Case Study
Migrating from Oracle Discoverer to Cognos

The client is a private, non-profit university that has used Oracle Discoverer Extensively for its reporting requirements. Over the years, the number of reports built in Discoverer grew to 9,000, and since Oracle stopped supporting Discoverer in June of 2017, the university sought to avoid obsolescence by replacing Discoverer with IBM Cognos. Ultimately, the university leveraged ennVee's extensive Discoverer migration experience in the higher education space and automation tools and processes to swiftly and securely execute the migration project.

Client Profile

- Private, non-profit university
- Location: Texas, USA
- ~5,000 students
- 9,000 Discoverer reports

Project Topology

- Oracle Discoverer
- ennSight tool
- Cognos

Solution Approach

After performing an initial assessment of the university's Discoverer environment, we identified approximately 9,000 active Discoverer reports. Subsequently, the university's business users scrubbed the list down to 500 essential reports that needed to be migrated to Cognos. The ennVee team successfully migrated all 500 Discoverer Reports Cognos using ennVee's proprietary ennSight tool, which automatically extracts and migrates complete reports.

The university has five different modules:

- **FINAID** relates to reports around the grants that the university receives from various government and non-government organizations.
- **FMSHR** relates to reports around Finance and HR functions.
- **ALUM** relates to reports around university alumni.
- **STUREC** relates to reports around student records.
- **DISC###** relates to miscellaneous Discoverer reports.

After converting the 500 reports into Cognos, we extracted and made available the metadata for the remaining reports. Testing was the most important phase after deployment, where we tested each report and successfully deployed them onto the Cognos server. Post deployment, ennVee met with the university business users, making minor changes and enhancements to the reports based on user feedback.

One major complexity that required a workaround was converting the parameterized reports and cross-tab reports. The parameterized reports were built through "Prompt Value" to get the parameter value for all the reports.
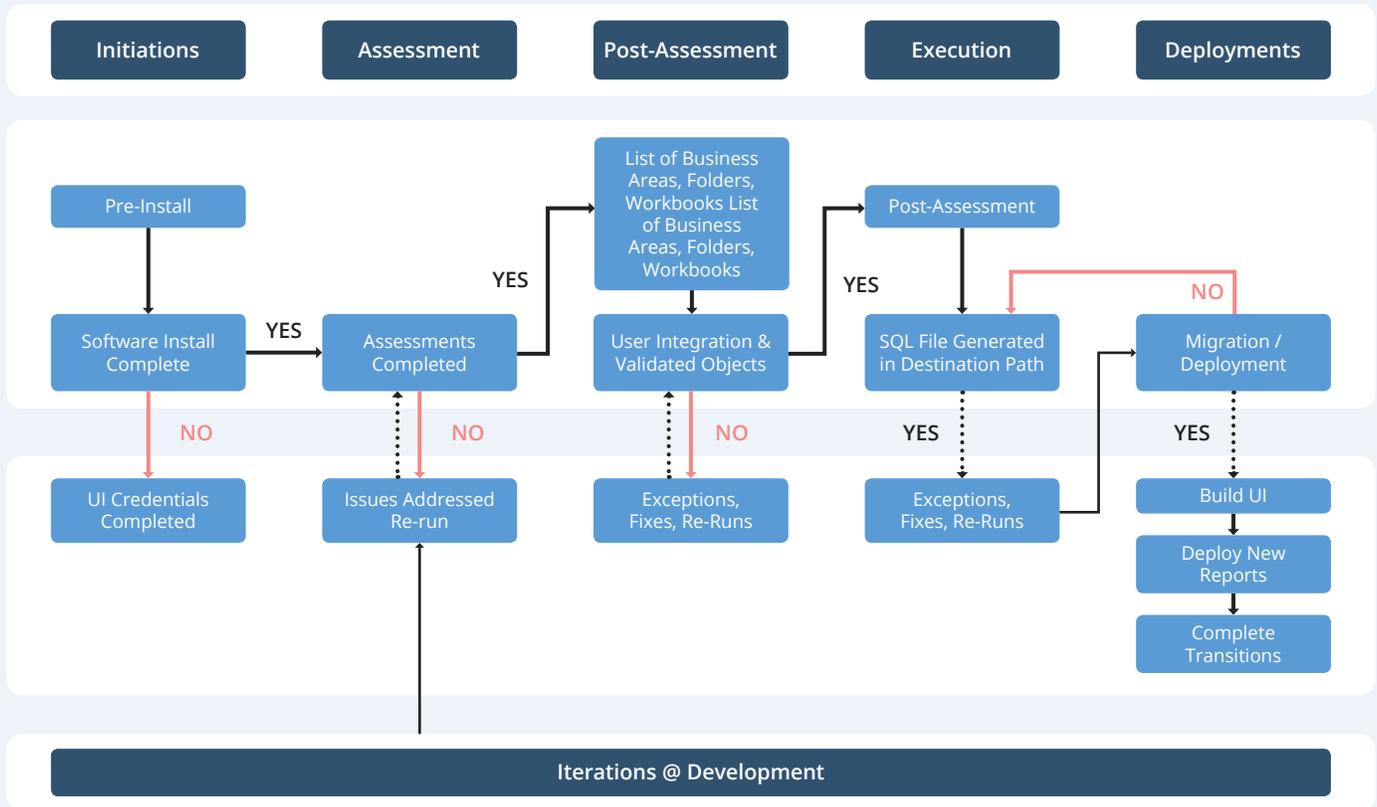
Figure 1. Discoverer to Cognos Migration Process

Initiations | **Assessment** | **Post-Assessment** | **Execution** | **Deployments**

Pre-Install → Software Install Complete — YES → Assessments Completed — YES → List of Business Areas, Folders, Workbooks List of Business Areas, Folders, Workbooks → User Integration & Validated Objects — YES → Post-Assessment → SQL File Generated in Destination Path — NO → Migration / Deployment

Software Install Complete — NO → UI Credentials Completed

Assessments Completed — NO → Issues Addressed Re-run

User Integration & Validated Objects — NO → Exceptions, Fixes, Re-Runs

SQL File Generated in Destination Path — YES → Exceptions, Fixes, Re-Runs

Migration / Deployment — YES → Build UI → Deploy New Reports → Complete Transitions

Iterations @ Development

Project Outcome

All reports were successfully migrated to Cognos in four weeks. The university now has the freedom to run all of the Discoverer Reports in Cognos, thus avoiding obsolescence. Additionally, the availability of the metadata for the remaining reports provides greater flexibility of building reports in Cognos as needed.