



INSTITUT DE STATISTIQUE
UNIVERSITE CATHOLIQUE DE LOUVAIN

APPLIED STATISTICS WORKSHOP

Afternoon “Introduction to Business Intelligence”

Friday April 24, 2009 – 14h00-17h00

Room: C115 (STAT)

14h00-14h45

“Analytical Challenges in Business Intelligence”

Libei Chen, Institut de Statistique (UCL) / VADIS Consulting

In our modern society where the information volume is increasing exponentially the Business Intelligence is all around how to deliver the right information on time to the right business people, to help them take right decisions and consequently increase their competitiveness. Statisticians, computer scientists and engineers find their great interests in information collection, cleaning, consolidation and analysis towards a good knowledge extraction and representation. The objective of this first talk is to introduce the Business Intelligence along the analytical axis. We try to give an overview on the main concerns and problems to solve, the approaches and tools used in this domain, the challenges and best practices.

14h45-15h30

“Extending data warehouse technologies with spatial and temporal information”

Esteban Zimanyi, Faculté des Sciences Appliquées (ULB)

A data warehouse stores large volumes of historical data required for analytical purposes. This data is extracted from operational databases; transformed into a coherent whole using a multidimensional model that includes measures, dimensions, and hierarchies; and loaded into a data warehouse during the extraction-transformation-loading (ETL) process.

Conventional data warehouses cope only with classical “alphanumeric” information, but even in this case they are very restrictive in the types on hierarchies allowed. However, complex decision making needs to extend the capabilities of data warehouse systems, in particular for the management of spatial and temporal information. In the presentation we explain how this can be achieved and how the inclusion of this kind of information can enrich the decision making process.

15h30-16h50

You are welcome for a coffee break in room : c 105

15h50-16h25

“Balancing service and costs: using analytics to optimise inventory in a pharmaceutical distribution network”

André DeVos, Cvba Vooruit

Cvba Vooruit is a co-operative where 50 000 members act together, make decisions democratically and create value for customers.

It is active in the distribution and sales of pharmaceutical products and it operates a central warehouse as well as 36 drugstores in the Gent area.

It sells about 8000 different pharmaceutical items.

Keeping inventories on the different levels (warehouse and drugstores) is an extremely difficult exercise even more so when there are a great lot of pharmaceutical products involved with each of them following a different demand pattern (also intermittent demand).

With a demand-forecasting tool (SAS) we try to determine more accurately required stock quantities and replenishment frequencies, conditional to the corresponding service level quality (measured in backorders or in deliveries from stock on first demand).

16h25-17h00

“BI at FPS Economy: strategy and implementation”

Youri Baeyens, FPS Economy

The main business of the National Statistical Institute and other directorates of the FPS Economy is the delivery of relevant statistics to its stakeholders (Eurostat, other public services, citizens,...). Several re-engineering projects have been initiated in previous years to make this information available in a more performant, efficient and flexible manner. One of these projects was the introduction of a business Intelligence Strategy. The Federal Public Service chose SAS as a tool to implement this strategy. After a thorough preparation, the first information flows are now in production and the first results can be evaluated. As for most BI-projects, attention had to be paid not only to technical matters but also to the impact on the organization working methods.

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