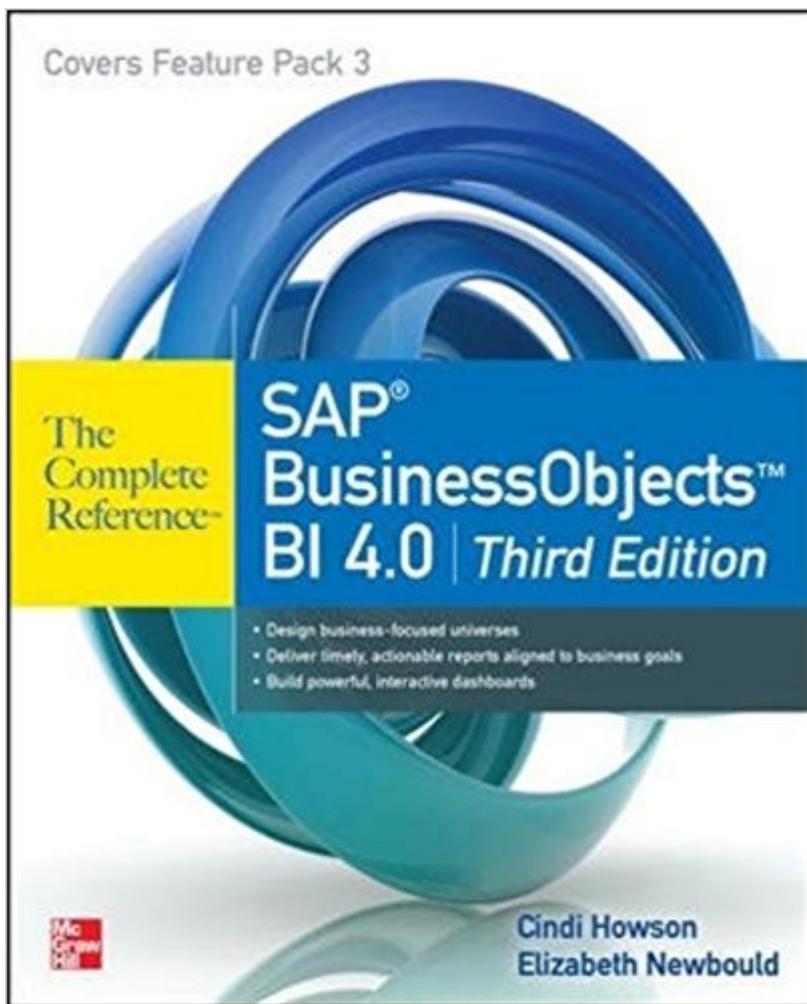


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SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.0 The Complete Reference 3/E



Synopsis

The definitive reference for building actionable business intelligence—completely revised for SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.0. Unleash the full potential of business intelligence with fact-based decisions, aligned to business goals, using reports and dashboards that lead from insight to action. SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.0: The Complete Reference offers completely updated coverage of the latest BI platform. Find out how to work with the new Information Design Tool to create universes that access multiple data sources and SAP BW. See how to translate complex business questions into highly efficient Web Intelligence queries and publish your results to the BI Launchpad. Learn how to create dashboards from data sourced through a universe or spreadsheet. The most important concepts for universe designers, report and dashboard authors, and business analysts are fully explained and illustrated by screenshots, diagrams, and step-by-step instructions. Establish and evolve BI goals. Maximize your BI investments by offering the right module to the right user. Create robust universes with the Information Design Tool, leveraging multiple data sources, derived tables, aggregate awareness, and parameters. Develop a security plan that is scalable and flexible. Design Web Intelligence reports from basic to advanced. Create sophisticated calculations and advanced formatting to highlight critical business trends. Build powerful dashboards to embed in PowerPoint or the BI Launchpad. Use Explorer to visually navigate large data sets and uncover patterns.

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Customer Reviews

Cindi Howson is the founder of BI Scorecard, an independent industry analyst, and faculty member of The Data Warehousing Institute (TDWI). She is the bestselling author of *BusinessObjects XI: The Complete Reference* and *Successful Business Intelligence*. Elizabeth Newbould is the owner of Solstice Consulting Group (www.scg360.com), a premier BI and data warehousing solutions firm. She has more than 15 years of experience successfully deploying SAP *BusinessObjects* solutions.

SAP BusinessObjects BI 4.0 The Complete Reference is just that: a complete overview and guide to the latest version of the *Business Objects* suite of analytical applications. The authors have done an admirable job of updating the material from the previous versions of the book; preserving content that is still applicable to the new version as well as expanding and enhancing material to bring it up to date. I am particularly fond of the order of presentation, which takes the reader from a "birds eye view" of BI strategy and deployment, to the development of the universe (semantic layer), to the use of analytical tools by power users and business analysts/executives. New material is included on *BO Explorer* and *Dashboards*, and it is targeted at the non-technical user who will get the most from these applications. The bulk of the book is devoted to the *Information Design Tool*, which is *BO 4.0*'s expanded version of *Universe Designer*, incorporating elements of *Data Federator* to allow for the development of multiple data foundations and business layers utilizing more than one data source. Seasoned universe designers will find this material invaluable when upgrading to the new platform as the *Designer* tool has been supplanted by a much more robust and feature-rich application. The material on *Web Intelligence* will also prove helpful as numerous new features have been added to bring the product closer to a full-client analytical tool. It should be noted that the book does not cover *BO Data Services*, nor does it provide in-depth material on deployment (Windows, UNIX, etc.), server architecture or performance tuning, but this is largely due to the intended target audience. If you are a *BO* universe designer, or a business analyst relying on *BO 4.0* to provide business intelligence, this will certainly become a well-thumbed reference in your library.

The *Complete reference* is really one of the best book series that you may own to learn anything. I used to learn programming using *complete reference* and yes, this is really a prefect way to learn things. this book is wonderful as well. I recommend this book to every one working with *SAP BO*. This book will cover *Universes*, *Webi Reports* and *dashboards*. I recommend also to read the following books if you want to focus on a specific area:^{*} *Creating Universes using SAP BusinessObjects*. [as a step by step guide to learn how to create a *Universe* from scratch].^{*} *SAP*

BusinessObjects Reporting cook book. [as a fast tips on how to do things in SAP BO rich client]*SAP BusinessObjects Dashboard 4.0 cook book. [I really like this book.]

Ms. Howson et al do a good job. Only two complaints: the graphics are too small to be read easily (by me) and they need to update to include all the new features of the latest software releases. I'd also appreciate access to the digital version (mainly so I could read the graphics).

IF you are looking for a BOBJ user's guide, look no further. The first 15 chapters are all about the universe life cycle: design, construction, deployment, security. Second 15 chapters are about reporting both in WEBI and Dashboards. Crystal for Enterprise 4.0 is unfortunately omitted. A "complete reference" with a key element of the architecture missing seems somewhat disingenuous. This cost it the 5th star, for me. But since the author has written best selling Crystal Reports books in the past, perhaps she is planning a sequel. Let's hope! If you can find help for Crystal elsewhere, the buy this book and kick some BOBJ but!!

The book is great teaches you what the icons and buttons do but contains a lot of unnecessary fluff and would have liked it to go into more technical detail BUT then again maybe I am not the intended audience of this book. It did help me understand the IDT relatively quickly.

I'm a 11 year BO veteran and finding a good resource other than forums is hard to find. This book is really good, Its a must have in any BO library

We recently migrated to this at work and I had to get up to speed quickly. The book is very well organized. I can easily find what I need.

Highly Recommended!

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