



Highlights

- Provide process automation for Cognos TM1, Cognos Business Intelligence and multiple, heterogeneous applications and environments.
 - Deliver self-service automation that gives business users greater control.
 - Audit applications to see who ran what, when, where and how.
 - Reduce custom coding and manual intervention.
 - Provide remote access through web and smartphone enablement.
 - Enable cloud-based applications.
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IBM Cognos Command Center

Manage and support your Cognos TM1 environment—on premises, or in the cloud

Overview

IBM® Cognos® Command Center enables Finance teams to work more efficiently with IBM Cognos TM1®, IBM Cognos Business Intelligence and a range of heterogeneous applications and environments. It helps organizations drive greater value and performance from all of their vital business intelligence (BI) and financial performance management (FPM) systems.

Software environments have grown increasingly complex in recent years. And for many finance organizations, managing and supporting multiple platforms and applications from multiple vendors is a constant challenge. Getting systems to work together often requires a patchwork of custom code, which is costly and time-consuming to create, stretching the resources of both IT and finance teams, and creating problems large and small:

- Finance professionals spending time on repetitious manual tasks rather than value-added work
- Heavy reliance on IT and consulting resources
- Compliance and audit risk
- Security risks from unencrypted and hardcoded passwords left on servers or saved in spreadsheets
- Scheduling tools that are BI/FPM unaware and not designed for business users

Cognos Command Center reduces the complexity of working in diverse software environments and brings you greater simplicity and control, so you can focus on what matters most—your business!



IBM Cognos Command Center

Cognos Command Center addresses the challenges facing your finance team as it works with a heterogeneous mix of applications and hybrid computing environments. It wraps around a variety of BI/FPM applications, including Cognos TM1, Cognos Business Intelligence, Oracle Essbase, Hyperion Financial Management (HFM), QlikView and more. It also handshakes with IT-based schedulers such as IBM Tivoli® to integrate your IT-based process with more specialized BI/FPM processes.

Cognos Command Center reduces the need for brittle custom code. And it sequences tasks across multiple platforms and applications virtually regardless of where the application resides. A central automation repository provides security-rich application and data automation source control, lifecycle management (LCM) and an audit trail for exceptional automation compliance. Cognos Command Center enables self-service automation, allowing business users to view and run their automated processes on an ad hoc basis and more quickly diagnose and address issues as they arise. Through a single interface, users can run and monitor their processes from web-enabled devices and respond to real-time alerts without having to call IT to troubleshoot problems.

Enhanced Automation for Cognos TM1

Cognos Command Center helps you support and manage a range of processes in your Cognos TM1 environment.

- Executes Cognos TM1 cube build or update operations on a nightly schedule or as user-driven updates. You can run processes in series, in parallel, or triggered by events such as receiving general ledger (GL) balance files, web service events, etc.
- Harvests Cognos TM1 audit transaction and server logs and loads the output into a consumable format.
- Replicates and keep processes in synch between servers, using Cognos TM1 files for backup or reporting.

- Monitors Cognos TM1 log files and periodically checks Cognos TM1 servers, then takes action based on established error criteria or rules, and notifies administrators via email alerts.
- Provides central control, so that processes and scripts that occur across different servers or Cognos TM1 instances can be managed from one central location.
- Reduces the need for custom code by simplifying complex operations, such as reading a Cognos TM1 cell, linking to Cognos TM1 action buttons or monitoring a folder or file for a trigger event.

Architecture

Cognos Command Center is built on a multi-tier server architecture. It consists of a central server, a common application relational repository (Microsoft SQL Server or Oracle RDBMS), remote agents for execution and monitoring on various systems, an administrative client and a web-based thin client to run and monitor processes on standard browsers and smartphones. The solution supports a wide array of computing environments to help ensure cross-platform compatibility. It also features a plug-in architecture to extend product capabilities to a wide variety of BI and FPM applications.

