

Cognos ReportNet: A First Look

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My Sincere Thanks

COGNOS[®]

Analyzer[™]

Meridian[™]

Voyager[™]

~~ENCompass^{RIP}~~

Cognos ReportNet underlies the new Endeavor Analyzer product. Currently, it is only available for Meridian, but it will soon be extended to Voyager, as well (and possibly to the digital products, if there are any left).



Introducing: ReportNet!

In this session, we'll take a look at



ReportNet and see:

- what it's like to work with
- the tools it provides
- basically how good it is for reporting.



Purpose of the Session



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Let's See It!

Analyzer is currently hard for me to use satisfactorily due to:



- Data oddities
- No documentation of the Presentation Layer definition
- Unhelpful error screens
- Lack of training
- Currently only for Meridian

These things will probably be fixed quickly



Current Complaints



Getting to data only through a pre-defined Presentation Layer makes me feel as if I

have been bound in chains. I find it immensely frustrating.

Continuing Complaints





VS.



ReportNet a.k.a. Analyzer has lots of advantages over Access or SQL*Plus:

- Easier to use
- Easier to share
- Easier to schedule reports
- Easier to deploy
- Easier to reformat



Analyzer vs. Access

*I am an
Access guru,
so take my
opinion with
a grain of salt.*



At this point, I'd pick Access over Analyzer philosophically. Access has three big advantages:

- Full access to all data
- No additional cost
- Knowledge carry-over to other databases



My Opinion

Two realities make this decision probably wrong:



- Meridian data is too complex for a normal human being to be able to develop queries in Access
- Voyager will be heading this way and this is where the future lies

Cold Hard Facts





Perhaps the best bet is to get Analyzer, but don't immediately give up Access. This neutralizes some of the benefit of Analyzer, but might make the transition easier. Once Analyzer is more mature, it will be the best choice.



The Best Bet?