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Steps to modernizing your BI and analytics

Business intelligence (BI) and analytics is a top CIO priority, as data allows smart companies to outperform competitors, provide the best customer service and respond to rapidly changing conditions.

Traditionally, centralized IT and BI teams have authored reports and dashboards to ensure a single version of the truth, based largely on transactional data. Today, business users increasingly assemble their own content with easy-to-use data discovery tools that allow them to access a broader range of data sources.

Here are seven steps for modernizing your BI and analytics capabilities:

1

Embrace self-service

The pace of business demands greater user empowerment. IT must shift from the sole do-er to enabler.

2

Business and IT unite

Business and IT experts must partner for success and to leverage the right blend of technical and business skills.

3

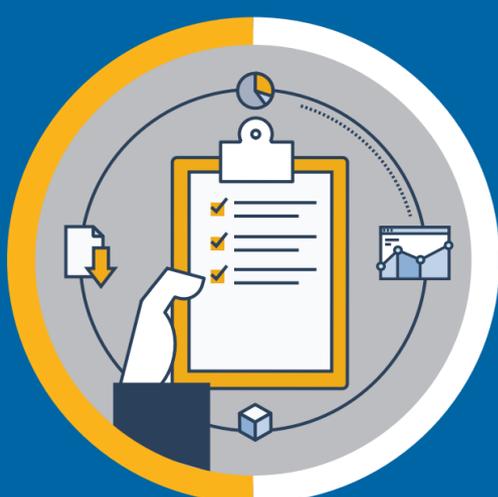### Define target users and usage scenarios

Different people and roles will need different tools and interfaces to get the information they need.

4

Capture critical requirements

Be clear about the information you require to drive your business and the capabilities needed for preparing, accessing, analyzing, sharing and acting on data.

5

Try before you buy

Most vendors have free trials, allowing you to test-drive new tools before making big investments.

6

Rightsize your governance

Provide just the right governance for agility without chaos. At one extreme, let users have free rein over all data, allowing them to explore and fail fast. For external reports, govern more tightly to guarantee integrity.

7

Continuously innovate

Embrace innovations in cloud deployment models, new data sources such as social and streaming, and smart analytics to speed the time to insight.

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