Data Reporting Tools at MIT - Cognos and Tableau

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IS&T offers a collection of tools for reporting on data. This page will help you better understand the features and benefits of the various tools so you can pick the right tool for your particular reporting need. If you need additional assistance, contact the IS&T Help Desk.

- Tableau
- Cognos Query Studio
- Cognos Workspace Advanced
- Cognos Report Studio
- Brio Query (deprecated)

Tableau

Tableau is a family of interactive data visualization and business intelligence software that lets you explore, visualize, and share data securely.

Uses

- visualizing your data
- interactive dashboards
- ad hoc querying
- connect to various data sources, including the MIT Data Warehouse, Excel spreadsheets, and other databases
- drill down
- ad hoc hierarchy design

Cautions

- high learning curve (However, a number of resources are available to help get you started. See Tableau Resources for more information on LinkedIn Learning courses, online articles, and more.)
- when working with data sets, you may have to join data from different data sources
    - Contact the IS&T Help Desk for assistance in creating a data set for your reporting need.

Links

- Cognos Landing Page
- Tableau Landing Page
- Tableau on the IS&T Website

Cognos Query Studio

Query Studio is an easy-to-use Cognos tool that helps you quickly build and refine reports from information stored in the MIT Data Warehouse. Other Cognos tools include Workspace Advanced, which is slightly more featured than Query Studio, and the full-featured Report Studio.

Uses

- ad hoc querying
- see the data as you pull it
- easy to learn
- basic filtering and formatting

Cautions

- limited functionality compared to the other Cognos tools (though you can convert your Query Studio files to Report Studio to apply advanced functionality and/or formatting)
- a data package may not exist for a particular data set
    - Contact the IS&T Help Desk for assistance in finding the right data package for your reporting need.

Links

- Cognos Query Studio on the IS&T Knowledge Base

Cognos Workspace Advanced

Workspace Advanced is a Cognos tool of intermediate ease that helps you quickly build and refine reports from information stored in the MIT Data Warehouse. It is slightly more featured than Query Studio, but not as complicated as the full-featured Report Studio.

Highlights

- ad hoc querying and data exploration
- see the data as you pull it
- simple reports
- starting point for dashboards

Cautions

- functionality between that of Query Studio and Report Studio
- a data package may not exist for a particular data set
    - Contact the IS&T Help Desk for assistance in finding the right data package for your reporting need.

Links

- Cognos Workspace Advanced on the IS&T Knowledge Base

Cognos Report Studio

Report Studio is a full-featured Cognos tool that helps you quickly build and refine reports from information stored in the MIT Data Warehouse. Other Cognos tools include Query Studio, which is easy-to-use but offers less features, and Workspace Advanced, which is slightly less featured than Report Studio.

Highlights

- print-ready reports
- advanced calculations, filters, conditionals/variables, & visualizations
- prompts
- drill-through between reports

Cautions

- high learning curve
- a data package may not exist for a particular data set
    - Contact the IS&T Help Desk for assistance in finding the right data package for your reporting need.

Links

- Cognos Report Studio on the IS&T Knowledge Base

Brio Query (deprecated)

Brio Query is deprecated. It is not being actively maintained and is not recommended for anyone starting out with creating reports at MIT. Instead, we recommend you try Cognos Workspace Advanced or Tableau. If you need assistance, please contact the IS&T Help Desk and we can help you get stated.