BlackBox Migrations, LLC

BlackBox Migrations, LLC, doing business as BlackBox Partners ("BlackBox"), is a Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Business (SDVOSB) that offers solutions to industry and government. BlackBox offers solutions that fit practical business needs:

- **Database Management**
- **Data Warehouse & Business Intelligence**
- **Project Management**
- **Professional Training**
- **Value Added Reselling**

BlackBox, operating out of offices in Houston and Washington DC, serves the market segments of those regions: Oil & Gas, Commercial, & Government.

Dashboards in Context

Dashboards are becoming the preferred method for delivering critical information quickly to executives, managers and analysts. We specialize in designing and delivering dashboards using Stephen Few-inspired visualization and layout. Performance Management Dashboards, Balanced Scorecards, data access with drill up/drill down capabilities, trending, heat maps and situational awareness are all features delivered to your desktop.

BlackBox's Dashboard Approach

BlackBox's specialists bring the full lifecycle experience to Dashboard implementations, having implemented numerous solutions in both the Federal and commercial environments.

• Defining the BI Roadmap

We begin all Dashboard projects by defining an overall BI Strategy, capturing the Vision of the organization, aligning this vision with the mission statement of the client, communicating the BI methodology to the development team, and defining the Maturity Roadmap. This prioritizes the information the BI project seeks and keeps the team and the deliverables focused.

• Dashboard Planning and Categorization

Knowing what kind of dashboard you're delivering drives the design and the information selection, and makes for a better dashboard from the first day of delivery. **Strategic Dashboards** ("Performance Dashboards," "Balanced Scorecards" or "Briefing Books") are typically focused on delivering high level information and KPIs to executives. **Analytical Dashboards** are focused on SMEs and should deliver drillable data to analysts. **Operational Dashboards** are tactical in nature, heavily relying on alerts and operational awareness, delivering detailed logging and interpreting monitoring data.

• Requirements Gathering

BlackBox's specialists meet with customers and technical representatives to perform analysis and gain understanding of source systems and business concepts in order to begin the Data Architecture and Dashboarding process. This includes deep-dive into the underlying data to fully understand its impact.

• Agile Methodology

The most efficient way to quickly deliver value to your end users on a Dashboard project is to utilize Agile development methodology. BlackBox employs Certified Scrum Masters and PMI-ACP certificate holders with vast experience delivering Agile Business Intelligence projects to customers.

• Data Warehouse Architecture

Dashboards generally are fed by Data Warehouse implementations, and Blackbox is highly experienced in delivering end-to-end DW solutions. We take best-of-breed features from the two leading schools of thought in Data Warehousing (Inmon and Kimball approaches) and implement hybrid or pure implementations as dictated by the customer requirements. Newer architecture theories (Hub and Spoke, Hybrids, DW 2.0, Federated data) are considered and implemented for customers who have non-traditional needs.

• Tool Selection

Each of the leading DW vendors (SAP/BO, IBM/Cognos, Oracle, Microsoft, Microstrategy and SAS) have dashboard solutions built into their stacks. We have worked with smaller and open source vendors in the space as well. We have experience with newer data visualization tools (such as SAP Explorer) and what they bring to the table in lieu of conventional dashboard delivery. We also introduce customers to leading edge technologies such as in-memory, columnar or appliance database solutions as requested.

• Dimensional Data Modeling

We are experienced in the dimensional modeling techniques that best feed dashboard solutions. We create a bus matrix of reference data and deliver a dimensional data model of facts and dimensions to deliver large amounts of data quickly. We incorporate conformed dimensions, define Type I, Type II and hybrid dimensions, and define the service bus to bring a data architecture that is comprised of best practices in the industry.

• Extending the Star Schema

We design and implement summary fact tables, aggregates, or cubes to provide superior reporting performance. We design data marts to simplify the warehouse presentation layer, increase performance and enhance the user experience. Some dashboard tools require customized modeling solutions; we are experienced in how to customize a vanilla model to each tool.

• Visualization and Graphical Design

We design dashboard graphics using Stephen Few-inspired best practices for color schemes, visual designs, and selection of data presentation graph types. We avoid "over-colorization," avoid misleading graphics, and use "ink versus data" best practices. 508-compliance used as per requirements.

• Data "Anytime, Anywhere"

We design dashboard architectures to deliver data to multiple platforms at multiple times. Web, Phone, Tablet or desktop. We design dashboards that are portable and transfer to management presentations seamlessly. We design dashboards using technology that automatically updates within presentation materials (MS PowerPoint) and presents an identical view on screen as it would within a browser or device.