Preferred Strategies
BI & REPORTING SOLUTIONS FOR JD EDWARDS

JD Edwards Reporting & Analytics Survey Highlights
August 2018

ERP Offers Extensive Functionality, but Is Missing the Mark with Business Users

JD Edwards offers an integrated enterprise resource planning suite with more than 80 application modules to support a diverse set of business processes and key industry solutions, as well as end-user reporting and personalization. ERP solutions such as JD Edwards (JDE) EnterpriseOne and JDE World can provide a unified operational system for IT to manage finance, talent acquisition, supply chain management, e-commerce, and customer experience. However, what ERP has thus far failed to address is the democratization of data and actionable insights.

The pace of business today means business users can no longer afford to send requests to IT and data science teams and wait for reports—and with the acceleration of digital transformation, there are fewer hands on deck in IT and less budget to handle such requests. Business users need real-time insights to do their jobs better, and if the company does

not provide those insights through a centralized resource, business users will continue to find their own tools, creating a patchwork quilt of technologies that is impossible to support, secure, and manage—what Rita Sallam, Vice President of Research at Gartner, calls "the Wild West of Data."
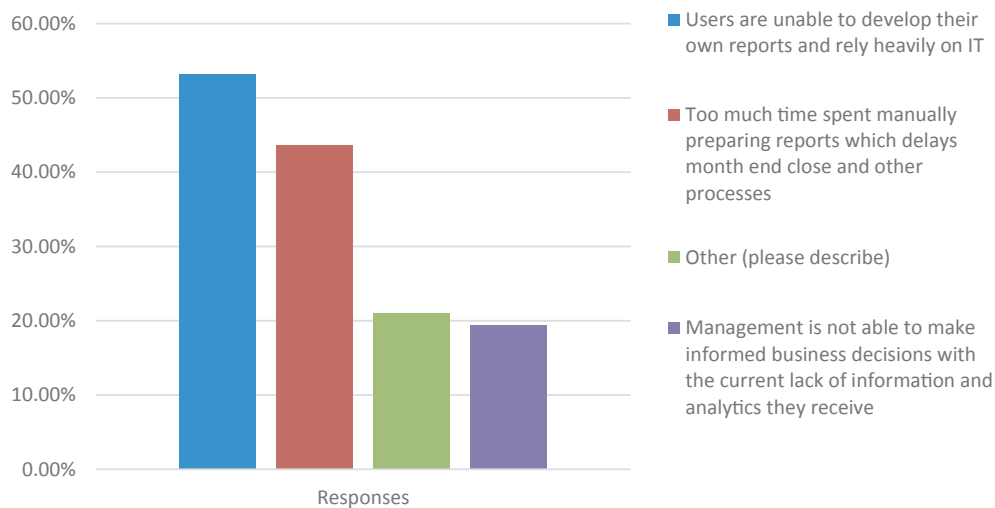
Users Report a Desire and Need to Access JDE Data on a Self-Service Basis
Against this changing and challenging backdrop, we conducted a survey in second quarter 2018 of more than 60 business professionals who are active users of JD Edwards ERP solutions: more than 76% use JD Edwards EnterpriseOne and nearly 14% use JD Edwards World[1].

Our survey revealed other specific challenges these users face. As reflected in Figure 1 below, more than 53% of respondents reported that they are unable to develop reports and rely heavily on IT to accomplish this task. More than 43% said they spend too much time on manual report creation, which delays month-end close and other processes—and which, by definition, keeps them from providing more strategic value to their organizations.

The survey also revealed perhaps an even more significant negative strategic impact: more than 19% of respondents reported that management is unable to make informed business decisions due to the lack of timely information and analytic insights.

Figure 1: What impact does your current JDE reporting and analytics scenario have on your business?

Legend:
- Users are unable to develop their own reports and rely heavily on IT
- Too much time spent manually preparing reports which delays month end close and other processes
- Other (please describe)
- Management is not able to make informed business decisions with the current lack of information and analytics they receive

