



Panda Logica MBI

Business intelligence for IBM ERP systems

MBI for IBM i and iSeries ERP environments

Managerial and operational dashboards and grids for companies whose core systems still run the business - but whose reporting has been left behind.

IBM i / iSeries

Dashboards

Operational grids

Saved layouts





The data is there. Practical access to it is often not.

Many manufacturers, distributors and service businesses still rely on IBM i, iSeries or System i enterprise resource planning (ERP) platforms. These systems are reliable. The reporting problem is usually outside the ERP: extraction work, legacy field names, unclear relationships, spreadsheets, and too much reliance on technical staff.

Generic BI expects cleaner data than many legacy ERPs provide

Short field names, non-standard keys, mixed naming conventions and hidden business meaning rarely map neatly to a plug-and-play connector.

ERP replacement is not the sensible answer

A full platform replacement can be expensive, risky and unnecessary when the immediate problem is reporting access rather than transaction processing.

Spreadsheets fill the gap badly

Exports and spreadsheet packs create version drift, hidden logic and repeat dependence on the few people who know how the data fits together.

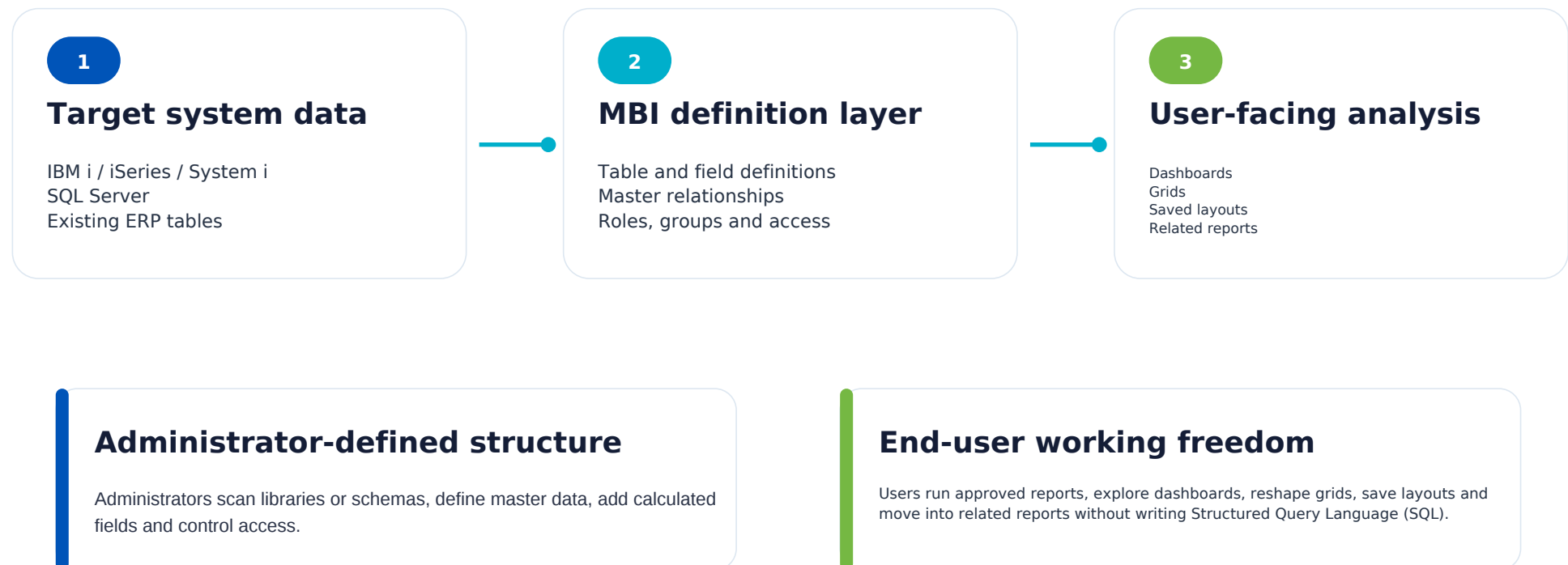
MBI is aimed at the gap between rigid ERP reports and expensive enterprise BI projects.

It gives users useful dashboards and serious operational grids over existing ERP data, while allowing administrators to define the joins, fields, calculated values, roles and report access that make the data usable.



