
Lazy Analytics™ - OLAP for Sentences

OLAP - on-line analytical processing - is the foundation for a range of essential business applications, including sales and marketing analysis, planning, budgeting, statutory consolidation, profitability analysis, balanced scorecard and performance measurement.

Lazy Analytics™ adds OLAP capabilities to Sentences Version 3. It enables Sentences' users to manipulate, slice and dice data for analysis purposes, by applying analytical operations such as ratios, cumulative totals, trends and allocations across dimensions and across hierarchical levels, allowing users to make critical business decisions based on intelligent real-time reports without the need to develop a data warehouse. Pre-aggregation techniques are used to accelerate performance.

The product presents data to a wide range of visualisation tools, using Microsoft's OLE DB for OLAP interface for Windows clients, and the newer 'XML for Analysis' interface for browser-based and thin clients. The OLAP schema and structures are defined in Sentences itself.

Associative databases contain much of the hierarchy information required to define the dimensions of a cube and, as a result, defining analysis cubes in Lazy Analytics is more straightforward than in a relational database.

Lack of support for vital technologies such as OLAP is one of the key weaknesses of XML and object-oriented databases alike. Lazy Analytics is growing evidence of the strength of the Associative Model of Data and the functional breadth of Sentences.

Capabilities of Lazy Analytics

- **Client interface** via OLE DB for OLAP and XML for Analysis
- **OLAP cubes** constructed using Sentences' native user interface.
- **Pre-aggregation mechanisms:** Summary information is calculated and stored in order to improve query response times.
- **Sorting, ranking and pivot tables:** The inbuilt capabilities of visualisation tools such as Microsoft's Excel and others are utilised to support these common analytical functions.

Future Functionality

Functionality scheduled for future releases includes:

- Virtual cubes
- Calculated members
- Custom rollups
- Write-back
- Member Properties
- Unbalanced Dimensions