

# Microsoft Enterprise Consortium Resources To Enhance Teaching Data Warehouses, Business Intelligence and Dimensional Reporting

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## Abstract

Data warehouses, business intelligence and dimensional reporting are critical components of businesses; consequently, businesses must safeguard, manage and use their data effectively and employ IT staff who understand and have experience working with databases, data warehouses, business intelligence, dimensional reporting, data analysis theories and tools. In order to prepare IT students to work in business environment that demands extensive knowledge and hands-on experiences with data bases and business intelligence, in addition to coverage of data bases, many business schools have included courses on these topics in their IT course inventory. However, in most cases, the students' hands-on experiences are limited to minimum use of small data sets and walkthrough fictitious and static data analysis simulations, at best.

This article introduces the Microsoft Enterprise Consortium (MEC) free online resources including large and real data sets and instructional resources that are available to faculty and students and can be used to teach data warehouses, business intelligence, and dimensional reporting. The MEC resources complement other teaching materials in a variety of courses such as database management, beginning and advanced SQL, data warehouses, business intelligence, data mining, data cubes and dimensional reporting, and provide students with hands-on exercises using real data from Dillard's Department Stores, Sam's Club and Tyson Frozen Foods.

**Keywords:** data base, data cube, data warehouse, data mining, business intelligence, dimensional reporting, online teaching resources

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