POWER BI REPORT BROADCASTING:

APOS POWERBURST PUBLISHER

PowerBurst

APOS

INTRODUCTION

Advancements within analytics systems continues to happen at a staggering pace. New approaches and capabilities unlock new possibilities for the analytics user. However, in the midst of this there are core and unchanging needs to be addressed. An important and ongoing question that faces analytics professionals is the timely and secure communication of insights to meet ALL information needs. This is a challenging question – while many information needs are well understood and effectively addressed through self-service analytics, other important information needs are not as well understood, and are not accomplished through self-service. Such needs often involve users who are outside the analytics platform user base, or even outside of the organization altogether.

Automated generation and distribution of user specific reports continues to be a common requirement for organizations running on all analytics platforms. Many such organizations need to expand their bulk scheduling capabilities to replace functionality previously available to them in legacy BI and analytics solutions. Others are finding new needs for communicating their analytics insights as they transform business processes. All are looking for ways to automate and streamline analytics communications to meet the needs of their data-driven organizations.

As organizations modernize their data and AI technology, they undergo digital transformations that may include adoption of or migration to different analytics platforms. APOS PowerBurst Publisher's multi-platform capabilities provide a means of maintaining, building and orchestrating centralized reporting workflows while streamlining analytics adoption and migration.

"PULL" VS. "PUSH"

Power BI and other Cloud analytics platforms do have "Push" capabilities, but they are generally limited in cloud-based systems, because they are resource-intensive. Broadcasting places significant stress on computing power and memory usage, and has the potential to disrupt core analytics and visualization processes. Because of this, the default analytics communications strategy tends to be a "Pull" strategy, in which users log in to view reports and dashboards. While this is a valid strategy for analytics professionals and business unit power users, a "Push" strategy may be more suitable for diverse audiences. In this type of strategy, information is pushed out directly to information consumers via email, or to a network file share, or to FTP or secure FTP. An effective "Push" strategy places information into the path of those who need it, when they need it, and in the format most useful to them, using an external processing and bursting engine, such as APOS PowerBurst Publisher.

When executed successfully, a "Push" strategy can provide important additional benefits:

External Stakeholders & Casual Analytics Users: Many critical stakeholders, such as suppliers and customers, are external to the organization and do not have access to the analytics platform. Many internal stakeholders, such as operations managers, are only casual or infrequent users of the analytics platform. A "Push" strategy ensures they receive the timely and focused information they need for their workflows.

Accountability: Traceability of burst messages lets the sender know whether messages have been received and opened, fostering greater accountability.

Timeliness: Information is presented to recipients when it is most relevant.

Focus: Personalized bursting presents recipients with the information most relevant to their duties.

Workflows: Accountability, timeliness and focus prevent bottlenecks in critical business workflows.

Capacity: An external processing and bursting engine runs outside of Power BI, ensuring a large number of users accessing the same reports at the same time does not overwhelm the platform.

These factors make a "Push" communications strategy a desirable complement to the inherent "Pull" approach of analytics platforms, and expanding the results and returns of the analytics investment. APOS PowerBurst Publisher is the perfect multi-platform solution to enable this kind of enterprise scheduling and broadcasting strategy and deliver that expanded ROI.

WHAT IS "BURSTING"?

Report bursting is an automated process that utilizes a single report template to generate and deliver a personalized version of that report to each recipient by applying targeted filters and business rules. Each "burst" of reports follows a defined orchestration, ensuring recipients get the view that aligns with their responsibilities using an automated, data-driven process. Coordinate report execution through rules, schedules, triggers, and automation to ensure reports arrive precisely where and when your recipients need them. Bursting is an automated, controlled and governed process that removes the burden of managing extensive schedules and enables personalized content with precise timing for optimal business impact.

POWERBURST PUBLISHER – A MULTI-PLATFORM SOLUTION

APOS PowerBurst Publisher is a report scheduling and broadcasting solution that supports multiple business intelligence and analytics platforms. In all platform scenarios, PowerBurst Publisher provides greater flexibility, availability, scalability and volume than any native capabilities within supported platforms. The expanded functionality for each individual analytics platform is then provided for multiple platforms, all from within a single report broadcasting solution, which yields important workflow, integration, and cost advantages.

