# IBM Cognos Analytics Expands AI Enablement

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IBM Cognos Analytics enhanced several capabilities enabled by artificial intelligence (AI) in both business intelligence and data preparation. New capabilities include automatic relationship discovery, natural language explanations, visualization recommendations, alternate comparisons of data, related table discovery, and a natural language processing (NLP) AI assistant.
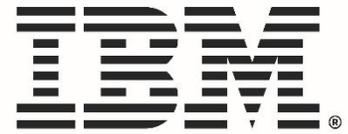
AI Enablement for Business Intelligence and Data Preparation

As analytic demands exceed the resources available to process requests from business leaders, analytics suites are racing to automate repetitive manual tasks using machine learning and AI. IBM Cognos Analytics, a web-based, integrated business intelligence solution, continues to expand their portfolio with AI-enabled capabilities.

Relationship discovery is a visual representation of data elements within the business intelligence portion of IBM Cognos Analytics. Stronger relationships are simply visualized with thicker lines. Clicking on a related dataset reveals statistical insights, plus automatically generated natural language explanations regarding the relationship between the two data elements.

Next, analysts and business users can select from a set of recommended visualizations and comparisons. Visualization recommendations are common, but this particular capability also offers suggestions on the different aspects of the data to be compared in the visual.

New advanced analytics capabilities include the autonomous recommendation of forecasting options any time the system detects time series data. The options include nine different algorithms for forecasting. In addition, IBM Cognos Analytics provides a simple user interface enabling business users and data analysts to automatically apply decision trees to different datasets.

A natural language AI assistant allows users to type in questions to ask the data. As users type, an autofill feature makes suggestions on exactly how to pose the question in a way that is understandable by the data. Next, IBM Cognos Analytics automatically creates a single visualization or a dashboard with a primary visualization and several supporting dashboard widgets. Within the new dashboard context, users can continue to ask questions of the discovered dataset and get answers based on NLP.

For AI-enabled data preparation, the analytics solution now offers auto-discovery of related tables and the automatic creation of a schema for users who are not familiar with the data. During the creation process, Cognos brings up a word cloud to show the strength of various concepts in data. Once key concepts are detected and chosen, AI enablement detects all joins and organizes the schema into a visual diagram.

EMA Perspective

EMA believes that analytics and business intelligence suites that are first to market with the automation of repetitive, human resource-intensive functions will be leaders in their industry. This announcement signifies IBM's continued investment in AI enablement and their ongoing commitment to both their SaaS and on-premises business intelligence solutions. Existing and new customers can expect to accelerate their journey toward becoming analytic-driven organizations. Business intelligence and data preparation automation will create a culture in which more people use data, ask for data, share data, and produce an increase in value created by intelligent decision-making.

About EMA

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