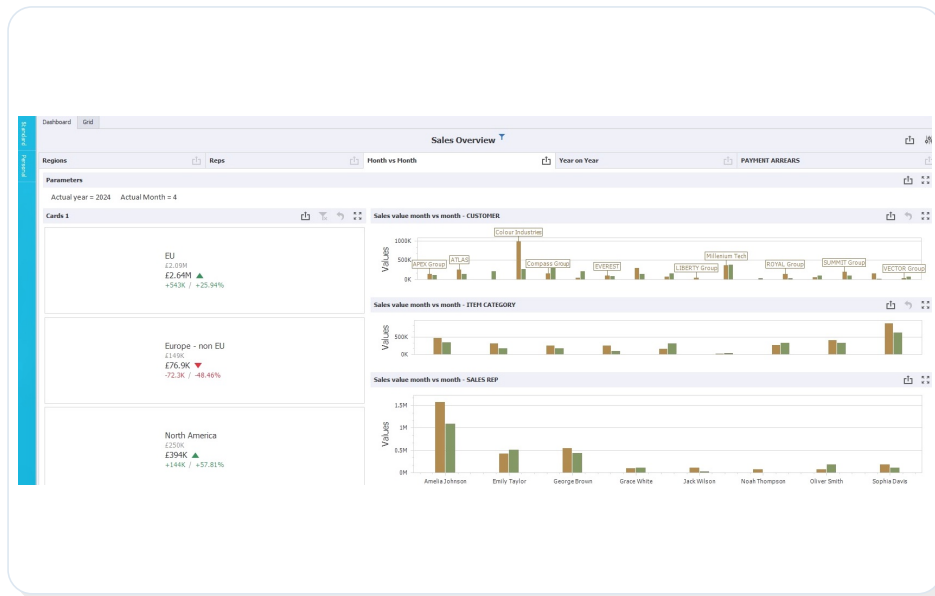
A reporting layer built for real operational data

MBI is a Windows desktop business intelligence (BI) application. It presents user-defined queries as interactive dashboards and customisable grids, working with client data where it already resides, including IBM i, iSeries, System i and SQL Server target systems.

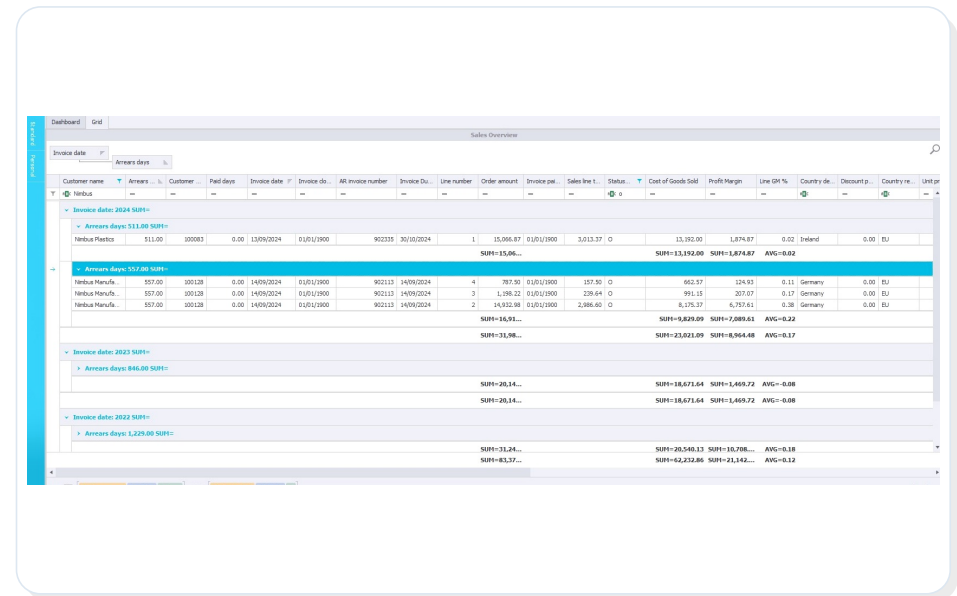


One report can serve management and operations

MBI does not force a choice between visual BI and detailed operational analysis. A report can be viewed as a dashboard for overview, and as a grid for line-level investigation.