Migrating to Power BI from SAP Business Objects Publications, Qlik NPrinting, SAP BW Broadcasting, IBM Cognos Analytics Bursting, or MicroStrategy Bursting can involve leaving behind important report broadcasting functionality. PowerBurst can replace your legacy bursting, broadcasting, NPrinting, or publications functionality with Power BI using PowerBurst's data-driven bulk scheduling automation.

APOS PowerBurst Publisher supports automated report scheduling broadcasting in these platforms and others:

Power BI

tableau from Salesforce

Looker PART OF Google Cloud

SAP® Analytics Cloud

SAP® Analysis for Office

PowerBurst Publisher's automation provides personalized reports to the right people at the right time in the right format, and lowers the burden on IT teams.

CORE REPORT BROADCASTING FUNCTIONALITY

Dynamic rules – drive bursting definitions dynamically from a data source

Filters and variables – create multiple versions of a report with ease, sending different data sets to different recipients

Destinations – select from a variety of destinations to meet recipient needs (e.g.: email, network file share, secure FTP)

Formats – generate and send in PDF, Excel (XLSX), Excel (XLSB), Excel Templates, CSV; use Excel templates for professional look and feel

Multiple export options – multiple formats created from a single bursting definition; high-volume; support for large data set export to Excel or CSV; support for all popular image formats

Conditional broadcasting – integrate the bursting engine into your processes; monitor a database for values that indicate that action needs to be taken; execute the action using a bursting definition, a script, or SQL statement

Multiple Broadcast Execution Trigger Options – broadcasts can be triggered by:

- **Date + Time –** single or recurring; hourly, daily, weekly, monthly
- **Command Line –** process chain integration; automation tool integration; bot integration
- **Conditional –** business rules driven; execution by threshold value criteria; data load completion
- **Agentic AI –** integration with Agentic AI; drive broadcasts with dynamic selection of reports, recipients, filters

Web Scheduling User Interface– for users scheduling broadcasts, administrator-level technical expertise is not required; the Web Scheduling UI simplifies their tasks greatly

Enterprise Scalability – distributed and targeted processing for high availability, high performance, and failover capabilities

Enterprise Security and Administration – secure team collaboration and enhanced administrative capabilities

Centralized Analytics Broadcasting – consolidate your scheduling and broadcasting across multiple analytics platforms

FLEXIBLE SCHEDULING

PowerBurst is data driven and has numerous features that provide flexible scheduling, helping you to maintain the integrity of your workflows.

TIME, DAY SCHEDULING

PowerBurst simplifies schedule creation by integrating it with scheduling definition creation. The scheduling definition contains the information needed for your broadcast. You simply specify schedule settings on the bursting definition screen and PowerBurst creates the schedule and runs it automatically.

You can schedule broadcasts:

- Hourly
- Daily
- Weekly
- Monthly
- Custom dates configured in business calendars

CONDITIONAL SCHEDULING

With integrated conditional broadcasting, you can monitor key data values in your system and automatically trigger broadcasts when thresholds have been exceeded.

Say, for example, you want to:

- Know when sales for a certain region exceed 33% or dip below 30%
- Schedule story broadcasts to run after intermittent updates from your database have occurred, ensuring that you are not broadcasting outdated data