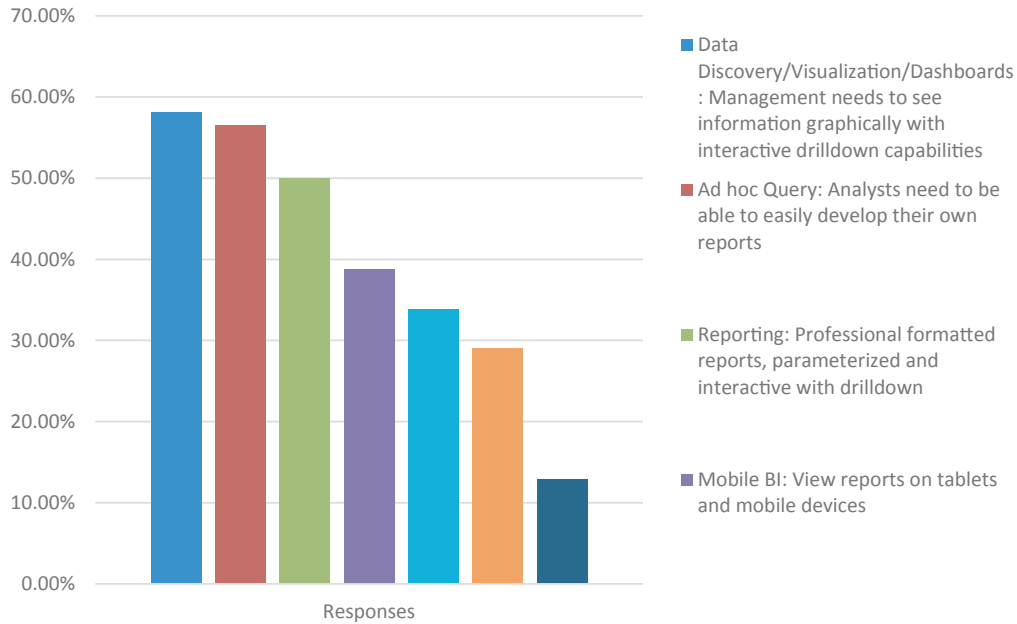**Faster Results to Visual Insights**
Our survey also revealed important opportunities for improvement. As reflected in Figure 2 below, when we asked which reporting and analytics capabilities they would find most valuable[2], more than 58% chose data discovery, visualization, and dashboards so management can see information graphically, with interactive drilldown capabilities so they can quickly get down to the details in areas of focus.

More than 56% of respondents chose ad hoc queries, to enable analysts to easily develop their own reports. Exactly half of respondents said they would benefit from professionally formatted reports, and nearly 39% chose mobile BI functionality so they can view reports on tablets and other mobile devices. Nearly 34% chose a BI platform, to provide a managed and secured environment so users can run and view reports and dashboards; and more than 29% chose governance: a single version of the truth to support reporting and analysis.

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[1] A sample size closer to 400 users would be desirable if there were a need to assess variations across multiple verticals. In this instance, however, the characteristics and behaviors in question involve the use of BI, reporting, and data visualization regardless of industry, and the findings speak for themselves.
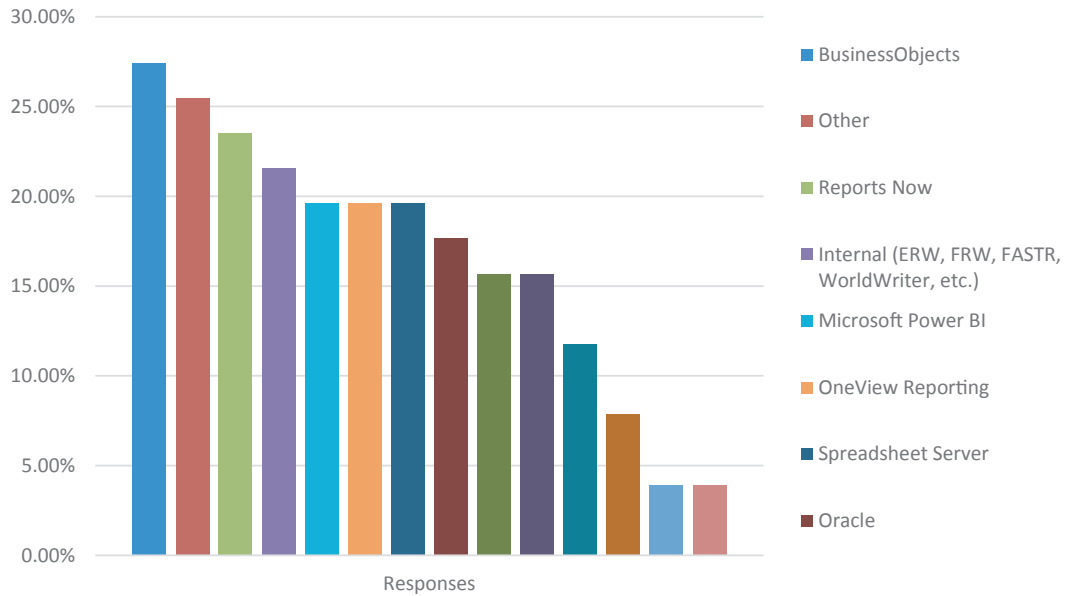
[2] Multiple responses possible, not additive to 100%

