Michael Dillon Office of Institutional Research UMBC

midillon@umbc.edu

IR's role in creating a campus-wide reporting solution using data warehousing technology

Questions to Gauge Audiences' Farmilarity with Data Warehousing

Yes, No, or Maybe

- Fact tables versus dimension tables
- Fact tables versus perspectives
- Nominal, ordinal and interval variables
- Grain versus unit of analysis
- Data cubes

Michael Dillon Office of Institutional Research UMBC

midillon@umbc.edu

Theoretical Model of
Data Warehousing

From an Analyst Perspective

Diagram One

Distinguishing decision making, analysis & data

Analyst

The World (Data)

Decision Maker

Diagram Two: The Fully Employed Analyst

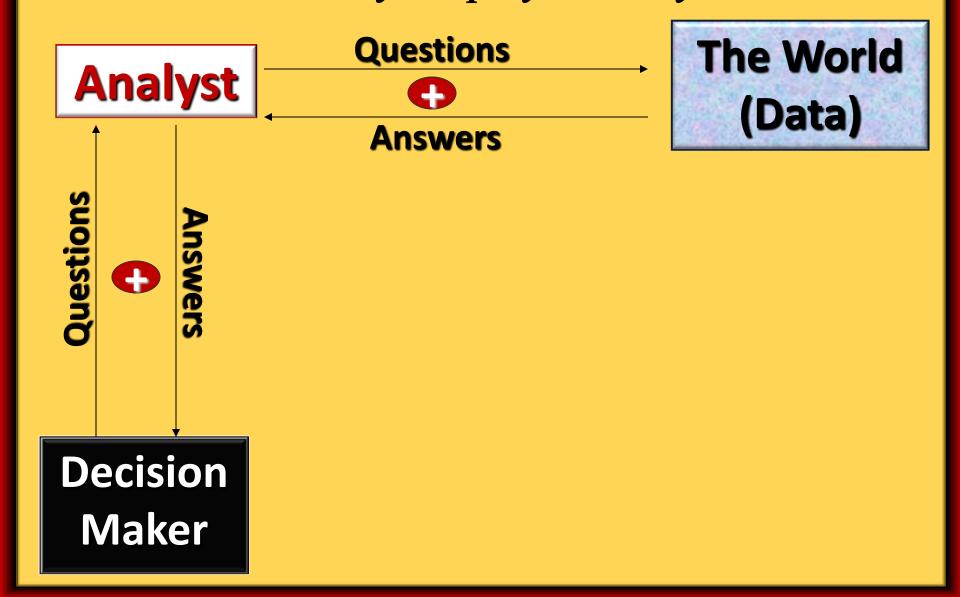


Diagram Three The Frustrated Analyst

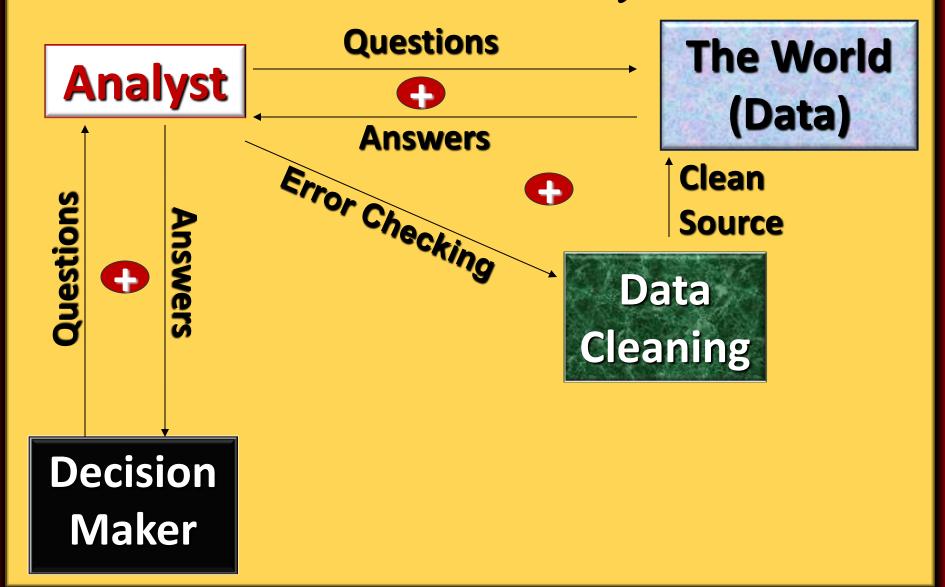


Diagram Four The Really Frustrated Analyst

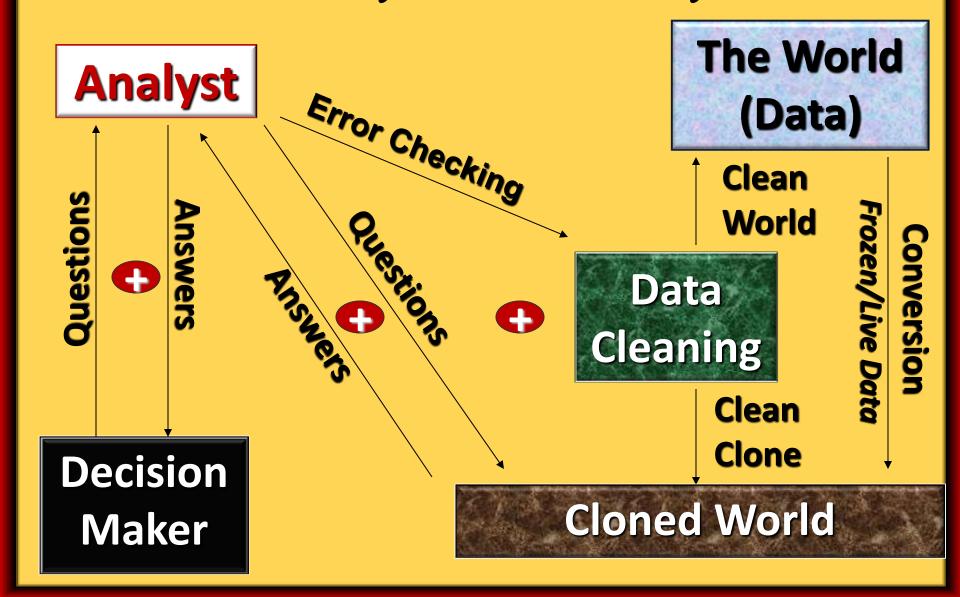


Diagram Five Report Exchange (REX)

OLAP - ProClarity
On-Line Analytic Processing
(Delivery System)

Data Storage - *iStrategy*One Table per Unit of Analysis
(Grain)

Business Intelligence

Diagram Six The Lazy Analyst

Analyst

The World (Data) Clean **Source** Data Cleaning **Error** Checking

Decision Maker

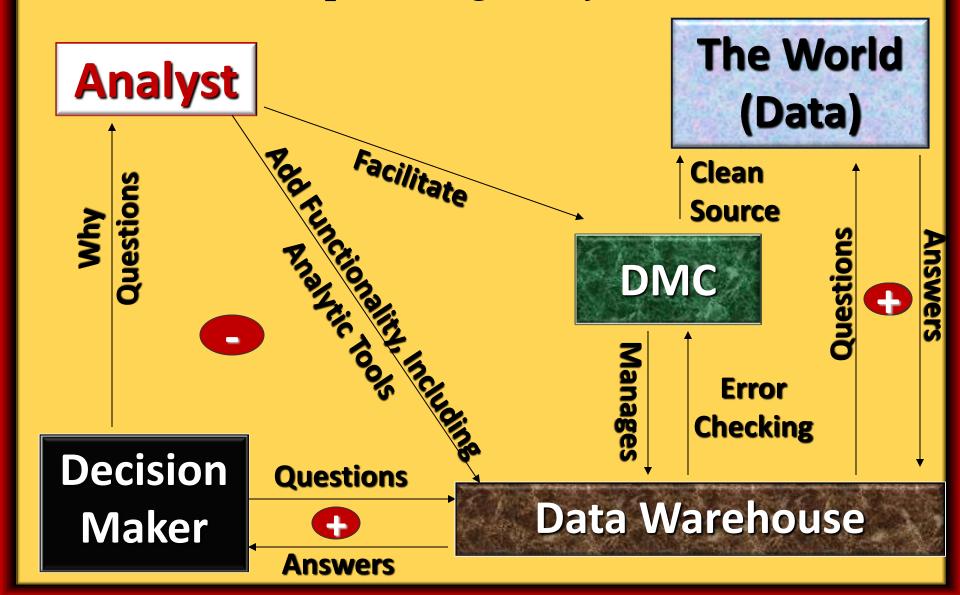
Questions



Answers

Data Warehouse

Diagram Seven Optimizing Analysis