Cognos Command Center can perform a wide range of tasks including: start and stop services, pre- and post- task actions, validate and consolidate, log out users, harvest logs, run reports, burst emails, and more. Leveraging plug-and-play functionality, Cognos Command Center can help you with:

- FTP/SFTP automation
- Email automation
- File automation
- System utilities
- Cognos TM1 administrative functions
- Cognos Business Intelligence run and list reports
- Oracle Essbase administrative functions
- Oracle Hyperion Financial Data Quality Management (FDM) data operations
- Oracle Hyperion Financial Management (HFM) administrative functions
- Oracle Hyperion Planning administrative functions
- Oracle Enterprise Performance Management (EPM) monitoring
- QlikView data operations

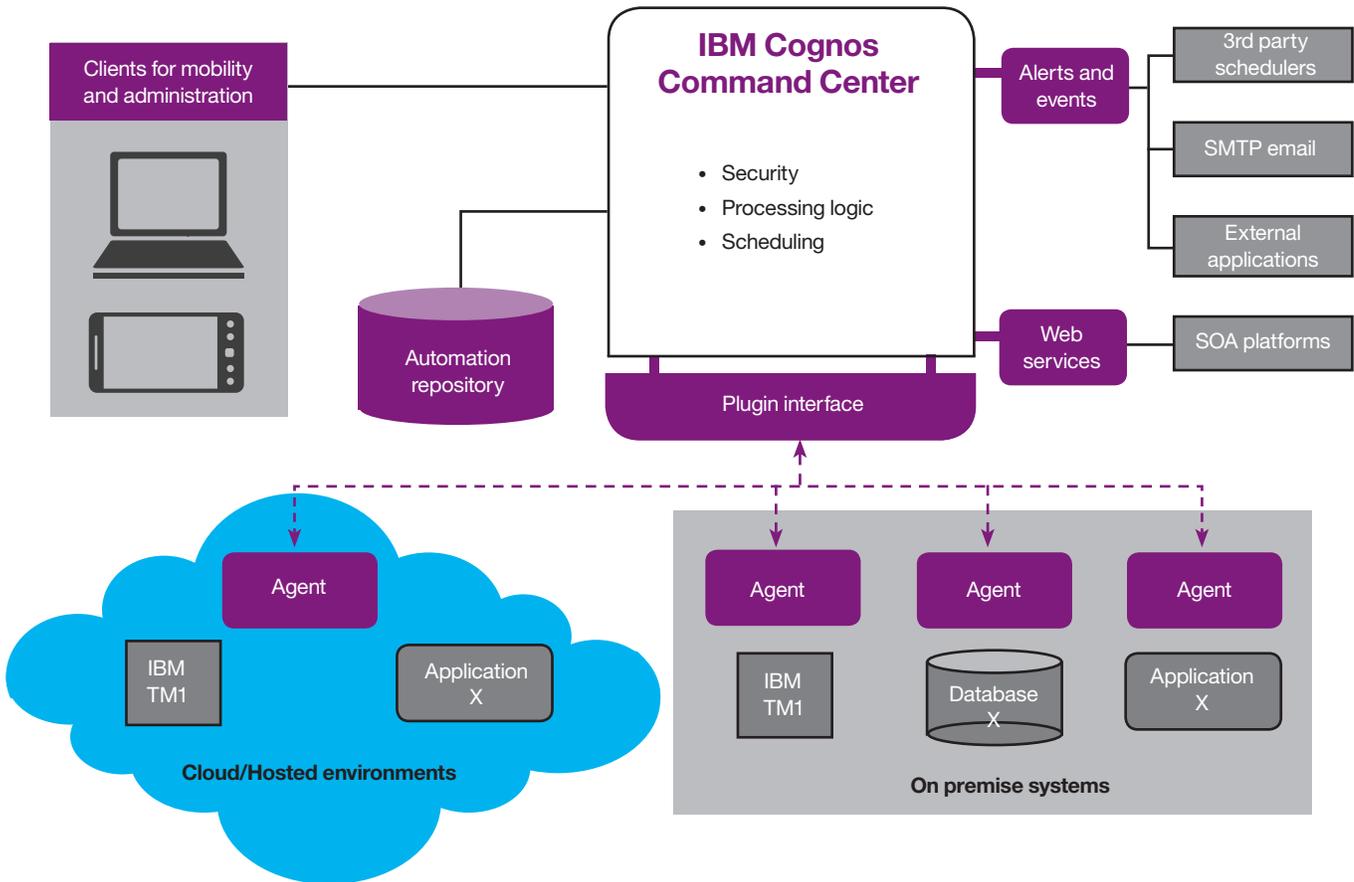


Figure 1: Centralized automation, processing logic and security provide simplicity and control to automation environments.

