Infor® BI Q&A 11 - Insight on demand

Whether it is acquiring new companies, launching new products, or finding new ways to beat the competition, it is important to know where you are heading and why. Employees that have timely access to relevant information make better recommendations and strategic decisions. To achieve this requires real business intelligence and reporting proficiency.

With Infor® BI Q&A 11, anyone in your organisation can get 24/7 access to realtime information to make the right decisions at the right time. Technical and non-technical users alike can easily access the information they need and generate reports with the intuitive and efficient interface.
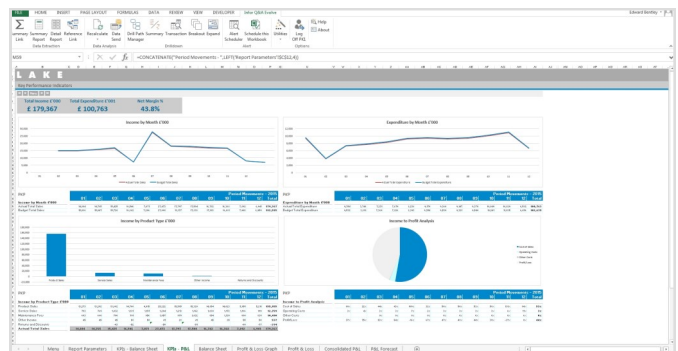
By using deep connections to data throughout your organisation, employees from all lines of business - including finance, sales, human resources, and any other department - can harness this powerful, ad-hoc querying and analysis tool.

Key Features

This document covers core elements and product enhancements available in Infor® BI Q&A 11.

Reporting

- Standard Infor SunSystems® Q&A reporting functionality continues to be the focus of Q&A 11, providing the ability to create reports using familiar tools, such as:

  - Reference links
  - Summary links
  - Summary reports
  - Detail reports

- Data send is available for users of Infor SunSystems 4, 5, and 6
- SunSystems 4 users continue to create server side NDF files
- SunSystems 5 and 6 users have the ability to send data directly through to SunSystems Connect and continue to support output to XML payloads.

100% Excel-based

Core elements of Infor Q&A Executive have now been built directly into the Excel client of Q&A 11 to provide a complete single working area within Microsoft® Excel. These features include:

- Drilldown to summary: This feature, which previously opened an additional drill window using Q&A Executive, has now been brought directly into the Excel client. Drilldown to summary provides an additional worksheet with the extracted data at summary level.
- Drilldown to transactions: This feature, which previously opened an additional drill window using Q&A Executive, has now been brought directly into the Excel client. Drilldown to transactions provides an additional worksheet with extracted detail level data.

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Infor BI Q&A 11

- **Breakout**: This feature was previously only available separately in Q&A Executive. Q&A 11 brings it directly into the Excel client, allowing users to break a worksheet out by any of their business dimensions (e.g. Company, Project, Division, Cost Centre), generating a new highlighted worksheet for each element of data within the chosen dimension.

- **Expand**: This feature was previously only available separately in Q&A Executive. Q&A 11 brings it directly into the Excel client, allowing users to Expand rows in a worksheet by any of their business dimensions (e.g. Account, Company, Project, Division, Cost Centre), generating a new row for each element of data within the chosen dimension.

- **Drill path manager**: This feature finalises the above features to allow full control of user drill paths within a dockable window in Excel. Incorporating the core features from Infor Executive gives the user the ability to:
  - Save and delete the current drill path.
  - Run a previous saved drill path.
  - Delete and rename child worksheets.
  - Use the interactive drill path manager to link the tree to the worksheets.

Other improvements

- Calculation methods previously forced Excel to change to manual calculation; however, enhancements to Q&A 11 now allow Excel to work with an automatic calculation.
- Infor SunSystems 5 and 6 users no longer need to have Infor SunSystems User Manager installed on their clients.
- Setup and maintenance have been merged into one application called setup utility, which contains core elements to safely configure and setup Infor Evolve users.
- The setup utility is now centrally held on the Infor Evolve server and requires only a single configuration to provide connections to all users.

- The user interface has been improved and updated to the new Infor standards.
- Product help has been updated to reflect new product features that concentrate on carrying out asks with simple, clear explanations.
- A report scheduler/alert is now built into Excel as a dockable panel that is available to all clients. This continues with the theme of working from a single workspace.
- Tasks can be shared easily thanks to enhanced security and improved stability of the alert tasks and Excel workbooks by saving them to a centralised SQL database.
- The workbook can be scheduled with continued support for scheduling the Excel workbook, command line, email, alert functions, and Datalink-specific product tasks.

Migration and setup tools

- The migration tool allows a simple migration of the current centralised database to the Q&A 11 centralised database. Migration will cover serialisation, server details, user names, and user profiles.
- Infor BI Q&A 11 Plugin Checker is a new utility that allows the user to check the status of the plugin within Excel to add and change load behaviours for that machine. The checker will support load and unload for current and all users.
- A report migration wizard is provided to help with conversion of reports written in Q&A XL.

Technical enhancements

- Patching is supported to allow critical updates to be applied to the server and its clients.
- Unicode support gives Q&A 11 support for Unicode languages, which was previously restricted in Q&A 10. Users are able to report and filter within Q&A 11 with a Unicode database.
- The Q&A 11 server offers single centralised Datalink storage, which means that each user no longer needs a copy of the Datalink. Nor is a Datalink update be required on each client machine as was previously required with Infor Q&A.
- Users now have access to a single centralised configuration database. Users no longer need to have their own access database (LsAgEg10.mdb) to store personal and engine settings.

- The Q&A 11 client installation now has a lower server and client footprint. Moving the majority of client side objects to the server and removing user profiles has reduced the installation from 200MB to 15MB.
- Error logging enhancements have been made on both the client and server side. Additional log viewer tools allow the user to alter the log level as required.
- End-user warning messages have been drastically reduced and cleaned up in order to share problem details with the user, including additional information held in the client and server logs.