Argos OLAP Cubes

Overview

Missouri State University purchased the Argos reporting tool because of its smooth interface with Banner, as well as its ability to interface with the legacy system. One of its many features is the ability to create On-Line Analytical Processing (OLAP) cubes. For more information about OLAP visit http://www.olapreport.com/fasm.htm.

An OLAP cube presents information in a specific way, which allows administrators at all levels the ability to access data quickly. Within an OLAP cube the user can filter, sort, and regroup data at the time of analysis. As a result, the user can quickly configure different views of the same data.

The Argos tool is web based, which facilitates data sharing across campus. The output of an Argos OLAP cube is presented in an electronic spreadsheet format, which can be easily transmitted to an excel file for further processing.

Access to the cubes

The cubes run in the Argos environment. You can access them in the same manner as you already access Argos or you can use the link off of the Institutional Research (OIR) web information center: http://www.missouristate.edu/oir/62764.htm.

Navigation of the cubes

Two documents, complete with screen shots, are available to help you navigate around the Argos OLAP cubes: “Instructions for navigating OLAP cubes with Argos” and “Working with multiple measures within an Argos cube.” Both documents are available off the OIR web site: http://www.missouristate.edu/oir/64815.htm.

Preset parameters: For example, in both the Student cubes and the Course cubes, you have the option of viewing results using a semester-to-semester comparison (e.g., three fall semesters side by side) or academic year comparisons (FA, SP, SU).

Reconfigure the output: You can reconfigure the output by dragging a category to a new location.

Filter output using whole categories: You can limit what is displayed by removing an entire category from the display.

Filter output within a category: You can limit what is displayed by filtering value within any category.

Export output to excel: You can export the output to excel with two clicks. Note you will lose all drill down capabilities once you export. Therefore, be sure to expand all categories of interest prior to initiating the export function. To export to excel, right click anywhere in the table. Select export to excel.

Change the parameters displayed: Without leaving the cube environment you can change the parameters of the display by selecting new parameters at the top of the form. Note – this will return to the output to its original display. Any manipulations or filtering will be lost.

Managing measures within a cube: Some of the cubes have multiple measures available. Demonstration example – Adding enrollment to display.

Practical Applications

Any information you might present in a cross-tab or pivot table is suitable for presentation in an OLAP cube. This type of display can be used for both Legacy and Banner Information.