DataSyn GmbH

Implementing Power BI with Microsoft Business Central

This powerful combination offers a seamless pathway to extract, visualize, and analyze data from one of the world's leading ERP systems. Implementing Power BI with Microsoft Business Central entails several key considerations for a successful journey into the realm of data-driven decision-making.

1. **Data Governance and Quality**
   A robust Power BI implementation starts with clean, well-structured data. Ensuring data quality within Microsoft Business Central is essential. This involves defining data governance practices, maintaining data accuracy, and establishing a data model that aligns with your specific business needs.
   - It is recommended to start with a data quality report as a first report of all
   - Keep data quality always a separate report and never approach this topic decentralized in each report

2. **Data Security**
   Data security is paramount. Access to sensitive business data must be controlled within Power BI, ensuring only authorized individuals can access and view specific reports and dashboards. Implement row-level security for data confidentiality.

3. **MSBC setup**
   Publish only the relevant tables in web services.
   - keep always the original table names in web services and downstream systems
   - Master data should never come from lines, because if they change, they won't be updated in the lines. Use cards instead!

4. **Data Extraction and Transformation**
   Power BI can connect directly to Microsoft Business Central, allowing for real-time data access. Properly configuring data extraction and transformation is pivotal. Utilizing Power Query and Power Automate to automate data loading and transformation tasks streamlines the process.

5. **Customized Reporting**
   The versatility of Power BI enables the creation of customized reports and dashboards. Understand the KPIs and metrics relevant to your business, and tailor the reports to meet those requirements. Incorporate drill-through capabilities to gain granular insights.

6. **Scalability and Performance**
   As your business grows, so will your data. Design your Power BI implementation to be scalable, ensuring it can handle increased data volumes without performance degradation.
   - MSBC data are fragmented across hundreds of tables
   - Hire an MSBC freelancer to code AL queries, which compromise the relevant data in a few queries
   - Furthermore, these queries should speed up your report development because you can make more transformation upstream, instead of doing it in each report

7. **User Training**
   Effective user training is a critical component of a successful implementation. Ensure your team is proficient in navigating Power BI's features and interpreting the reports. This empowers users to make data-driven decisions.