

GSU/GBI After action report - April 17, 2009

A five day training session was held at the GBI to provide Modeling and Report Authoring Training.

Breakdown of Tasks completed:

1. Provide technical assistance on remote laptops for the install of Framework Manager and Transformer developer tools.
2. Completed setup and testing of the Cognos 8.4 security integration with the local Windows NTLM to allow authentication and logon of all users on the Cognos 8.4 BI Server. Cognos Environment requires user Logon Authentication.
3. Conducted Proof of concept - Creating Cubes using the Transformer Tool and generated reporting with GBI Homicide crime statistic data.
4. Using the GBI Crime Statistic data we conducted Framework Manager and Metadata training. The end result was a Star Schema Metadata model published to Cognos 8.4. Preparatory tasks included Data Extract, creation of Fact Calculation - uploaded into SQL Server 2005 database on the GBI Server. A time dimension was also built on SQL Server 2005 and imported into Framework Manager.
5. Framework Manager modeling instruction included an application over view of the features and functionality, importing from a datasource and preparing the metadata for reporting. We constructed our model using 3 separate views (Foundation, Consolidation and Presentation). Once modeling was completed we published a Homicide Package and testing the output using Query and Report Studio.
6. We conducted training in Report Authoring covering various types of Reports i.e. List, Crosstab, Charts and reviewed Filtering, Prompts and Calculations.

Issues Encountered/Required follow-up

1. Network connectivity (outside the GBI firewall) using the Cognos developers tools installed (Transformer & Framework Manager). Nadia encountered an issue connecting the datasource on the GBI Server. Internal GBI Network Administrator will need to verify the database port accessibility for Developers outside of the GBI firewall security.
2. When installing the client developer tools (Framework Manager and Transformer) on the laptops we could not install all components in the same Cognos\C8 directory we had a version compatibility error which forced us to install each component in separate directories. After investigation of the Instlogs for each install on the Cognos server we found the following mismatch of the 8.4 builds amongst each of the components;

BI Server 8.4-27.78

Modeling 8.4-18.27

Transformer 8.4-27.78

PPlay 8.4-27.27

Follow-up/Next Steps

Dr. Friedmann and his team will evaluate the GBI Homicide data published in Cognos 8 and will advise IBM Cognos Education on further onsite training requirements.

Robert Bovino
Education Specialist
IBM Corporation