Dashboard view
Fast visual interpretation: cards, charts, parameters, comparisons and exception indicators.



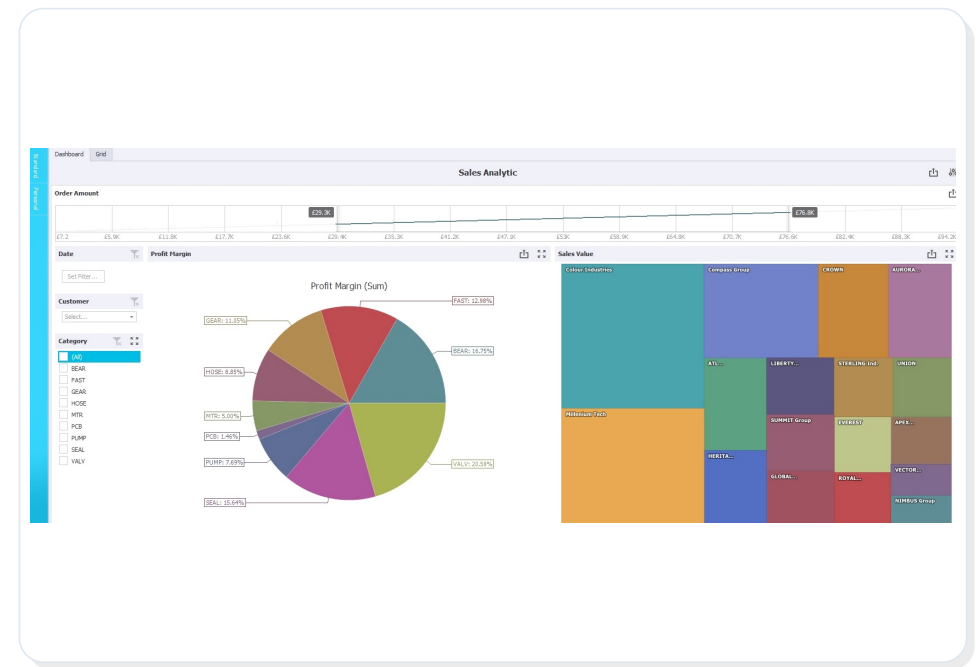
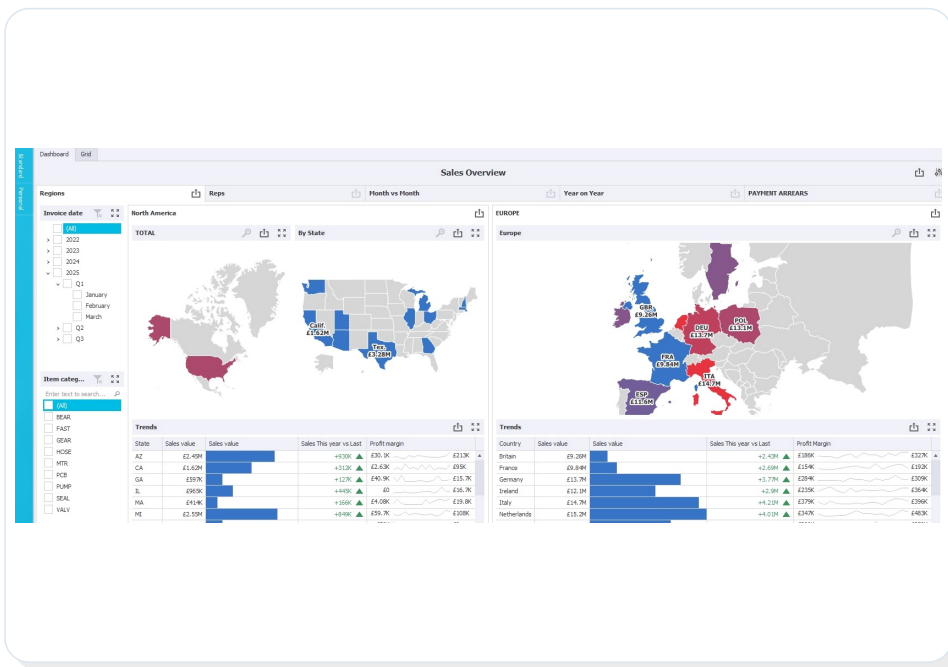
The grid view displays the same 'Sales Overview' report in a detailed table format. The table includes columns for 'Customer name', 'Invoice date', 'Invoice du.', 'All invoice number', 'Invoice Du.', 'Line number', 'Order amount', 'Invoice pe.', 'Sales line', 'Status', 'Cost of Goods Sold', 'Profit Margin', 'Line OK %', 'Country de', 'Discount', 'Country re', and 'Unit pr'. The table is filtered for 'Invoice date: 2024 SURF' and shows detailed data for various customers and invoices. The grid view allows for deep investigation of the data, with filters and groupings visible on the left side.

