

Cognos Analysis For Excel User Guide

IBM Cognos 8 Business Intelligence
Analysis Studio

Version 8.4.1



User Guide

Information Management software

Cognos Analysis for Excel User Guide

Cognos Analysis for Excel is an advanced tool designed to empower users with the ability to analyze and visualize their data directly within Microsoft Excel. This guide serves as a comprehensive resource for users looking to harness the full potential of this powerful integration. From installation to advanced features, this guide will walk you through everything you need to know to effectively utilize Cognos Analysis for Excel.

Introduction to Cognos Analysis for Excel

Cognos Analysis for Excel is a part of IBM's Cognos suite, enabling users to connect to Cognos data

sources and perform rich analysis and reporting right within Excel. It facilitates seamless integration and allows users to leverage Excel's familiar interface while tapping into the robust reporting capabilities of Cognos.

Key Features

- Data Connectivity: Direct access to Cognos reports, data models, and data warehouses.
- Pivot Tables and Charts: Users can create dynamic pivot tables and charts for in-depth analysis.
- Data Refresh: Easily refresh data to get the most current information from Cognos.
- Collaboration: Share reports and insights with team members directly through Excel.
- Security: Enforces the same security measures as Cognos, ensuring data integrity and confidentiality.

Installation and Setup

Before diving into the functionalities of Cognos Analysis for Excel, it's essential to ensure that you have the proper installation and setup.

System Requirements

1. Operating System: Windows 10 or later.
2. Microsoft Excel: Version 2016 or later is recommended.
3. Cognos Analytics: Version 11.1 or later.
4. Memory: Minimum of 4GB RAM; 8GB or more is recommended.

Installation Steps

1. Download the Installer: Obtain the Cognos Analysis for Excel installer from the IBM website or your organization's IT department.
2. Run the Installer: Double-click the downloaded file and follow the prompts to install the application.
3. Configuration: After installation, launch the application and enter the URL for your Cognos server when prompted.
4. Authentication: Log in using your Cognos credentials.
5. Add-ins in Excel: Open Excel, navigate to the 'Add-ins' tab, and ensure Cognos is activated.

Navigating Cognos Analysis for Excel

Once installed, navigating Cognos Analysis for Excel becomes intuitive. The user interface integrates seamlessly with Excel, making it easier for users to transition between familiar Excel functionalities and new Cognos features.

Main Interface Components

- Cognos Ribbon: This is where you will find all the Cognos-specific tools and features.
- Data Sources Panel: Access your Cognos content and data models here.
- Report Viewer: Displays data fetched from Cognos and allows for real-time interactions.

Connecting to Data Sources

1. Open the Data Sources Panel: Click on the 'Cognos' tab in the Excel ribbon.
2. Select Data Source: Choose from the available data sources (e.g., reports, packages).
3. Import Data: Select the specific data items you wish to analyze and click 'Import'.
4. Refresh Data: Use the refresh button to update your data to reflect the most current information.

Creating Reports and Analysis

With your data successfully imported, you can now proceed to create reports and perform analysis.

Using Pivot Tables

Pivot tables are a powerful feature that allows users to summarize and analyze large datasets.

1. Insert Pivot Table: Go to the 'Insert' menu in Excel and select 'PivotTable'.
2. Select Data Source: Choose your imported Cognos data as the source for your pivot table.
3. Arrange Fields: Drag and drop fields into the Rows, Columns, and Values areas as needed.
4. Analyze Data: Use the pivot table to explore data trends, patterns, and insights.

Creating Charts

Visual representation of data can enhance understanding and communication.

1. Select Data: Highlight the data range or pivot table that you want to visualize.
2. Insert Chart: Click on the 'Insert' tab in Excel and choose the type of chart that best represents your data (e.g., bar chart, line chart).
3. Customize Chart: Use the chart tools to modify the design, layout, and format of your chart.

Advanced Features

Cognos Analysis for Excel offers several advanced features for power users.

Data Exploration

- Drill-Down Capabilities: Users can drill down into data to obtain more granular insights.
- Slice and Dice: Easily rearrange and filter data to view it from different perspectives.

Data Refresh Options

1. Manual Refresh: Click the refresh button in the Cognos tab to update the data.
2. Automatic Refresh: Set up scheduled refreshes to ensure your data is always up to date.

Collaboration and Sharing

- Sharing Workbooks: Save your Excel workbook and share it with colleagues via email or shared drives.
- Exporting Reports: Export your reports to PDF or other formats for formal presentations.

Troubleshooting Common Issues

Cognos Analysis for Excel users may encounter various issues. Here are some common problems and their solutions.

Connection Issues

- Problem: Unable to connect to Cognos server.
- Solution: Verify the server URL and your internet connection. Check with your IT department if the server is down.

Data Refresh Failures

- Problem: Data does not refresh correctly.
- Solution: Ensure you have the right permissions to access the data. Check the data source's availability.

Performance Lags

- Problem: Excel becomes slow when using Cognos.
- Solution: Reduce the size of the data set you are importing or optimize the pivot tables and charts.

Conclusion

Cognos Analysis for Excel is a robust tool that combines the analytical power of Cognos with the familiarity of Excel. This user guide has provided an overview of its features, installation processes, and advanced functionalities to help users maximize its potential. By understanding how to navigate and utilize Cognos Analysis for Excel effectively, users can enhance their data analysis capabilities and make more informed business decisions. Whether you are a novice or an expert, the integration of Cognos with Excel opens up a world of possibilities for data exploration and reporting.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Cognos Analysis for Excel' used for?

Cognos Analysis for Excel is used to enable users to analyze and manipulate data from IBM Cognos Analytics directly within Microsoft Excel, allowing for advanced data exploration and reporting capabilities.

How can I connect Cognos Analysis for Excel to my data source?

To connect Cognos Analysis for Excel to your data source, open Excel, select 'Cognos Analysis', and then use the 'Connect' option to log into your Cognos environment and select the appropriate data source.

What are the key features of the Cognos Analysis for Excel user guide?

The user guide typically includes features such as installation instructions, connection setup, data retrieval methods, report generation, and tips for using Excel functions effectively with Cognos data.

Can I create complex reports using Cognos Analysis for Excel?

Yes, you can create complex reports using Cognos Analysis for Excel by utilizing Excel's powerful data manipulation tools alongside the analytical capabilities of Cognos, allowing for custom calculations and visualizations.

Is there support for mobile devices in Cognos Analysis for Excel?

Cognos Analysis for Excel is primarily a desktop application and does not have direct support for mobile devices. However, Cognos Analytics provides mobile applications that can be used for analysis and reporting on the go.

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