



TDWI WEBINAR SERIES

The Pros and Cons of Data Warehouse Appliances

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Agenda

- Data Warehouse Appliances
 - Definitions
 - Strategies
 - Pros
 - Cons
- Conclusions
- Recommendations



Data Warehouse Appliance Definitions

What do you think a data warehouse appliance is?



- Respondents feel they know what a data warehouse appliance is:
 - Most think the hardware and software are built for data warehousing
 - But a minority think it could be any hardware-software bundle



Appliance and Bundle Vendors

Data warehouse appliances

- "Server hardware and database software built specifically to be a data warehouse platform"
- Netezza, DATAllegro, Calpont, and Teradata (maybe)

Data warehouse bundles

- "Any server hardware and database software bundled to create a data warehouse platform"
- IBM DB2 Integrated Cluster Environment (ICE) for Linux, Sun-Sybase iForce Solutions, Unisys ES7000 BI Solutions
- Miscellaneous appliances (outside data warehousing)
 - Network Appliance (storage), Google Search Appliance, Thunderstone Search Appliance



Data Warehouse Appliance Strategies

What's your group's strategy for data warehouse appliances?



- Most respondents don't plan to evaluate a DWA.
- A surprisingly high number (18%) say they've already deployed one.
- One-fifth are evaluating one now or in the near future.



Sweet Spot – Large Data Marts

- Most appliances/bundles support "large data marts":
 - Vendors describe their customers/prospects this way.
 - Users describe their implementations this way.
 - Mart enables an analytic app, typically focused on analysis of call-level detail, customers, shopping baskets, etc.
- The large data mart is a "sweet spot" for appliances/bundles:
 - Users have succeeded with this kind of project.
 - Strategy: Isolated project to prove appliance before expanding.
- Other sweet spots are coming.
 - A few users with appliances (and many with similar bundles) have deployed an enterprise data warehouse.
 - Eventually, the EDW will be another sweet spot.



Data Warehouse Appliance Pros



- Users want guaranteed performance:
 - Users felt pre-tuning and fast queries were most compelling benefits.
- Few users expect low cost, though vendors compete on this point.



Sweet Spot – 1TB to 10TB of Data

- Most appliances today manage between 1TB and 10TB of data:
 - This is another way to describe the "sweet spot," whether large data mart or enterprise data warehouse.
- Sweet spot will shift with data growth:
 - TDWI data: mid/large marts/DWs ~15% annual growth.
 - Appliance users start with 1-3TB, grow toward 10TB.
 - Some appliances now deployed with >10TB.
- Vendors offer appliances of great capacity:
 - Netezza 8650 (27TB), 10400 (>50TB), 10800 (>100TB)
 - DATAllegro C25 (25TB)
- At this rate of growth, very large data warehouses (>10TB) will be common on data warehouse appliances within 2 years.



Data Warehouse Appliance Cons



- Users' main concern was migrating off an appliance.
 - My perspective: No harder than other relational migrations.
- Single-use hardware is the reality of all appliances.



Open Source in Data Warehousing

• Adoption of open source in data warehousing is low.

Data warehouses on open source operating systems:

- *41%* = *No plans*
- *9% = Deployed*

Source: TDWI Tech Survey, February 2004. 164 respondents.

Data warehouses on open source databases:

- *64%* = *No plans*
- 8% = Deployed

Source: TDWI Tech Survey, February 2004. 167 respondents.

- Open source databases and operating systems are typical components of DW appliances and similar bundles.
- Lack of interest in open source among data warehouse professionals could be a barrier to appliance adoption.



Conclusions

- Definition of a data warehouse appliance:
 - "Server hardware and database software built specifically to be a data warehouse platform"
 - But similar bundles offer similar advantages.
- Pros:
 - Pre-tuned for DW, fast queries, less system integration
- Cons:
 - Proprietary platform, single-use hardware
- Strategy Succeed with Sweet Spots:
 - 1-10 terabyte databases (but growing)
 - Terabyte-size data marts (but enterprise DWs are possible)
- Expect 10TB+ enterprise data warehouses to be common on data warehouse appliances in 2 years or so.



Recommendations

- Consider a data warehouse appliance for:
 - Analytic app with terabyte-size data mart
 - Intense queries not appropriate to EDW
 - Short dev/deployment time
 - Sponsor wanting low price per TB
 - Budget needing minimal SI cost
 - Apps without a FTE as administrator
- Other users have succeeded in these situations you can, too.



Stuart Frost, CEO



What is a **DATAllegro DW Appliance**?

Complete DW solution

- "From SQL to storage"
- Modular, rack-based appliances
 - True commodity hardware platform
 - Standard Intel motherboard
 - Western Digital enterprise disks
 - Patent-pending architecture
 - Linear scaling
 - Fault tolerant
 - Leverage open source Linux & Ingres
- **IDATAllegro P2™ & P5™**
 - Very high performance
 - 2TB user data \$250k
 - 5TB user data \$450k
- ✓ DATAllegro C25[™]
 - Good performance
 - 25TB user data \$450k
 - \$18k per TB
- Encrypted versions available





Commodity HW & RDBMS





Redundant Array of Inexpensive DW

(RAIDW[™]) - MPP with FT & Low Cost





Ultra Shared Nothing

(USN) – Multi-level Partitioning + Replication





(DDS) – Sequential I/O, no tuning or indexes





Commodity / Proprietary





DW Appliance Pros

38% Pre-tuned
15% Fast query performance
13% Reduced system integration
13% Fast installation
8% Low cost
7% Easy expansion



Performance Comparison





DW Appliance Cons

44% Proprietary = lock-in

27% Single use HW

10% Resists tuning

9% New training

Standard interfaces (ODBC etc.)
DA uses commodity HW
Typ. used for new DM etc.
Low cost mitigates
DA allows indexes, some tuning
Performance limits need for tuning
Some training required, but far less than traditional platforms





DW appliances are here to stay:

- Price
- Performance
- Scalability
- Ease of installation and use
- Two successful vendors
- DATAllegro addresses most concerns raised by TDWI community