



Cost Effective Data Driven Technology - Scott Brant

Q & A

Q) Is there any point in having a reporting software now? Is that an investment you just get rid of in your firm and just use Power BI? How long does it take to get up and running on Power BI and what are the costs?

A) The key point is looking at Power BI as a managed service. If there are only 10 people in your organisation, you only pay for 10 people to use the Power BI service. You also do get elements for free. If you want to build your own dashboard and your own service, you can do that free of charge. In terms of cost and getting set up, it can take us days. It depends on your data structure and what you're bringing in – but what we're generally seeing and building for those legal firms, it's taking us days to build rather than months. It's a quick return on investment built on your own data structure.

Q) What is included from a Power BI perspective in an E3 License?

A) E3 License will be – as such as standard of Power BI – “free license” which gives you the ability to create your own reports for your own use. The license we see most of our clients taking is Power BI Professional, which costs £7.50 a month. The key point of that is that it allows you to share the report with others which of course is a big part of your data insight. You can build your own dashboard, but you want to share them. We have had some customers build their own dashboard and take screenshots.

Q) You mentioned you could potentially be up and running in a matter of days, is this pretty much a 'plug and play' situation now?

A) It's much more improved now. We largely integrate personally with shared point structure data which is in the box ready for us to use and is much easier for us to manipulate. But with third party solutions and databases, it might be longer than days – it depends on where your data is stored. Microsoft do have connections in Power BI to make things easier now.

Q) We've been looking into Microsoft Workplace analytics and there were analytics where I've been disappointed with the fact that it's only 'enterprise license' that allow you to tap into the 'My Analytics Report'. I don't know whether Workplace Analytics is an opportunity for you to monitor productivity and the quality of meetings etc. Can BI replicate that? Is there a way of quickly getting it to support data created by teams to help understand the productivity of remote workers for those that don't qualify for the enterprise license?

A) Potentially. The Workplace analytics is a high cost solution. You could in theory build other storage areas – although we'd be limited with what we can do with the API and connecting to Microsoft. A lot of that they keep behind locked doors. There might be some elements in there where you could effectively collect that data more “manually” – because it's just the reporting and the layer on top.