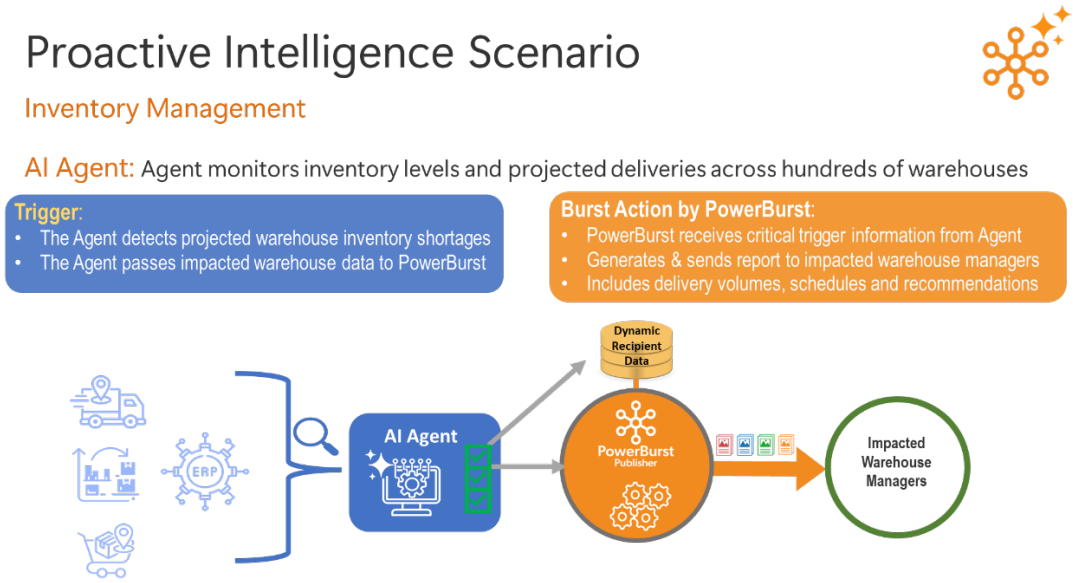
You can set PowerBurst's Database Monitoring service to monitor for these conditions and trigger automatic broadcasts.

AGENTIC AI INTEGRATION & PROACTIVE INTELLIGENCE

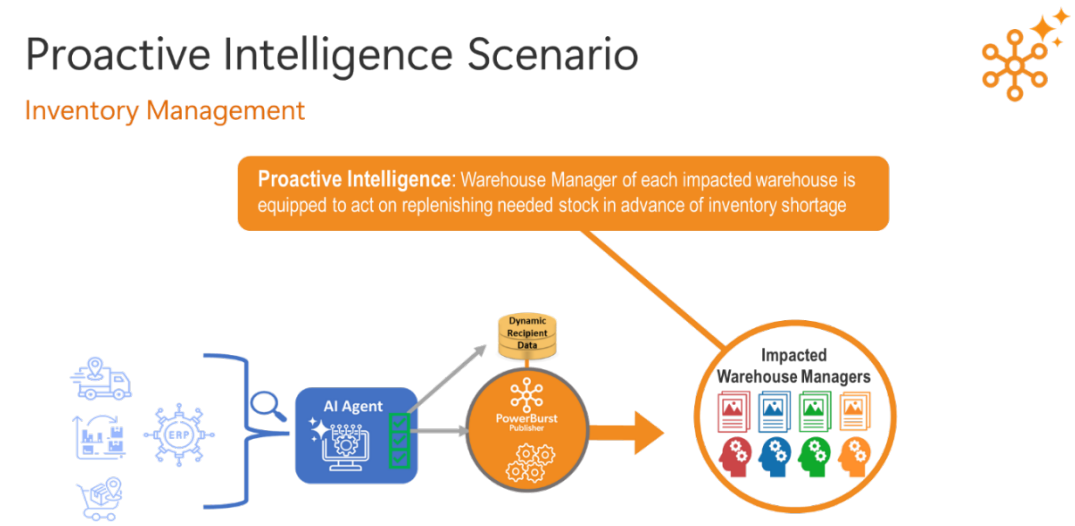
PowerBurst's integration with agentic AI presents an opportunity to build specific broadcasting use cases that demonstrate proactive intelligence and the flexibility and benefits of agentic AI workflows, while surfacing potential data governance issues for your GRC team to consider as the use of AI expands across the enterprise.

The term "proactive intelligence" refers to the APOS publishing/bursting/broadcasting technology platform's ability to integrate agentic AI with your analytics workflows for greater efficiency and effectiveness.

Consider the following scenario: Inventory management is a critical operational function, and an obvious candidate for improved efficiency and effectiveness. In this scenario, individual warehouse managers are empowered to replenish stock in advance of inventory shortages, but they may not be aware of the need to replenish if they have not reviewed analytics online.



An AI agent can be tasked with monitoring potential shortages for each warehouse and pass those potential shortages to PowerBurst. PowerBurst generates and sends reports to the impacted warehouse managers.