Implications for Future Analysis

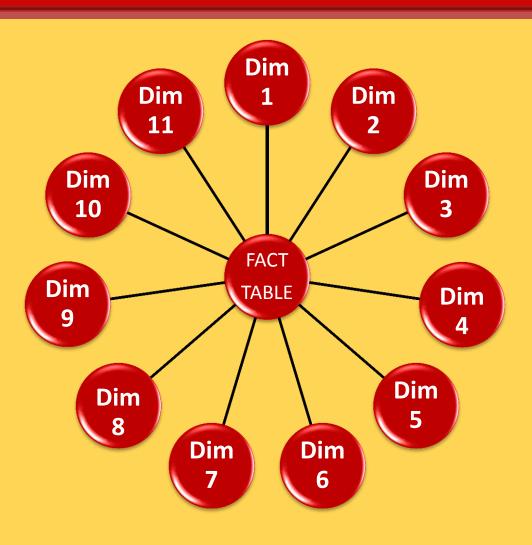
- Incorporating Multivariate Statistics
 - First-Year Experiences
- Utilizing Peer Analysis
 - Course Redesigns
- Broadening Decision-Making
 - First-year invention and Blackboard usage
- Linking Planning and Budgeting
 - Growth of Applied Master's Programs
- Simulating Policy Initiatives
 - Evaluating yield enhancement strategies

iStrategy Delivered "Fact" Tables

- Applications
- Class Instruction
- Class Schedule
- Course Attributes
- Degree Awards
- Recruitment Attributes

- Registration
- Service Indicators
- Student Financial Items
- Student Groups
- Student Plan
- Student Term

Star Schema



Differentiating Facts (Measures) From Dimensions

- Nominal (dimension tables)
- Ordinal (Fact)
- Interval (Fact)
- Dummy (Either)

Data Cubes

Really Big Proc Freq

Build or Buy? iStrategy as an Example

Pros

- Easy to get started
- Easy to get under the hood & you will need that
- Microsoft product (versatile)

Cons

- Built with older version of SQL server
- Pro-Clarity
- No slowly changing dimensions
- Too little consultation with IR

Governance

- Getting IT/IR/EM cooperation
- Data Management Council
- Access
- Security
- Database administration
- Report Generation
- Training/Documentation

Conclusion

- Resources
 - **HEDW**
 - -Each Other
 - -Me
 - midillon@umbc.edu