TOP SEVEN
Government Business Intelligence TRENDS FOR 2017
Top 7 Business Intelligence Trends for Government for 2017

In 2016, a wave of self-service analytics swept across the enterprise. Governments began embracing the modern approach to business analytics, with IT and the organization leadership partnering to derive maximum value from their data. IT began leveraging technologies to scale and grow as business users shared and collaborated with their data.

Where are things headed next? We’ve gathered the opinions and observations of our experts who serve hundreds of thousands of customers around the world. Here are our predictions.
Modern BI becomes the new normal.

In 2016, governments began the shift to modern BI, moving analytics from the hands of the few to many. We’ve moved “past the tipping point of a more than 10- to 11-year transition away from IT-centric reporting platforms to modern BI and analytics platforms,” according to Gartner’s 2016 Business Intelligence Magic Quadrant. With trusted and scalable platforms, governments are empowering even non-analysts to explore governed data and collaborate with their findings. In 2017, modern BI will become the top priority for governments as more and more institutions adopt analytics platforms that embrace self-service capabilities, especially in the area of open data.

FURTHER READING:
Modernize using the BI & Analytics Magic Quadrant
The era of open data in government arrives.

In 2017, the volume of open data generated by governments will continue to expand, and more and more government entities will release their data to the public. This shift will usher in a new era of open data in government. Citizens and other stakeholders such as universities, non-government organizations (NGOs), non-profits, and even other government entities will have access to information that has been hard or impossible to access in the past, allowing all to be collaborative partners with government. These future discoveries will help governments to better collaborate and to develop policy that is both citizen-centric and results-oriented.

FURTHER READING:
Open government data: New insights, new solutions
Collaborative analytics goes from the fringe to the core.

In 2017, collaborative analytics will take center stage as governed data becomes more accessible and cloud technology enables easier, faster sharing. Through emerging digital government initiatives, governments will bring citizens and other stakeholders into conversations about policies and programs to address unforeseen challenges—and solve them faster than they could have imagined.

People will share and embed live, interactive dashboards and data sources to drive decisions and empower people where they are. People, regardless of their role, will be empowered to wear many hats, from consuming data on dashboards to performing their own ad hoc analysis, to sharing their findings with others. And they’ll leverage the cloud to build on each other’s work and iterate to answer their own questions.

FURTHER READING:
Tech ‘democratization’ seen fueling analytics boom
Data-driven decision-making explodes in government.

Data is everywhere in government, but it’s not always fully leveraged to drive better outcomes. More and more governments are realizing the potential of their data. And in 2017, the value of that data will no longer be tied to its rank or size. It won’t matter whether we’re talking about big data or a simple Excel spreadsheet. What will count is that people can quickly and easily access the data and explore it alongside other types of data to answer questions and improve outcomes.

Over the coming year, BI will shift toward an environment in which people can explore data of all types, shapes, and sizes, and share insights to impact decision-making. Users won’t have to worry about whether their data is stored in Hadoop, Redshift, or an Excel file. They’ll have a full-picture view of their analytics, no matter how many disparate data sources they have.

FURTHER READING:
Predicts 2017: Government CIOs are caught between adversity and opportunity
IT becomes the data hero.

For decades, IT departments remained mired in the endless churn of building reports to support data requests from the business. Now, it’s finally IT’s time to break the cycle and evolve from producer to enabler. IT is at the helm of the transformation to self-service analytics at scale. In high-performing organizations, analytics teams are “working as a trusted partner with the business,” according to Gartner.

IT is enabling government institutions to manage and govern the vast amount of data being created every day. IT is providing the flexibility and agility the business needs to innovate all while balancing governance and data security. And by empowering the organization to make data-driven decisions at the speed of business, IT will emerge as the data hero who helps shape the future of the government.

FURTHER READING:
Gartner makes it official: The age of self-service is upon us
The transition to the cloud accelerates.

With more and more governments moving their data to the cloud, the realization that analytics should also live in the cloud will become mainstream. In 2017, data gravity will push governments to deploy their analytics where their data lives. Over the next few years, the growth in public clouds will accelerate and change how governments deliver insights.

Cloud data warehouses like Amazon Redshift will continue to be massively popular data destinations, and cloud analytics will become more prevalent as a result. While many organizations will continue to deploy a hybrid architecture of cloud and on-premises solutions, cloud analytics will increasingly represent a faster and more scalable solution. New regulations at the federal and state level will continue to help ensure that both data and analytics that sit in the cloud are secure and safe from any kind of breach.

FURTHER READING:
Data gravity pulls to the cloud
Advanced analytics becomes more accessible.

Government users have grown more data-savvy. Advanced analytics has grown more approachable. In 2017, these two phenomena will converge as advanced analytics becomes the standard for the business user. Advanced analytics will no longer be reserved for data scientists and experts. Government institutions are already leveraging powerful analytics functions like k-means clustering and forecasting. Health and human services agencies are using advanced analytics to better manage care and benefits. And regulatory agencies are using it to help understand the factors that may lead to bank failures. And in 2017, these institutions and others will continue to expand their analytics skill set.

FURTHER READING:
2016 Advanced and Predictive Analytics Market Study
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