Grid view
Operational detail: filtering, grouping, summaries, saved layouts and route-through to related reports.

One report = dashboard + grid

Dashboards for overview and operational insight

MBI dashboards are attached to reports. They can give directors a concise overview and also help operational teams trace where a business problem is coming from: region, customer, item category, sales rep, arrears bucket or shipment pattern.



Overview views

Regional performance, sales value, profit margin, arrears and trend information in one screen.

Operational tracing

Filters and visuals help users narrow a problem to source data such as customer, item, date, country or rep.

Multiple dashboards

The same report can have different dashboards for different analysis styles without duplicating the report.

A grid becomes a reusable analytical workspace

Users can arrange a grid around the question they are answering, then save that arrangement as a named layout. The saved layout becomes a one-click view for later use.

Dashboard

Grid

Shipments

Ship method code

Warehouse

City

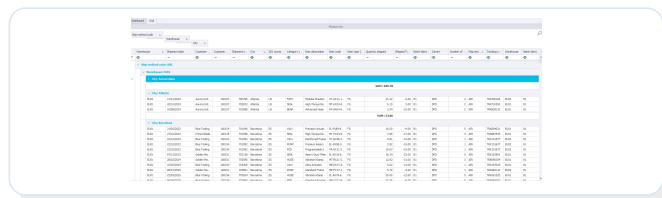
Warehouse	Shipment date	Customer	Customer ...	Shipment n.	City	ISO country	Category	Item description	Item code	Item type (...)	Quantity shipped	Shipped T...	Batch ident...	Carrier	Number of ...	Ship met...	Tracking n...	Warehouse	Batch ident...	
Ship method code: AIR																				
Warehouse: EU01																				
City: Amsterdam																				
City: Atlanta																				
EU01	21/01/2022	Aurora Ind...		100107	700796	Atlanta	US	FAST	Modular Bracket...	HY-AX11-1...	FG			B1	DPD	2	AIR	TRK350196	EU02	B1
EU01	20/10/2024	Aurora Ind...		100107	703033	Atlanta	US	SEAL	High-Torque Re...	MT-HK24-9...	FG			B1	DPD	2	AIR	TRK710593	EU01	B1
EU01	10/08/2024	Aurora Ind...		100107	703388	Atlanta	US	BEAR	Advanced Hose	PA-AM64-9...	FG			B1	DPD	2	AIR	TRK828210	EU01	B1
City: Barcelona																				
EU01	31/05/2022	Blue Tooling		100154	701040	Barcelona	ES	VALV	Precision Actuat...	EL-FX89-8...	FG			B1	DPD	5	AIR	TRK304021	EU01	B1
EU01	27/10/2023	Prime Metals		100146	701858	Barcelona	ES	SEAL	High-Torque Re...	MT-HK24-9...	FG	7.89	-17.00	B1	DPD	4	AIR	TRK387644	EU01	B1
EU01	22/10/2023	Blue Tooling		100154	701992	Barcelona	ES	VALV	Reinforced Frame	HY-QX38-3...	FG	0.81	-19.00	B1	DPD	1	AIR	TRK151677	EU02	B1
EU01	22/10/2023	Blue Tooling		100154	701992	Barcelona	ES	PUMP	Premium Assem...	EL-AX58-5...	FG	3.92	-19.00	B1	DPD	1	AIR	TRK151677	EU02	B1
EU01	22/10/2023	Blue Tooling		100154	701992	Barcelona	ES	PCB	Programmable S...	PA-GX11-3...	FG	10.67	-19.00	B1	DPD	1	AIR	TRK151677	EU02	B1
EU01	07/12/2023	Golden Ma...		100031	702139	Barcelona	ES	SEAL	Heavy-Duty Filter	EL-AX18-8...	FG	16.34	-23.00	B1	DPD	9	AIR	TRK163891	EU01	B1
EU01	28/02/2024	Golden Ma...		100031	702596	Barcelona	ES	HOSE	Vibration-Camp...	MT-8X21-2...	FG	12.62	-13.00	B1	DPD	3	AIR	TRK690304	EU01	B1
EU01	10/05/2024	Blue Tooling		100154	703206	Barcelona	ES	VALV	Ultra Actuator	ME-DX71-5...	FG	5.62	-14.00	B1	DPD	1	AIR	TRK107024	EU01	B1
EU01	08/07/2025	Golden Ma...		100031	703891	Barcelona	ES	PUMP	Standard Frame	ME-FX17-3...	FG	5.72	-4.00	B1	DPD	1	AIR	TRK982144	EU02	B1
EU01	22/05/2025	Blue Tooling		100154	703924	Barcelona	ES	HOSE	Vibration-Camp...	EL-AX79-6...	FG	20.00	-12.00	B1	DPD	9	AIR	TRK391523	EU01	B1
EU01	06/09/2024	Blue Tooling		100154	701864	Barcelona	ES	MTD	Standard Bracket	ME-CV21-LB	FG	30.76	-8.00	B1	DPD	6	AIR	TRK560513	EU01	B1

