Embedded Business Intelligence in SP 2010

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<p style="text-align: justify;">It has been a while since SP 2010 has been released and since I have been developing quite a lot on SP 2007 and am now exploring 2010 version, I feel moral duty :) to write something about this latest version as well. So I decided to write something about embedded business intelligence, which is not mentioned very often but I think it will become one of the integral part of SP.</p> <p style="text-align: justify;">First of all, embedded BI is a result of incorporation of the Performance Point Server as Performance Point Services. Before SP 2010, Performance Point Server was independant and separate product but now it isn't anymore. New Services enrich SP with KPI indices, scorecarding, matrices and much more that can easily be rendered as dashboards, charting webparts or consumed through Visio Services or used by numerous improvements to Excel Services.</p> <p style="text-align: justify;">Together with Performance Point Services, you get a Dashboard Designer, with which is possible to gui interface or hook up the data you you want to drive your scorecard or KPI off (e.g. conect it to SQL Service Anaylsis, easily create KPIs in designer and render them as webparts in sharepoint). As data mining and OLAP are getting more and more important BI technologies it is necessary to stress their benefits. First you are in control of what is happening with the data you have: data sources can be configured by admins� nd dashboards by department business units. Furthermore it is very easy to slice and dice the data to get the answers you are looking for. One among numerous new features is the decomposition tree -� we can drill into key notes and get more details in a very visual graphical way, which enriches the models from which we pull the data, so users can get quality answers quickly.</p> <p style="text-align: justify;">Few improvements are included in the Excel Services allowing users to publish and share bits of or whole workbooks, but still the owner has the total control of the services users consume.</p> <p style="text-align: justify;">There is another novelty worth mentioning, namely the Visio Services. It is simply a matter of creating a graph (e.g. network diagram or graph of used resources on the project) that is data bound and which then checkis real present data (e.g. changing pictures or states in accordance with the progress of the project). It is more of creating a simple user-friendly workflow that updates itself than a diagram. Do not confuse this with another powerful tool WWF - Windows Workflow Foundation to create complex workflows in .NET and VS.</p>