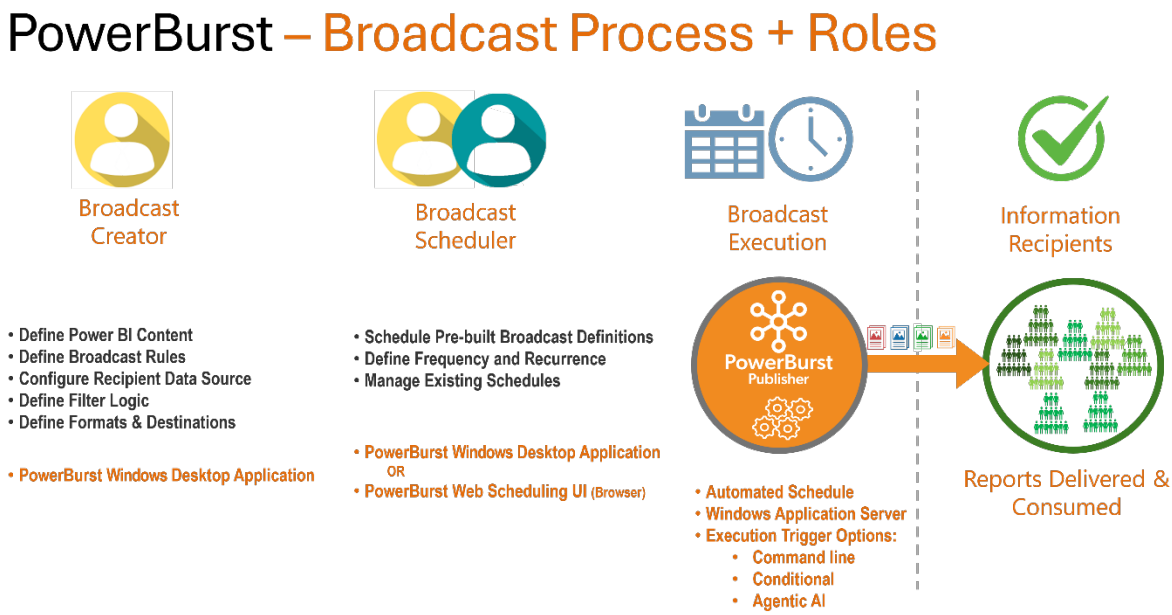


PROCESS CHAIN INTEGRATION

PowerBurst's Database Monitoring service also helps you integrate scheduling and broadcasting with existing process chains. When the service encounters specific conditions, it can be set to run a bursting definition, or a script, or an SQL statement. PowerBurst can wait for data to be ready in the database, run a burst, and then update the database that the burst happened, or reset a table value, or run a script.

WEB SCHEDULING USER INTERFACE

PowerBurst provides a Web-based interface geared primarily toward the Broadcast Scheduler role. Users in this role do not require the same level of technical expertise as system administrators and broadcast creators, and the Web Scheduling UI simplifies their tasks even more.



This Web-based UI is simple to deploy, provides great self-service for schedulers, and lightens the load of your administrators.

This Web-based UI provides:

Simplified Deployment

- No server access needed
- No application installation needed
- Controlled user access from a web browser with authentication

Ease of Use

- Enriched intuitive interface
- Scheduling made easy
- Personalized interface per user

ENTERPRISE SCALABILITY

PowerBurst runs on the individual user's desktop, but the solution is highly scalable because it uses processing and scheduling servers to create high availability and failover for your broadcasting activities. Scale up the number of these servers to create distributed and targeted processing for rapid, high-volume broadcast execution.

DISTRIBUTED PROCESSING

You define and schedule your broadcasts in the PowerBurst desktop application. When the application executes the broadcast, it does so using a processing server. Because PowerBurst enables a collaborative environment, many broadcasts may be scheduled to run simultaneously, which is why many organizations will choose to set up numerous processing servers to enable distributed processing of broadcasting requests.

Setting up multiple processing and scheduling servers as processing agents allows you to scale your broadcasting operation for high performance and high volume. Processes can be multi-threaded and run on multiple processing servers, using processing servers as they become available.

For example, if a broadcast consists of 5,000 generated documents, multiple processing servers will distribute the workload to increase efficiency and ensure timely delivery to all recipients.

HIGH AVAILABILITY AND FAILOVER

In a distributed processing scenario, you are not dependent on any single processing server. If one machine becomes unavailable, the workload assigned to that machine will automatically be reassigned to another machine, providing you with high availability and failover on your broadcasting platform.

