUL11 DL) as of EOB 05-JUL-11	**Current SN as of EOB 11-JUL-11**	**calculation method Selected - Compared to full year**	
		Full Year	Full Year	Δ	Δ %
FC	kUSD	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
wFC	kUSD	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
ACT	kUSD	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TB	kUSD	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

		Based on: MAR_2011 (=APR11 DL) as of EOB 07-APR-11		
		Mar	YTD	Full Year
FC	kUSD			
wFC	kUSD			
ACT	kUSD			
TB	kUSD			
YTG-r	kUSD			
YTG-r	%			
YTG-a	kUSD			
YTG-a	%			
Risk	kUSD			
xACT/m	kUSD			

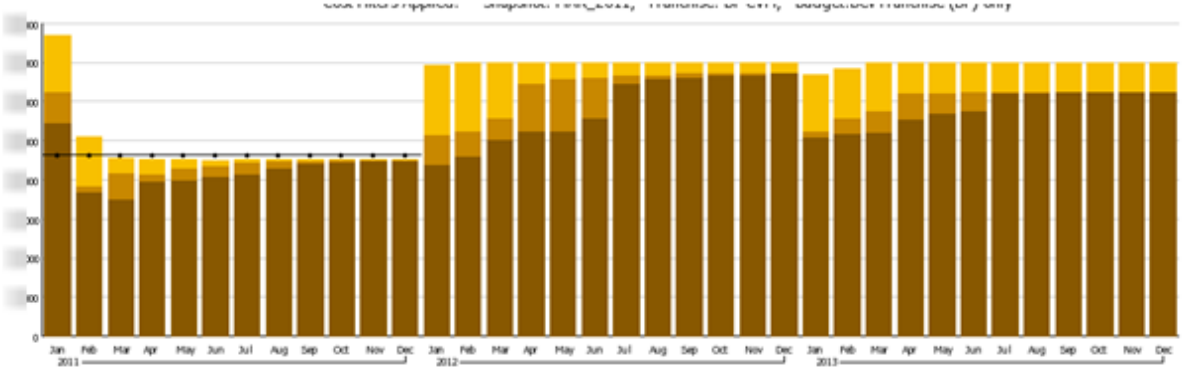
- Cumulative calculations based on the different cost types



- Future virtualization of the costs using past snapshots and costs simulation for the future using the last one



- Three years simulations



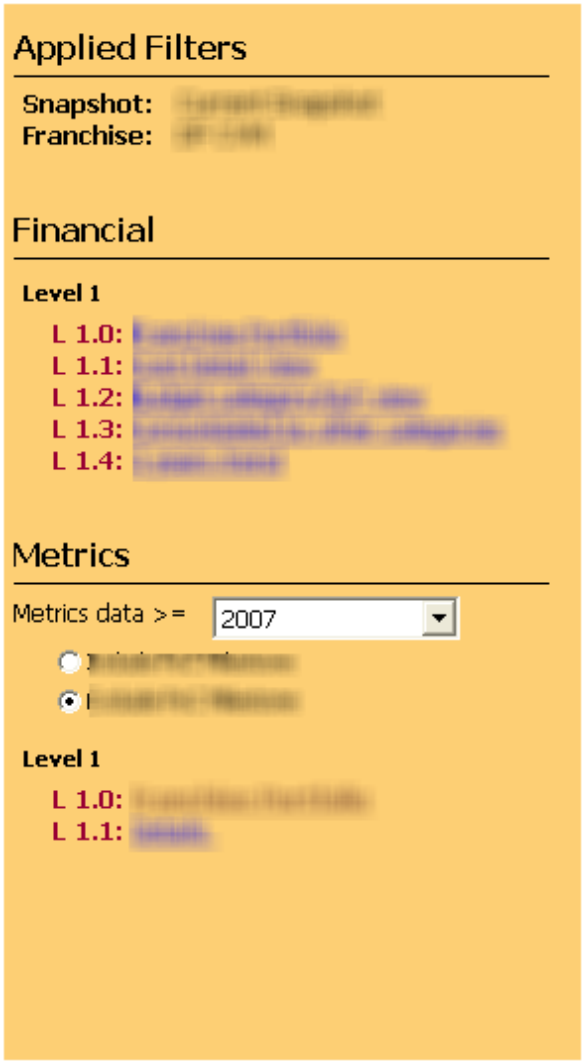
- Variances between snapshots costs

FRANCHISE	BRAND	Selected SN: MAR_2011			Compared to:APR_2011			Calculated Variances					
								Δ KUSD			Δ %		
		FC	wFC	ACT	FC	wFC	ACT	FC	wFC	ACT	FC	wFC	ACT
Total													

more »

