

Deski to Webi conversion Feature Comparison

This document described the comparison between the Web Intelligence (Webi) and Desktop Intelligence (Deski) in order to help users on the documents conversion from Deski to Webi. In general, most of the functionalities in Deski have been covered by Webi in the new release of BI4.0 and can be converted; anyway there is some functionality that you need to accomplish in different ways in Webi.

Functionality Comparison between Desktop Intelligence and the latest versions of Web Intelligence are described in five sections.

- The features which cannot be converted with Report Conversion Tool (RCT).
- The features which can be converted partially;
- The features which can be fully converted, which may need few changes.
- The comparison on usability features which doesn't affect conversion, but affect the ways to author and consume documents;
- Optimizing the converted reports with Webi new features.

Below is the summary of Deski 3.1 vs Webi 3.1 vs Webi 4.0 comparison for your reference.

Legend

Symbol	Description
	Feature exists or can have a different workflow
	Feature exists partially, has a different workflow or have workarounds
	Feature does not exist

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Features which cannot be converted

Items	Deski	Webi 3.1	Webi 4.0
OLAP data provider			
XML as data provider			
Visual Basic Data Provider			
Freehand-SQL			
Filter with a Calculation operand			
User defined objects			
Save option with protection password			

Features which are partially converted

Items	Deski	Webi 3.1	Webi 4.0
Automatic refresh setting			
Scope of analysis with filter on a measure			
Context operator			
Variance and Variance percentage calculation			
Complex Filter using condition in a formula		 	 
Note: We cannot define a condition for applying a filter, but we can create a new variable using the			

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condition and apply filter based on that variable (Webi reports)			
Block and global filter Note: We need to recreate again after conversion.	✓	⚠	⚠
Filter applied on a measure in a block Note: We need to recreate again after conversion.	✓	✓	✓
Same-level Break on multiple dimensions Note: During conversion, the setting is removed. In Webi, this can be done by using formatting options. For examples, you can firstly add two breaks, in the "Manage breaks" window, enable the break header and footer for one break, and disable them for the other.	✓	⚠	⚠
Break on an object not in the block Note: The break is removed during the conversion. In Webi, a workaround is to create a section with the column which is not part of the block, and then remove the section label.	✓	⚠	⚠
Value-based break Note: The break is removed during the conversion. In Webi, same views can be accomplished in a different way through formula functions. For example, create a variable, then set section on the variable, and remove the section label to make the variable invisible.	✓	⚠	⚠
Deski functions Note: We have most of the Deski functions in Webi with few syntax changes. For example: CountAll in Deski is changed to Webi syntax as Count	✓	✓	✓

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([object_name]; IncludeEmpty; All). Also the function "MultiCube" in Deski is renamed to "ForceMerge" in Webi.			
Sort on an object not in the block Note: The sort is removed during the conversion. You can add the extra column to the table, do the sorting, and then hide the column.	✓	⚠	⚠
Dual axes line chart	✓	⚠	✓
Multiple groups chart	✓	✗	✗
Automate & Extend functionality via VBA macros	✓	⚠	⚠
Across Edge Display settings in crosstabs	✓	✗	✗
Page break header/footer	✓	✗	✗

Features which are fully converted but with changes

Items	Deski	Webi 3.1	Webi 4.0
Fold/unfold	✓	⚠	✓
Sort on query	✓	✗	✗
Retrieve the top N rows Note: In Webi, you can choose count of rows to retrieve, but cannot apply sort at the query level, so you cannot do the retrieve top N directly. Anyway, you can leverage Rank ability instead. During conversion, the sort is lost, you need to apply sort at the report level.	✓	⚠	⚠

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Option of "Delete trailing blanks"			
Option of "Do not retrieve data"			
Option of "Do not generate SQL before running" Note: The setting is removed during conversion. In Webi, there is an option: "Use custom SQL", which also prevents the edited SQL from being overwritten.			
Filter on a formula Note: In Webi, you can create a variable and apply the filter on the variable.			
Windows OLE objects			
Picture format			
Dynamic Picture or OLE object			
Page setup options			
Date format			
Cell shading Note: During conversion, the shading is removed. In Webi you can use background images for similar effect. Any background image can be added to the cell.			
Variable description Note: During conversion, the description is removed. As a workaround, you can create another variable to store the description, or put the description in a free-standing cell.			

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User defined grouping of values in a variable	✓	⚠	⚠
Series color in Charts	✓	✗	✗
Stored Procedure as data provider	✓	✓	✓
Multi-column table	✓	✗	✗
Relative position by setting negative number	✓	✗	✗
Center across page	✓	✗	✗
Conditional hide section, table/chart, cell, dimension	✓	⚠	✓

Comparison on usability features

Items	Deski	Webi 3.1	Webi 4.0
Data manager	✓	✗	✓
Switch Universe	✓	✓	✓
Formula Editor usability Note: Webi is more static. Anyway, Webi users benefit from auto-complete the object/function based on first few characters for much faster creation, lowers likelihood of misspellings, also the help box doesn't let you launch help on operators (e.g. where clause). Deski has the usability edge for formula creating, but both have certain advantages depending on the workflow and the ways functions are used.	✓	⚠	⚠
Invoke List of Value(LOV) in Formula editor	✓	✗	✗

