IBM Cognos Collaboration

Make better decisions with stronger teams

Highlights

- Help decision-makers across the organization build stronger relationships

- Connect people with the right information and resources

- Build a powerful corporate memory

- Compare, analyze and share decisions and decision outcomes

Overview

IBM Cognos® Collaboration is a set of capabilities within Cognos Business Intelligence that facilitates decision-making for groups and teams. With Cognos Collaboration, users build stronger relationships and learn from history with a centralized, searchable corporate memory.

Cognos Collaboration helps teams maximize their efficiency and ensure the most effective use of resources when making important decisions.

Cognos Collaboration consists of the following key components:

1. **Integration with Lotus® Connections**: Integrated access to online, collaborative tools makes the most of modern social media for users to work in teams on decisions.
2. **Search**: Maintain a strong corporate memory with the ability to search a single, historical record of how issues were resolved and decisions made.

Facilitate stronger decision-making

Companies can ensure effective tactical decisions at every level of the business by connecting people with the right information. Cognos Collaboration helps people connect with other relevant people in the organization to ensure strategic decision-making at its best.

Cognos Collaboration helps organizations to:

- Eliminate knowledge silos.
- Reduce time and resources spent gathering intelligence.
- Introduce greater accountability and transparency for team decisions.
- Ensure consistent use of best practices.
- Ensure a complete cycle from decision to action.
- Speed up task execution with greater access to information from a larger professional network.

Help build stronger relationships

Cognos Collaboration features a set of social media tools centered around Lotus Connections that allows users to make the most of social utility tools in a business environment. Users collect, organize, share and reuse work with integrated access from Cognos Business Intelligence dashboards to Lotus Connections Activities.
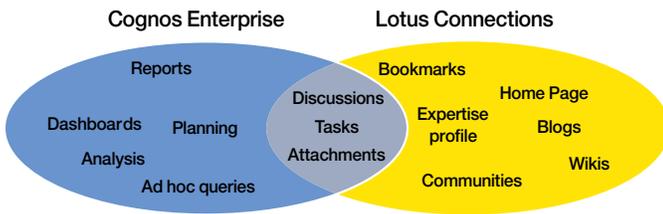

Figure 1: Integration with Lotus Connections allows teams to collaborate in a virtual environment, and provides a centralized location for decision-making processes that is easy to search.

Lotus Connections Activities

Lotus Connections is social software for business. It empowers business professionals to develop, nurture, and remain in contact with a network of their colleagues and respond quickly to business opportunities by calling upon the expertise in their network. They can also discuss and refine new creative ideas with communities of coworkers, partners and customers.

Users link directly from IBM Cognos Workspace (within Cognos Business Intelligence) to Lotus Connections. A preview pane automatically opens up listing the current threaded discussions.

Team members collaborating on decisions can link directly from Lotus Connections to the relevant dashboard, to ensure everyone is working on the same page and with the same data.

With integrated Lotus Connections, users can:

- Link directly from Lotus Connections to a Cognos Workspace dashboard.
- Use single sign-on for both Cognos Workspace dashboards and Lotus Connections.
- Add other individuals to an Activity at any point in the decision-making process.
- Search for Activities directly from the Cognos Workspace window.
- Send email notifications directly from the Activity.
- Post messages, share files and links to websites, create to-do items and assign them.
- Save, organize and share bookmarks.
- Organize Activities into sections to keep projects on track.
- Filter Activities based on the dashboard.
- Create and name the sections, and/or save the Activity as a template for reuse.
- See immediately updates to any Activities, which are automatically highlighted.
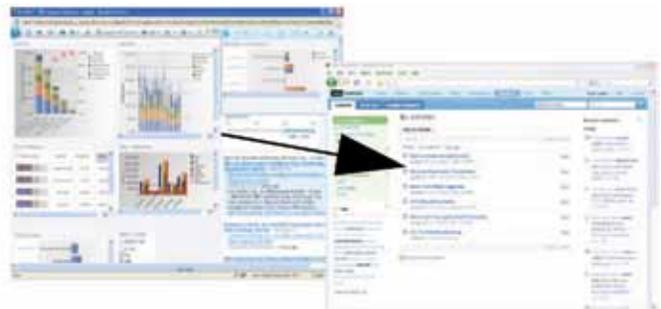

Figure 2: Users link directly from a Cognos Workspace dashboard to Lotus Connections.

Cognos Workspace together with Lotus Connections enables organizations to:

- Bring together the data, emails, IM chats, documents, messages, and other information users need to build strong relationships and execute on a team decision.
- Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of business processes by using existing skills discovered through the professional network.
- Instill greater confidence in decisions, which can easily be vetted by experts across the organization.
- Stimulate innovation with greater access to the experience and knowledge of more employees, partners, and customers.

Build a reliable corporate memory

Cognos Collaboration adds to the current capabilities within Cognos Business Intelligence so companies can build a single, historical record that keeps track of how issues were resolved and decisions were reached.

Decision-makers no longer have to reinvent the wheel every time they approach a challenge or opportunity. Using a powerful search function, they can look back through BI reports and group discussions on Lotus Connections to see how decisions were made.

This corporate memory is a critical asset to every organization. As multiple stakeholders contribute to final decisions, Cognos Collaboration preserves and centralizes these discussions and keeps them fully searchable. The corporate memory allows users to review decisions, analyze their outcomes and benefit from lessons learned in the past.

In addition to the regular search functions available in Cognos Business Intelligence, Cognos Collaboration lets users:

- Search the Activities history directly from Cognos Workspace.
- Search through currently active Activities.
- Search for any related items in Lotus Connections (blogs, wikis, communities, etc.).

Building a corporate memory with Cognos Collaboration helps users to:

- Track and audit decisions and initiatives for future reference.
- Find, analyze and easily reference past decisions and how they were resolved.
- Compare and analyze decision outcomes.
- Share key insights and learn from others.

A strong corporate memory is an invaluable resource to any organization. It ensures the vast knowledge and experience developed over countless years stays easily accessible to future generations of employees, managers and executives.

Conclusion

Cognos Collaboration empowers people to easily connect with others, establish dynamic decision networks and maintain an information hub for group decisions. It helps organizations build stronger relationships and develop a reliable corporate memory to keep the business evolving in the right direction.

About IBM Business Analytics

IBM Business Analytics software delivers data-driven insights that help organizations work smarter and outperform their peers. This comprehensive portfolio includes solutions for business intelligence, predictive analytics and decision management, performance management, and risk management.

Business Analytics solutions enable companies to identify and visualize trends and patterns in areas, such as customer analytics, that can have a profound effect on business performance. They can compare scenarios, anticipate potential threats and opportunities, better plan, budget and forecast resources, balance risks against expected returns and work to meet regulatory requirements. By making analytics widely available, organizations can align tactical and strategic decision-making to achieve business goals. For further information please visit **ibm.com**/business-analytics.

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