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**DARC**®

**Doing Applications Right, Consistently**



# DARC Lines of Business



- Consulting Services
- Program Management, Functional, Technical, Architecture



- Production Support
- 24x7 Functional & Database



- Organizational Change Management
- Communications, Documentation, Training



- Accelerators for Interfaces and Conversions
  - M&A



BI Publisher (fka XML Publisher) – To  
BI or 6i that is the question!



## **This presentation will provide:**

A brief comparison of BI Publisher and Oracle Reports 6i.

Review the template design tools provided by Oracle and explain which template designer to use based on reporting requirements and complexity.

Discuss the topic, are we really better off with BI vs. our troublesome but reliable 6i?



# BI and 6i Comparison

Points of Interest	BI Publisher	6i Reports
GUI for Data Model Design	N – text or xml editor	Y – Built in with Report Builder
Multiple Data Sources for report generation	Y	N
Design Wizards for Simple Reports	Y – Using MSWord Template Builder	Y – Using Report Builder
Simple report Generation and Modifications by Super Users	Y – Using MSWord Template Builder	N
Easy to create complex layouts	N	N
Populate existing 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party PDF	Y – Limited by report Complexity	N
Pre and Post report processing	Y	Y



# BI Templates

- RTF
- PDF
- XSL-FO
- eText
- XSL-XML
- XSL-TEXT
- XSL-HTML



# RTF and PDF Templates

## PDF

1. PDF templates are not very extendable (Multiple sections of repeating frames, Using XPATH, XML Schemas, etc)
2. Only good for flat XML Documents
3. Limited XML processing in the PDF document
4. Complex reporting requires more development time on the Data Definition (Database PL/SQL utilities and advanced SQL)
5. Oracle does not leverage the Adobe XML integration APIs



# RTF and PDF Templates

## RTF

1. RTF is very extendable (Multiple sections of repeating frames, Using XPATH, XML Schemas, etc)
2. Process highly complex XML Documents
3. Advanced XML processing using Form fields
4. Can accommodate Complex reporting, but requires knowledge about using MSWord objects (Tables, Lines, Shapes, and Text Boxes), XML and XSL
5. Preferred Template for Development



## Are we really better off with BI vs. our troublesome but reliable 6i

- BI or 6i can be used to accomplish a project's reporting requirements
- Based on the report's layout complexity, BI Publisher can be just as difficult as designing reports in Report Builder
- If a project's reports are BI Publisher and have a short deadline and the developers have little or no experience with BI Publisher, verify that the reports are Simple not Complex
- There is a learning curve for most developers that do not have XML and XSL experience
- If time permits for the project report deliverables start using BI Publisher
- Bursting – Multiple files based on XML Node Selection
- Oracle will continue to enhance BI functionality
- The overall development using BI Publisher is the better solution (Data is separate from the Layout)



# Questions & Answer

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