Key benefits

- **Application integration:** Cognos Command Center wraps around Cognos TMI, Cognos Business Intelligence, Oracle Essbase, Oracle Hyperion Financial Management (HFM), QlikView and more, to create an integrated environment across applications. It also handshakes with IT-based schedulers, including IBM Tivoli.
- **Audit and log monitoring:** Reduces compliance risks and audit challenges with an audit trail to show who ran what, where, when and how. Cognos Command Center provides source control and audit trails between development, test, and production and helps eliminate unencrypted and hardcoded passwords.
- **Workflow orchestration:** Reduces manual interventions and wait times with a business-friendly interface that enables users to sequence sophisticated task flows across multiple computing environments and BI/PM applications, both on premises and in the cloud. Processes can be run consecutively or in parallel, and Cognos Command Center can handshake with in-house scheduling technology such as IBM Tivoli, CA AutoSys, BMC Control M and UC4. It also allows for pre- and post-task actions, conditional processing and custom calendars.
- **Reduces custom code:** Cognos Command Center reduces the complexity of custom code with plug-in libraries of predefined business functions that extend product capabilities to a wide variety of BI and FPM applications. Libraries provide for tighter integration and allow for ad hoc expansion of functionality.
- **Centralized control and compliance:** The automation repository enables safeguarded and auditable source control of automation scripts and tasks, as well as a central runbook to show who ran what, where, when and how.
- **Automation lifecycle management:** Creates a detailed audit history and provides lifecycle management (LCM) for the automated processes between development, test and production environments.
- **Self-service automation:** Business users enjoy “on-demand” access to processes, which they can view and run at their own convenience on an ad hoc or scheduled basis and diagnose exceptions as they arise. (Administrators can assign roles and permissions at a granular level.)
- **Mobility and flexibility:** Business users can run and monitor their processes from smartphones and devices connected to a corporate network, reducing the burden on IT.
- **Easier implementation:** Cognos Command Center is vendor neutral and leverages existing infrastructure to enhance your BI and FPM environment.
- **Rapid return on investment:** Cognos Command Center provides a quick ROI and allows organizations to do more with less. Many deployments can be up and running within a single day.

Key enabler for the cloud

With its focus on workflow orchestration and hybrid cloud integration, Cognos Command Center is a key enabler for enterprise computing on the cloud. Enterprises can use Cognos Command Center to seamlessly automate hybrid computing environments that co-exist in virtualized clouds, hosted servers and on-premises computing environments. Cognos Command Center has been certified to run on Oracle on Demand, Amazon AWS, Microsoft Azure, and it sets the stage to support other cloud environments.

System requirements

Server

- Microsoft Windows Server 2012
- Microsoft Windows 2003 / 2008 Server (x86, x86-64)
- Microsoft Windows 2003 / 2008 R2 (x86, x86-64)

Administrative client

- Microsoft Windows 2003 / 2008 Server (x86, x86-64)
- Microsoft Windows 2003 / 2008 R2 (x86, x86-64)

Third party software

- Java Runtime Environment 6 or higher
- Microsoft .NET Framework 4.0 or higher

Agent

- Microsoft Windows 2003 / 2008 Server (x86, x86-64)
- Microsoft Windows 2003 / 2008 R2 (x86, x86-64)
- Oracle Sun Solaris 9 / 10 (SPARC only)
- IBM AIX 5.3, 6.1 and 7.1
- HP-UX 11.x or higher Itanium/PA RISC
- Red Hat Enterprise Linux 4.0 / 5.0.x
- Ubuntu 11.x and greater

Web Server

- Internet Information Services (IIS) 6.0 or higher with ASP.NET enabled

Web Client

- Microsoft Windows Internet Explorer 7.x or higher
- Mozilla Firefox 17 / ESR 17 or higher, on Microsoft Windows and Apple OS-X
- Apple Safari 6.0 or higher, on Microsoft Windows and Apple OS-X
- Google Chrome 3.0 or higher

Application repository

- Oracle 9i - 9.2.0.1 or higher, Oracle OCI Required
- Microsoft SQL Server 2005 or higher, Microsoft Data Access Components 2.8 or higher

* IBM Cognos Command Center requires Microsoft .NET Framework 4.0 or higher. Customers must acquire a license for Microsoft .NET Framework separately.

About IBM Analytics

IBM Analytics software delivers data-driven insights that help organizations work smarter and outperform their peers. This comprehensive portfolio includes solutions for business intelligence, predictive analytics and decision management, performance management, and risk management.

IBM Analytics solutions enable companies to identify and visualize trends and patterns in areas, such as customer analytics, that can have a profound effect on business performance. They can compare scenarios, anticipate potential threats and opportunities, better plan, budget and forecast resources, balance risks against expected returns and work to meet regulatory requirements. By making analytics widely available, organizations can align tactical and strategic decision-making to achieve business goals. For further information please visit ibm.com/analytics

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Produced in the United States of America
November 2015

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