Figure 2: Which reporting and analytics capabilities would you find most valuable?
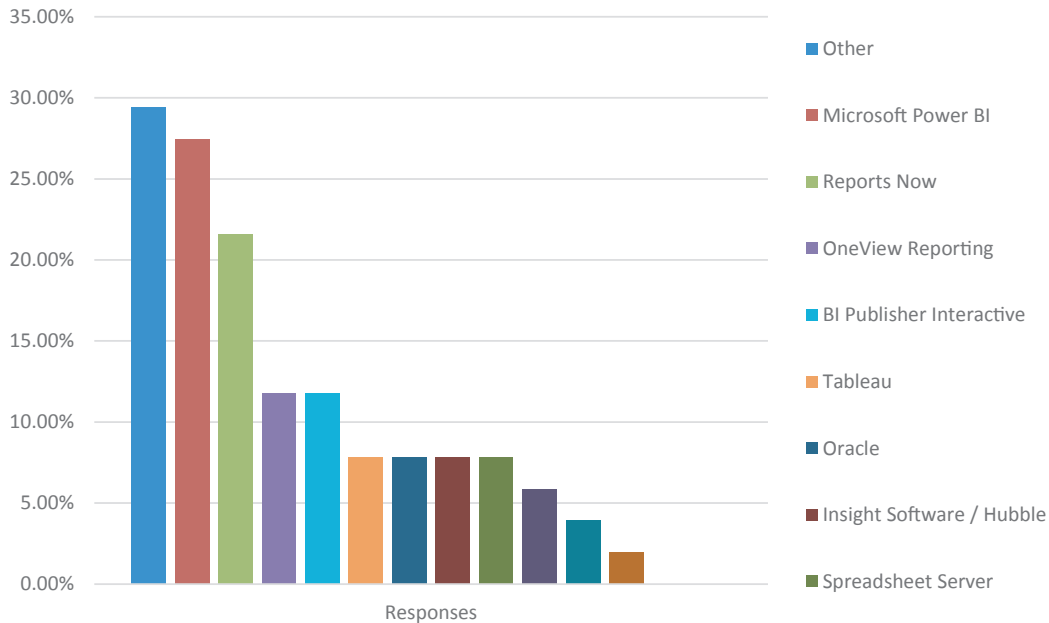

As reflected in Figure 3 below, nearly 20% of respondents said they are currently using Microsoft® Power BI.

Figure 3: Which reporting/BI tools are you currently using?

Of even greater significance, because they indicate where the market is going, were the responses to our next question. When asked which reporting/BI tools they are currently evaluating, more respondents named Microsoft Power BI than any other solution.

Figure 4: Which reporting/BI tools are you currently evaluating?

Legend:
- Other
- Microsoft Power BI
- Reports Now
- OneView Reporting
- BI Publisher Interactive
- Tableau
- Oracle
- Insight Software / Hubble
- Spreadsheet Server

Advantage: Microsoft Power BI

The Big Data and Analytics practice at Stratecast | Frost & Sullivan recently concluded a TCO study of leading BI platforms[3]. Stratecast concluded that Power BI is always the lowest cost solution for BI implementations, and that non-TCO considerations often influence the selection of a particular BI solution.

The ubiquitous global usage of the Microsoft Office Suite means that virtually every prospective user of a BI solution already has a familiarity and comfort level with the interface; Office Suite users can begin using Power BI immediately, rapidly, and easily. Long-time analytics workhorse Microsoft Excel is still a top-5 BI tool[4], and if users know Excel, their skills will transfer directly to Power BI. Users can import and work with their existing Excel spreadsheets directly in Power BI. Power BI also supports Excel Online and Office 365 groups, both of which enhance workability and team collaboration.

Advantage: Preferred Strategies QuickLaunch

Preferred Strategies QuickLaunch™ connects JDE ERP to Microsoft Power BI through a SSAS Tabular model with more than 20 perspectives and 1,500 predefined measures and KPIs. QuickLaunch helps users gain immediate insight into JDE data through the real-time, easy-to-use, ad hoc query capabilities of Power BI and Excel. Users can create JDE dashboards and visualizations with Power BI and automate their reporting processes in Excel with new In-Memory SSAS Tabular or PowerPivot data models from Microsoft; this is crucial, because it delivers real-time analytic insights.

QuickLaunch translates the cryptic JDE ERP data model into business-friendly formats for analysis, reducing IT backlogs and empowering business users to turn JDE data into actionable insights. QuickLaunch accelerators are designed to work with all JDE EnterpriseOne and World versions running on IBM, Oracle, and SQL Server database platforms. Priced to meet the budget of every organization, QuickLaunch can be deployed in days.

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[3] *Stratecast | Frost & Sullivan, Comparing TCO for Business Intelligence Solutions: How to Calculate Costs for Competitive Options (May 2018)*

[4] *KD Nuggets, New Leader, Trends, and Surprises in Analytics, Data Science, Machine Learning Software Poll*