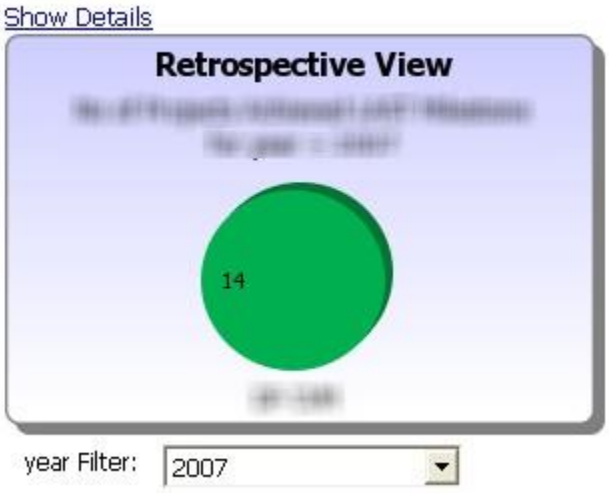
- Chart view in the intersection cell for better visual presentation of the data

- Quick navigation panel

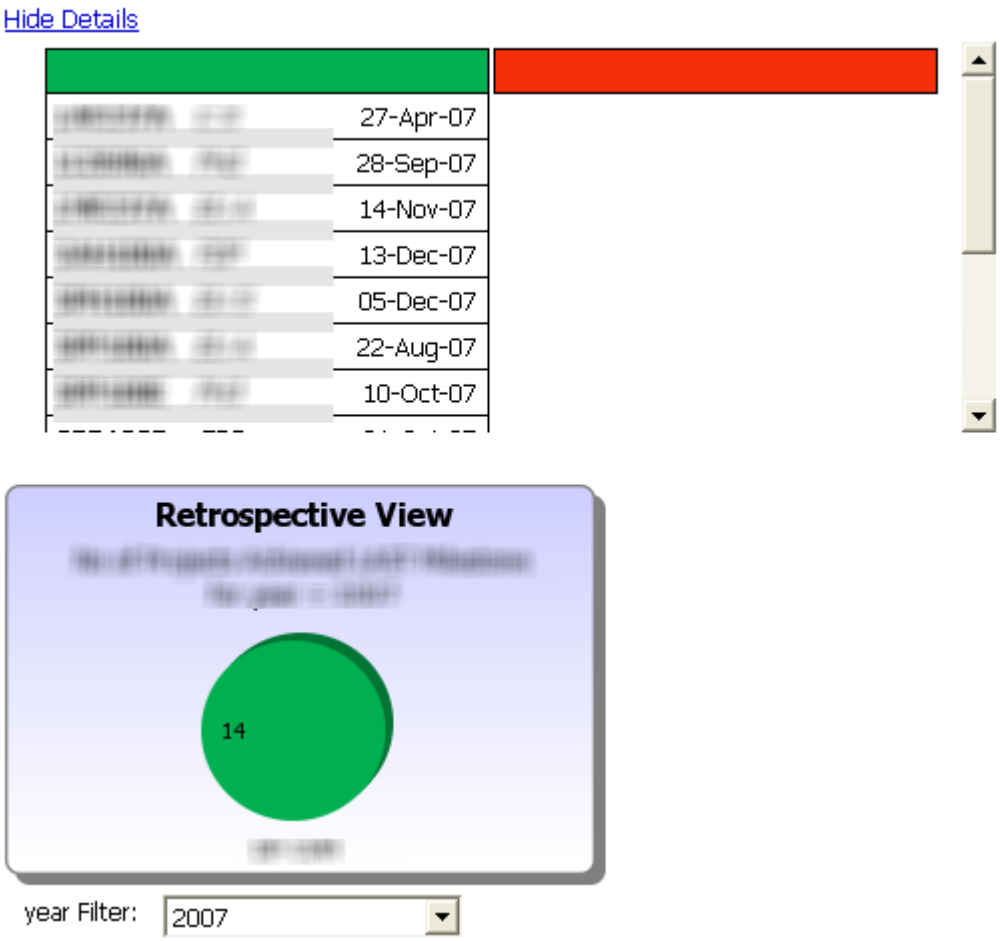


- Easy navigation between report levels

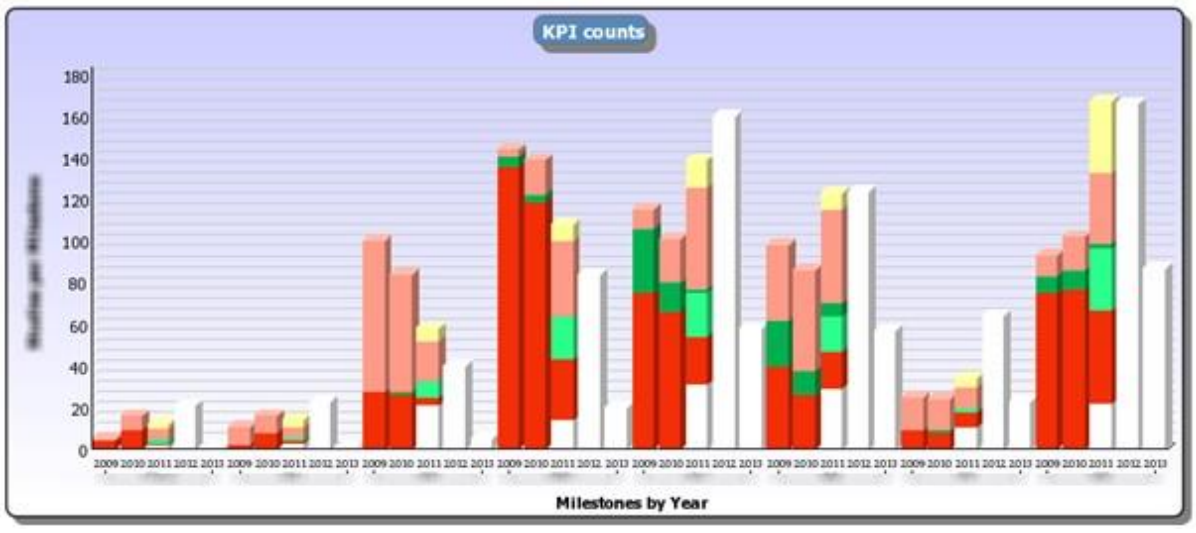
- Different milestones tracking for the process



- Details what is in the pie:



- Milestones by years



- Quick navigation from one to more than one years for the charts
- Crosstab Freeze Row ideal for vertical scrolling

Analysis of the milestones – when it is planned, when it is finished, the delta, if it is completed on time?....

METRICS		2011 PLANNED	COMPLETED	AS GREEN	AS RED	TARGET	RESULT	MAX	MIN	AVG	2010 PLANNED	COMPLETED	AS GREEN	AS RED	TARGET	RESULT	MAX	MIN	AVG
	details					100%	0								100%	100%			
	details					100%	0								100%	100%			
	details					100%	0								100%	100%			
	details					100%	0%												
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	details					100%	100%								100%	100%			
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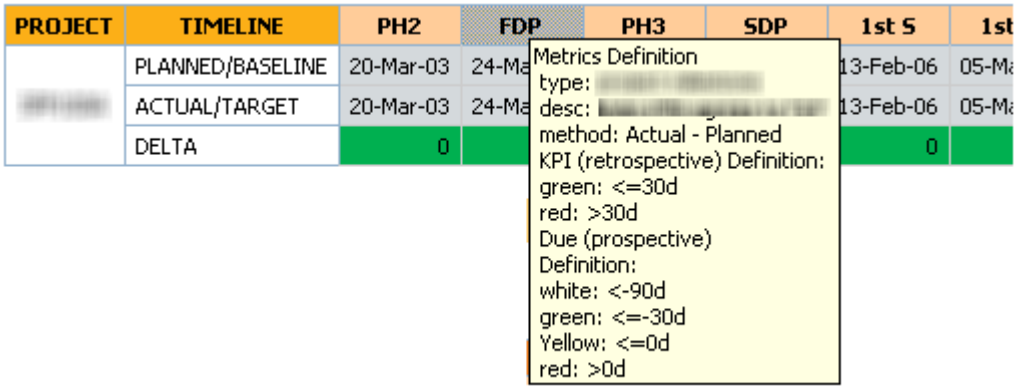
	details														100%	100%			

