

## Business Analysis with IB -ARM

### *The Need*



Regardless of methodology or approach, business analysis examines the informational and functional needs of a business area in the context of the proposed application development or software package implementation. Today's new initiatives are rarely, if ever, standalone solutions; they must seamlessly fit in with what is already in place. Having a clear and precise understanding of the organization's application portfolio is a must for every analyst and is a critical success factor for quality work. IB-ARM can make the current 'as-is' environment visible to the non-technical analyst in an effective and friendly manner.

### **Business Analysis Challenges**

Some common business analysis questions are:

- What should be modified in the application?
- How to determine the impact of change on other business functions?
- How to communicate requirements to developers?

IB-ARM provides search, analysis and reporting capabilities to assist business analysts in answering these questions.

### *Single Platform vs. Multiple Tools*

IB-ARM provides the ability to bring all artifacts required for business analysis to a single browser-based repository. This eliminates the need for the business analyst to learn and have access to many development tools.

- Documents can be indexed and added to the repository.
- Models, such as data and process models, can be extracted from modeling tools (such as AdvantageGen or Visio) and included in IB-ARM. Some modeling tools are particularly difficult to use, not to mention the cost of multiple licenses for all analysts. IB-ARM allows the models produced in these tools to be extracted and viewed via an easy-to use browser-based interface.

### *Access Multiple Applications*

Business analysts are often asked to provide analysis for multiple applications. IB-ARM provides that ability to include documents, models and other artifacts from multiple applications. This allows searches and other views to provide information across the entire portfolio of applications. This can be a major productivity gain when compared to using multiple tools and separate repositories for each application being analyzed.

### *Linking Documents and Models to Applications*

One of the key strengths of IB-ARM is its ability to link artifacts produced by many technologies and tools.

- Documents can be parsed and linked to:
  - Models and other Documents

- Application components.
- Models can be parsed and linked to implemented system components. For example:
  - Data model elements can be mapped to their implementing database columns and tables.
  - Functional processes can be mapped to the screens, programs, classes and jobs that implement the functions.
- Search – a powerful search facility is used to determine where business changes are required. Search works across all applications, documents, models and code components that have been included in the repository.

### **Derived Views and Reports**

IB-ARM provides graphical and textual views that assist in functional understanding.

- Screen Flows – these diagrams provide a visual understanding of the online system, including the flow between screens within a business process.
- Interfaces between Applications – provides an understanding of other applications that may be affected by a business change.

### **Communicating with Developers**

One of the key advantages of using IB-ARM is to simplify communication with developers. A business analyst requesting a change to a data model entity or a business function can easily relate this to the database table or online screen that the developer needs to modify. IB-ARM provides a more productive and less error-prone method for developers to translate business requirements into system designs.

### **Business → Systems Analysis**

Some analysts perform both business analyst and systems analyst roles. Systems analysts require a more in-depth understanding of the application system components. IB-ARM contains a number of analysis and search tools that provide application understanding.

- Understanding of application system components – IB-ARM provides a complete inventory of application software components.
- Understanding relationships between components, including interfaces and dependencies between software components – graphical diagrams, charts and reports are used to provide understanding of system flows, structures and dependencies.
- Impact analysis of changes being applied to application software – impact analysis capabilities are provided at simple and detailed levels to trace the impact of software changes.
- Extensive search capabilities – detailed search of components and source code allows hidden or obscure relationships to be uncovered quickly.

## **About Information Balance, Inc.**

**Information Balance**  **Information Balance, Inc.** develops software solutions to support large scale application development and maintenance practices across mainstream technology platforms. Its flagship product **Application Road Map (ARM)** is a unique Application Portfolio Management (APM) solution. The company's clients include leading financial services, insurance, telecommunications and retail organizations across North America.

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