About SAP Business Warehouse (BW) at Duke

In addition to the financial reporting functions available in the SAP enterprise system, the SAP Business Warehouse (BW) product is available as a tool for more advanced reporting options at Duke. BW is a data warehouse and contains tables of data that can be used for ad hoc reporting, either to view and use existing standard queries or to build queries. Financial and procurement data are loaded into BW tables from the real-time SAP enterprise system on a nightly basis (SAP enterprise system is an On-line Transaction Processing software – OLTP). So while the data in BW is not updated real-time, there is only a one-day lag (SAP BW is an On-line Analytical Processing software – OLAP).

The BW tool uses an Excel Add-in tool, known as Business Explorer (BEx) Analyzer to view the results of the query and manipulate the report. This allows data to be analyzed in various ways that are not available in SA. BEx Analyzer (v7.0) is the current version that is recommended for use in SAP BW. Earlier versions are no longer supported and will not work with newer software updates for SAP and Microsoft Office.

SAP BW also allows departments to view all their cost objects (Cost Centers, Profit Centers, and WBS Elements/Projects) in one report. Most reports for the University and School of Medicine (Company Code 0010) in the SAP enterprise system allow for reporting on only one kind of cost object at the time.