1 Group the data
 Example: ship method -> warehouse -> city.

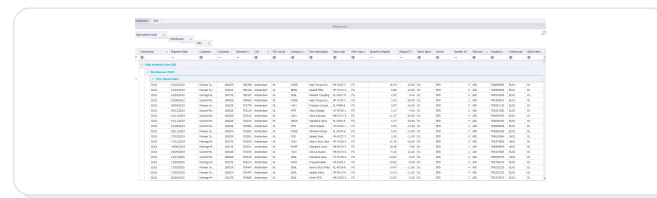
2 Choose fields
 Show the columns needed for the decision.

3 Summarise
 Choose Sum, Min, Max, Count, Average or None.

4 Save layouts to the gallery
 Store multiple named layouts and restore any one with a single click.



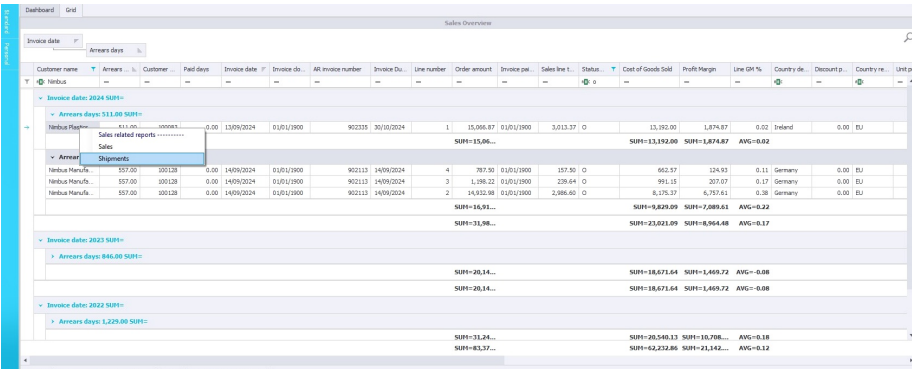
Saved layout visible in the ribbon



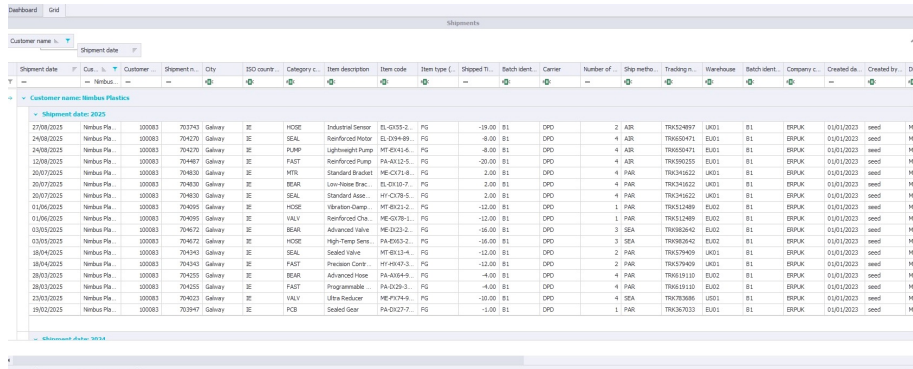
Numeric summary options in the grid

Move from one answer to the next question

Operational reporting rarely stops at the first answer. MBI can use selected grid values to find related reports and open them with the right filter already applied.