TARGETED PROCESSING

Targeted processing allows you to use a specified processing server to take advantage of greater RAM or CPU power on a specific machine for larger or more critical broadcasts. You may also want to use a specific server because of other applications that may reside only on that server. For example, a schedule may call for reports to be exported in Microsoft Excel which means that Microsoft Office must be installed on the machine hosting the PowerBurst processing server.

ENTERPRISE SECURITY

Administered, secure team collaboration for users and groups with shared and private folders, data sources, and bursting definitions enables separate broadcasting programs by department or line of business. Multiple broadcast designers can collaborate securely on content and safely share data sources.

Centralizing your team scheduling and broadcasting in this manner provides a boost to data governance.

SECURITY AND PERMISSIONS

PowerBurst promotes team collaboration by creating an environment in which work can be shared with team members in shared folders. It also allows private folders individuals can use to develop their broadcasting before sharing, or for projects that are not team-based.

ENHANCED SECURITY – USER GROUP ACCESS RIGHTS

PowerBurst security enables stronger controls for secure usage of the solution across multiple business units of an organization.

A PowerBurst administrator creates individual user profiles and groups, as well as shared and private folders to enable team collaboration and segregation of work across business units. The administrator defines which user groups can access which folders, and which rights users have over the content of the shared folders.

ENHANCED ADMINISTRATION

Using a dedicated administration console, an administrator can address important governance and control factors with the ability to view and track:

- When users create, delete, or modify
- What machines they are logging in from
- When potential issues arise

Note too that the solution includes a Recycle Bin, which allows the administrator to restore content that users may have deleted accidentally.

CONCLUSION

What should you look for in an enterprise report broadcasting solution?

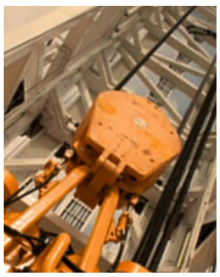
- ✓ **Personalization –** Use your bursting data source to create personalized slices of data for your recipients without having to create different versions of reports.
- ✓ **Formats –** Enable your recipients to work with analytics data using the formats that work best for them, whether PDF, Excel, or CSV. Use templates to present analytics consistently and professionally.
- ✓ **Dynamic Flexibility –** Manage unique and changing scenarios; control and change filtering and distribution by controlling the data which automatically drives the process without burdening users or IT resources.
- ✓ **Agentic AI Integration & Proactive Intelligence –** build broadcasting-specific use cases creating well-governed proactive intelligence and ROI.
- ✓ **High-Volume Export –** Provide the analytics data recipients need, regardless of data volume.
- ✓ **External Stakeholders –** Communicate with suppliers and customers, and with internal stakeholders that do not or cannot log in to your analytics system.
- ✓ **Security & Administration –** Enable administrators to define users and groups, assign permissions, and monitor activities and processes for improved data governance.
- ✓ **Broad Platform Support –** Centralize your BI and analytics scheduling and broadcasting with a single, multi-platform solution for easier administration and control.
- ✓ **Scalability & High Availability –** Scale up processing capabilities and failover according to your broadcasting needs.

CUSTOMER SUCCESS

Secure Broadcasting of Financial Reports

Data-Driven Distribution & Reduced IT Burden

"Push" Publishing with APOS Publisher for Cloud



Data-Driven Personalized Broadcasting for SAC

Secure Visualizations & Performance Metrics Across Design & Manufacturing

Data-Driven Personalized Broadcasting for SAC

Scalable Report Scheduling and Broadcasting Workflows

Timely, Data-Driven SAC Broadcasting to Thousands of Recipients

Timely Report Distribution to SAC & Non-SAC Recipients

ABOUT APOS

Since its beginning in 1992, APOS Systems has evolved from a custom business application development shop to a global provider of solutions promoting well managed business intelligence and analytics.

APOS provides software products which deliver enhanced capabilities and strong agility in the management and administration of on-premise and cloud-based analytics platforms. APOS well managed BI and well managed analytics products improve return on investment and time to value for our global base of customers. APOS solutions simplify, automate, complement, enhance and extend BI practices, and focus BI and analytics processes for greater agility in your organization's decision-making capabilities.

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