- Details for each cell of the analysis

- Embedded results from the server services as a report
- Dynamic tooltip description for each column header



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- Dynamic legend for each chart, table and crosstab

Study Milestones coloring		Retrospective		Prospective			
Milestone	Case						
[illegible]		<=-3	>-3	<-90	<=-30	<=0	>0
[illegible]		<=-3	>-3	<-90	<=-30	<=0	>0
[illegible]		<=-3	>-3	<-90	<=-30	<=0	>0
[illegible]		<=3	>3	<-90	<=-30	<=0	>0
[illegible]	[illegible]	<=-7	>-7	<-17	<=-12	<=-7	>-7
[illegible]	[illegible]	<=-42	>-42	<-62	<=-58	<=-42	>-42
[illegible]	[illegible]	<=-70	>-70	<-90	<=-85	<=-70	>-70
[illegible]		<=-3	>-3	<-90	<=-30	<=0	>0
[illegible]		<-12	>-12	<-23	<=-18	<=-3	>-3
[illegible]		<=-3	>-3	<-90	<=-30	<=0	>0
[illegible]	[illegible]	<=-70	>-70	<-90	<=-85	<=-70	>-70
[illegible]	[illegible]	<=-175	>-175	<-195	<=-190	<=-175	>-175
[illegible]		<=-3	>-3	<-90	<=-30	<=0	>0
[illegible]		<=-133	>-133	<-154	<=-147	<=-133	>-133
[illegible]		<=-3	>-3	<-90	<=-30	<=0	>0
[illegible]		<=-133	>-133	<-154	<=-147	<=-133	>-133

Dynamic coloring of the cells dependent of the Milestone status