Customer name	Sales date	Order amount	Invoice amount	Profit Margin	Line GH %	Country de	Discount p	Country re	Unit of
Nibbus Rta.	2024-09-01	15,066.87	15,066.87	0.02	0.00	Indland	0.00	EU	



Shipment date	Date	Customer	Shipment n.	Qty	ISO country	Category	Item description	Item code	Item type	Shipped to	Batch ident.	Carrier	Number of	Ship method	Tracking n.	Warehouse	Batch ident.	Company c.	Created da.	Created by
27/08/2025	2025-08-27	Nibbus Rta.	701743	Galvney	SE	HOSE	Industrial Sensor	EL-G155-2	FG	-19.00	B1	DPD	2	ADR	TRK524897	U001	B1	BRUK	01/01/2023	seed

1. Right-click selected grid data
The user selects a value such as a customer and opens the related-report menu.

2. Open the related report already filtered
In the example, Sales Overview routes into Shipments for the selected customer.

MBI generates dynamic related-report links automatically from selected fields, available reports and user access.
No link setup is needed when a new report is created.



Designed around the realities of long-lived ERP data

MBI is useful where the business data is valuable, but the structure is not packaged for a modern plug-and-play BI provider. The administrator describes the ERP data once, then users work with it repeatedly.

Libraries and schemas

MBI scans selected libraries or schemas and stores table and field definitions.

Master-data understanding

Administrators identify master tables such as Customer, Supplier, Product and Warehouse.

Legacy naming tolerance

Different tables can hold the same business entity under different field names; MBI lets those relationships be mapped.

Automatic joins

Mapped relationships help MBI create useful queries over related tables.

Calculated fields

Calculated fields can be attached to tables and reused when users create reports.

Access control

Reports and dashboards can be assigned through users, groups and roles.

The result is a reporting layer that respects the ERP instead of pretending legacy data is already a clean analytics model.

Control for administrators. Freedom for users.

MBI separates data definition and access control from day-to-day report use. That matters where uncontrolled reporting can quickly become another fragile shadow system.

Administrator-controlled foundation

- Define environments and target systems.
- Scan libraries or schemas and store table/field definitions.
- Map master tables, keys and field relationships.
- Create calculated fields and assign reports to groups/roles.
- Create standard dashboards for approved users.

User-controlled analysis

- Run available reports from the front-end menu.
- Switch between dashboard and grid views.
- Group, filter, sort and summarise grid data.
- Save named layouts for repeated analysis.
- Create personal dashboards where permitted.

The business gets controlled data access without reducing users to passive report consumers.

Best fit: valuable ERP data with awkward reporting access

MBI is not positioned as an ERP replacement or another generic cloud BI connector. It is strongest where a company needs practical visibility over existing operational data without forcing a large data warehouse project before users can see value.

Situation	Why MBI helps
IBM i, iSeries or System i ERP remains core to operations	MBI can work over the existing target system instead of requiring immediate ERP replacement.
Field names and relationships are not self-explanatory	Administrators map master data and relationships once so users do not need to understand legacy internals.
Users need both overview and transaction-level detail	The same report can expose dashboard summaries and grid-level detail.
Teams need different views of the same data	Saved layouts allow different analytical arrangements without duplicating the underlying report.
Operational follow-up matters	Related-report routing lets users move from a row in one report to a filtered view in another.

The point is straightforward: make existing ERP data visible, navigable and reusable without turning every reporting question into a technical project.



Panda Logica
MBI

A practical BI layer for IBM i and iSeries ERP environments

MBI gives operational users dashboards, grids, saved layouts and related-report navigation over the systems that already run the business.

- Works with IBM i, iSeries, System i and SQL Server target data
- Provides managerial and operational dashboards and grids
- Lets users save named layouts for repeat analysis

