

# **Birst + CloudSuite: Intelligent ERP for true data visibility**

## **FAQ**

### **What is Birst?**

Birst is a cloud-hosted business intelligence (BI) solution that offers advanced analytics with the agility, speed, and usability of consumer-grade desktop tools.

### **Is Birst considered a replacement for LBI?**

Birst's Networked Analytics and BI platform is different than Lawson Business Intelligence (LBI) in that LBI uses crystal reports for relational reporting. If you are on version 10 of Lawson, LBI will still be maintained within version 10. If you are migrating to Infor Global Human Resources (GHR) or CloudSuite Financials (CSF), there is no plan for LBI to be moved to those platforms. In that case, Birst is a replacement for LBI.

### **Is there an ETL process or a pre-built cube?**

Birst doesn't require an expensive data warehouse or add-on ETL tool. Instead Birst includes Automated Data Refinement (ADR) technology which allows users who know their data but not necessarily how a Data Warehouse works to build out a Star-Schema Model which holds numbers in a fact table at the center of the star, descriptive terms in dimension tables at the points of the star, and all the table joins that users are familiar with seeing. There are plans for Infor to release pre-delivered models and dashboard later this year as an add-on.

### **How does Birst compare to Tableau, Qlik View, or any of the other analytic tools available?**

While all analytic BI platforms have discovery tools that allow you to slice and dice the data you are looking for, where we see the biggest advantage of Birst is that it does not require you to build a data warehouse from scratch and maintain it. Birst includes ADR technology which produces a Star-Schema Model with less effort and less expertise on data warehouses.

### **How does Birst work with CloudSuite Financials?**

If your ERP is on-premise or cloud single tenant, Birst will connect to your database directly. If your ERP is multi-tenant then you will use replication sets, ION, and the data lake to connect to Birst.

### **Does Birst pull real time data or does it need to be refreshed?**

Birst makes it easy to pull in real-time data from any cube with direct access. For certain analytics there is the option to refresh data based on the business requirements.

### **Can Birst report on any fields from Lawson?**

Yes, all data objects and fields in Lawson can be used.

### **Can you create a report in Birst from multiple sources at once, for example an Excel file and Lawson table info?**

Yes, you can upload any data source and have ability to report across multiple sources at the same time.

### **Does Birst have drill-down capabilities?**

Birst lets you drill down across your data, explore patterns, and try to determine root causes. The average business user can drill deep, filter and have ability to change charts on the fly.

### **Can Birst reports be embedded into the standard Infor application screens?**

Infor is currently working to embed Birst reports in standard Infor screens. Out-of-the-box reporting within GHR and CSF will include some pre-built reports automatically using Birst.

### **Can Birst connect to my Epic system? Can you combine data from Lawson and Epic into one report?**

Yes, Birst will connect to any data source, bringing together all the different sources of data and delivering a unified view to users. Whether you are on Epic, Cerner, Meditech, or other electronic health system, you can connect any system outside of Infor/Lawson for complete visibility in the business. Birst makes it easy to interact with data in new ways and with a single version of the truth, enabling better decision-making throughout the entire organization.

### **If I am using Lawson, does Birst provide some out of the box reports and dashboards?**

If you plan to go to CSF or GHR, there are plans to include some out of the box reports and dashboards for users.

### **Is there an Excel add-in tool that allows end users to design their own reports - similar to the way that Oracle Hyperion Essbase can be utilized with GLAMOUNTS data to create financial statements?**

Yes, but the beauty of Birst is that it has its own built-in discovery tools that allow you to build different reports to see the data you want.

### **What is the key difference between analytics and Birst?**

There is no difference. Birst is analytics, but a lot easier. The biggest complaint with analytics is that it requires a team to manage the warehouse. With Birst, it is much simpler and less expensive to maintain.

### **Is it only reports on dashboards or is there an analytical tool like Excel or Essbase system software?**

Birst includes dashboards, reports, KPIs, and more. Birst has many built-in discovery tools. If you are more comfortable using Excel, that option is available as well.

### **How does the data lake concept work with Birst?**

ION transfers the data from your CSF or GHR application into the lake. This allows you to consume the data in any way you see fit. Birst is an option that customers will be able to use.

### **How difficult is it to make updates to your dashboard and reports?**

If your model already contains the element you are looking for then it is as easy as modifying the report and adding it in. If the model doesn't have it, then you will need to make the adjustment on the model and re-pump the data before it will be available for dashboards.

**For additional questions or to talk about implementing Birst in your organization, contact [info@avaap.com](mailto:info@avaap.com).**