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Personal List of Values	✓	✗	⚠
User-defined hierarchies	✓	✗	✗
Predefined custom sort by days of week, month Note: No predefined custom sort for days, months and alphanumeric is not there in Webi, but we can do manually with up/down "arrows".	✓	⚠	⚠
Adding subtotal and percentage of total on the Rank definition panel Note: In Webi, you have to define formula.	✓	⚠	⚠
Scale to page when printing	✓	✗	✓
Search in document	✓	✓	✓
Split window pane to freeze headers	✓	✗	✗
Templates	✓	✗	✗
Structure view	✓	✓	✓
Universe refresh	✓	✗	✗
Image scaling over the web	✓	⚠	⚠
Duplicate variables	✗	✓	✓
View overall report structure map	⚠	✓	✓
Prompt Order	⚠	✓	✓
User experience for prompts	✓	✓	✓

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Change object qualification for personal data			
Synchronized Data Providers			
Copy/paste tables as text into Office document			
Save report to my computer as HTML			
Save report to my computer as CSV (data)			
Save report to my computer as TXT			
Save report to my computer as RTF			
Publishing delivery rules			
Publishing Method			
Send by email in Excel, PDF, csv format			
Schedule to Printer		 	 
Export to XML		 	 

Webi new Features (Features which there are workarounds in Deski)

Items	Deski	Webi 3.1	Webi 4.0
Create custom formula functions			
Optional Prompts			
Merge cells			

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Ranking in Queries (aka database ranking)			
Show/hide table when empty			
Support for Measure aggregation delegated to Database			
Define relative/absolute positioning to single cells			
Ranking cumulative sum			
Table setting for alternative row colors			
Alert on multiple conditions			

Webi new Features (Features which there is no workaround in Deski)

Items	Deski	Webi 3.1	Webi 4.0
Dynamic Filters (Input Controls)			
Query Stripping			
Track Data Change			
Server Side Ranking as a Query Filter			
Improved Prompting			
Format Painter			
Drill over the Web			
Advanced Charting capabilities (CVOM)			

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Hierarchical Navigation (Dimensional SL)			
Enhanced Copy / Paste			
Webi new Data sources			
Support for SAP data sources			
Support for Dimensional UNX			
Support for Multi-Source UNX			
BICS Connectivity for BEx Queries			
Analysis Views (Interoperability with SAP BusinessObjects Analysis)			

Web Intelligence Features that never exist in Desktop Intelligence

- ✳ **Track Data Changes:** Allows you to see the difference between two different refreshes of a document, and compare the results.
- ✳ **Hyperlinking Wizard:** You can create an OpenDocument link in about 5 minutes, as opposed to the days or weeks spent doing this in Desktop Intelligence.
- ✳ **Most built in formulas:** Web Intelligence has more built-in formulas than Desktop Intelligence. These formulas come in the way of standalone cells that you can simply drag onto your report.
- ✳ **Save as Excel with 65K+ rows:** You can save a Web Intelligence document to the Excel 2007 format, which allows for over 1 million rows in a single worksheet.
- ✳ **Add temporary values to custom sort:** When creating a custom sort, you can add values that are missing, to the sort, so that, when they eventually show up on the report, they will sort in the correct order.

- ✧ **Box chart:** A new chart in Web Intelligence that allows you to see a measure at five different data points across a dimension.
- ✧ **Tag cloud chart:** A new chart in Web Intelligence that allows you to easily compare two measures against a single dimension.
- ✧ **Heat map chart:** A new chart in Web Intelligence. It's the equivalent of a crosstab table, but in chart format.
- ✧ **Bubble chart:** A new chart in Web Intelligence that compares two measures against a single dimension, in an easy to read format.
- ✧ **Optional Prompts:** Prompts created in the query can be marked as optional, allowing users to ignore the prompts, if they wish.
- ✧ **Display query summary on report:** Web Intelligence has a QuerySummary function that allows you to easily display information about the query on the report.
- ✧ **Inner join between queries:** Web Intelligence's Merge Dimension feature allows you to choose how the data is displayed on the report. It doesn't have to be a full outer join, like in Desktop Intelligence,
- ✧ **Query Drill:** Allows you to keep your data set small, while drilling through large amounts of data.
- ✧ **Drill in InfoView:** Web Intelligence document, of course, can enter drill mode in InfoView (BI Launchpad). Desktop Intelligence documents cannot.
- ✧ **Edit in InfoView:** Web Intelligence documents can be easily edited in InfoView (BI Launchpad), by anyone who has permission.
- ✧ **Alternate row shading:** We used to have to do some slight-of-hand with variables to get this to work in Desktop Intelligence. But Web Intelligence has it built in.
- ✧ **Input Controls:** This allows for user interaction in the reports, making What-if analysis quite simple. It also makes it easy to build powerful dashboards in Web Intelligence.

- ✧ **Advanced formatting rules:** That's the new name for Alerter. Web Intelligence's Formatting Rules editor allows for more powerful options, including using formulas in the rule.
- ✧ **Publish as a BI Service:** Individual blocks in Web Intelligence can be published as a Web Service that can be consumed by other BI applications.
- ✧ **Compatible with Live Office:** Report parts from Web Intelligence documents can be consumed by Live Office, allowing integration with MS Office.
- ✧ **Compatible with BI Widgets:** Web Intelligence report parts can be consumed by BI Widgets, allowing them to be dropped onto the desktop as standalone objects.
- ✧ **BEx queries:** Web Intelligence can run queries directly against BEx queries.
- ✧ **Query stripping:** Allows for the automatic removal of objects from a query against an OLAP cube, which do not directly contribute to the report(s).
- ✧ **Synchronize drill on report blocks:** When drilling on one report block, other blocks on the same report can drill at the same time, staying in sync.