

What Is Ad Hoc Reporting In Business & Analysis Examples



Ad hoc reporting is a modern process of business management. Gigantic companies and organizations use these processes to improve their business and services.

Ad hoc reporting and analysis are intelligence-based data analyzing processes that yield solutions to business problems that arise suddenly and demand immediate attention. Examples include companies like Amazon, Toyota, different healthcare organizations, and big retail stores.

At first glance, these processes look kind of complicated. But when you dig deeper, you will find that these can be one of the best things that ever happened to your business.

What Is Ad Hoc Analysis And Ad Hoc Reporting?

Ad hoc reporting and analysis are fast data comparing processes. Big organizations use these processes to find quick answers to challenges they have to immediately deal with.

Suppose, a restaurant chain is doing well in the country. One month they start noticing that their revenue from a certain state has started to fall. They do a rough

analysis. They notice no significant change in the factors that influence their business in that state.

In the above situation, the company can use ad-hoc reporting and analysis. An enterprise resource planning system will compare among data collected from social media, customer reviews, complaints, and company information specific to that state. This analysis will yield answers and insights to the restaurant chain company's query.

Adhoc Reporting

Adhoc reporting creates a quick report on an Adhoc (as needed) basis. As the process involves a huge amount of data and very little time, it is performed by a computer-based intelligence system.

Ad-hoc reports are one-time use only. They are done when the query is very specific and not something the company always needs to know.

Suppose, a shoe company wants to find out how many brown leather boots they sold last Tuesday. Maybe they found a problem with weekly sales or something else. They only need the numbers of that specific day and of that specific product. In this case, an ad-hoc report is a quick solution.



Ad-hoc Analysis

Ad-hoc analysis is similar to ad-hoc reporting. It is a business intelligence process too. But the ad-hoc analysis does more than just giving a report. It provides an

insight into the problem in question. It does this by analyzing the objective data of the report.

Think about the formerly mentioned shoe company's situation. Suppose their report showed leather boots are selling less than usual. After that, the company can use ad-hoc analysis to find out why the sales have fallen. This is an ad-hoc analysis example.

The ad-hoc analysis process presents the data in an easy-to-understand graphic form. This helps the company to make quick decisions at a glance.

Who Uses Ad-hoc Reporting And Ad-hoc Analysis

Anyone who needs to analyze a huge amount of data quickly to find answers to very specific queries can use ad-hoc reporting and ad-hoc analysis processes. That said, professionals who need to sort through data to make business decisions usually use these processes.

Sales Managers

Sales managers use ad-hoc reporting and analysis to create specific sales reports. Such as, how much of a certain item was sold during a well-defined period.

Sales managers also use this data to get an accurate unbiased idea of how well a specific location or sales representative is performing.

Healthcare Professionals

The healthcare sector has to collect and compare incredible amounts of data. This is how they make many important decisions regarding people's health. To provide the best service the professionals in healthcare have to make sense of the data they compile. For that, they need fast and insightful analysis of the data.

For example, a hospital might be seeing an increase in infection rates in their postoperative patients. A problem like this is an immediate solution. An ad-hoc analysis can tell the hospital whether the problem is with the antibiotics they are using or specific to how they are managing the patient or something else.

Human Resources

A human resource department has to deal with a variety of employee data. This includes performance reviews, leave days, benefits, salary, and many more.

Comparing these data and evaluating an employee will be easier and more accurate when the department uses an ad-hoc reporting and analysis process.

Finance Teams

The finance and accounting teams work with many kinds of business data. They have to sort through metrics, key performance, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and others. Adhoc reporting and analysis make their work easier and more accurate.

Moreover, a finance team can gain valuable business insights from this process. They can review the performance of a new product, understand why their revenue stream declined during a specific quarter.

Retail

Adhoc reports and analytics can help a retail organization improve its business performance. They can find out which specific product is doing well and which ones are not so much. After that, they can stock up on products accordingly.

Moreover, if sales fall, they can find out what is the specific reason (external or internal) for the decline.

What is an ERP System?

ERP is short for Enterprise Resource Planning. This is a business management software solution. Essentially this is the system (software and database) that aids in ad hoc reporting and ad hoc analysis.

ERP system comprises a central database. The company that is maintaining the ERP system stores all its data in this database. The various departments and employees can access this database through their laptops, desktops, or smartphones.

ERP manages a vast amount of company information for a large-scale business. They store and communicate data across departments. In addition, they present it in graphs, charts, metrics so that the users can make sense of it. Thus, the system helps with creating reports and analytics on ad hoc queries.

Many big business companies are using ERP systems to improve theirs. These include giants like Amazon, Starbucks, and Toyota. Let us have a look at how they are doing it.

Amazon- SAP systems

Amazon is the biggest e-commerce company in the world. They are using an ERP software called 'System Analysis and Program Development' or SAP.

A user can click on the menu in the software's customized interface. After that, they can choose an area of business. The interface will yield all kinds of information related to the business. Marketing, third party order fulfillment everything.

When the user focuses the SAP ERP on shipment, the customized interface provides all kinds of details related to shipments. There is a tracking tool and the user can view ad hoc reports.

Starbucks- Oracle ERP

A company like Starbucks needs to automate its back-office processes and day-to-day business activities. Therefore, they use an ERP suited to this job- Oracle ERP.

Oracle is a cloud-based business management software. It helps with a myriad of financial and business activities. Such as accounting, procurement, managing projects, management of supply chain, financial management, and CRM (customer relationship management).

Toyota- Microsoft Dynamics 365

When the Toyota Company wanted a wider global reach, improved management, reduced work hours, and an overall efficient system, they turned to Microsoft Dynamics 365.

The different pages of Dynamics provide valuable business insights. For example, the Dynamics Summary page allows Toyota to view budget information. The Dynamics Sales page gives a timeline of business events and rates customer relationships.

The Benefits Of Using An ERP System

ERP systems benefit a business in many ways. It helps the company to make sense of the huge amount of data they have in their store. As a result, they can make smart decisions and strategies to correct what is lacking.

Let's take a deeper look at the benefits of using an ERP system:

Real-time information-based business reports

ERP systems allow a company to make quick reports and analyses based on real-time information. As a result, the company can handle challenges at the earliest.

Improvement of customer service

As ERP allows more in-depth analysis of customer data, the company can understand their customers better.

The tracking tools, shipment reports help to make faster delivery and accurate fulfillment of orders.

Save Money

ERP tells the company which product is failing and which one is succeeding. So, the company can focus on the winning products. Moreover, it gives accurate reports on locations, stores, and personnel.

All this helps the company to make informed decisions that save them money.

Data Security

ERP systems secure the valuable company data. With ERP systems you don't need to install numerous financing software separately. Thus, reduces the risk of malicious software getting hold of company data.

Moreover, the system distributes the data across multiple servers which improves security.

Conclusion

All the well-established companies are using ERP systems and implementing ad hoc reporting and analysis to deal with the constantly arising challenges in business. There are countless ad hoc analysis examples of success stories.

So, if you are looking to make it large, get an ERP system for your business today.