

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is BI connector?

Organizations have invested years of effort and millions of dollars to develop the meta data, security model and reports in Oracle BI (OBIEE) for their business intelligence data. They are interested in using Tableau's modern visualization and analysis but do not want to again spend millions of dollars and months of effort to recreate the metadata for Tableau.

BI connector saves time and money by allowing users to connect directly from Tableau to OBIEE RPD and Reports catalog using the existing security model without requiring any changes in OBIEE. Business users gain self-service BI capability, modern visualization, and blending capabilities while IT benefits from cost savings and reduced BI backlogs.

BI connector website: www.biconnector.com

2. Can you tell us about the company behind BI connector?

BI connector is developed by Guidanz Inc, a Tableau® Technology Partner and Oracle® Partner. Guidanz was founded in 2010 and specializes in the development of innovative, easy to use BI products that solve targeted problems for enterprise customers. In addition to BI connector, Guidanz has also developed Skedler, an easy to use reporting solution for customers using Elasticsearch database.

Guidanz Inc. has offices in Fremont, California and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras Research Park, Chennai, India.

Guidanz Website: www.guidanz.com

Skedler Website: www.skedler.com

3. What features of OBIEE are made available to Tableau by BI connector?

BI connector allows user to discover, analyze and visualize OBIEE subject areas and reports using Tableau Desktop or Tableau Server. BI connector allows you to reuse the business metadata and security model that is already built in OBIEE without requiring any changes.

4. How does BI connector work?

BI connector acts as the bridge between Tableau and OBIEE. It seamlessly manages the messages between these two platforms and ensures that they are compatible with each other.

BI connector Desktop Edition provides connectivity from Tableau Desktop to OBIEE. It is installed on the PC with Tableau Desktop.

BI connector Server Edition provides connectivity from Tableau Server to OBIEE for Tableau web users. It is installed on the Server with Tableau Server.

Once installed, BI connector allows Tableau users to securely connect to the OBIEE Presentation Layer using their own OBIEE username/password. Users can then view the subject areas and reports that they have access to and visualize them in Tableau.

5. What is the advantage of BI connector over ODBC Driver for connecting Tableau to Oracle BI?

- **ODBC driver requires extensive changes in OBIEE whereas BI connector does not require any change.**

With ODBC driver, customers have to make extensive changes in OBIEE to expose primary keys in all the folders. This might not be feasible in the case of fact tables. Therefore, ODBC drivers do not allow users to view all the folders in subject areas.

BI connector works out of the box and does not require any change in OBIEE.

- **ODBC driver does not offer a scalable approach whereas BI connector offers a scalable and easy approach**

ODBC driver requires a separate DSN for each subject area and does not provide connectivity to reports. BI connector requires a single DSN for connecting to any subject area. In addition, BI connector provides connectivity to OBIEE reports catalog.

- **ODBC driver is difficult to configure and maintain whereas BI connector is simple to install and reliable.**

ODBC driver requires .tdc files which are difficult to configure and maintain. Even with this complex set up, users would still face difficulty in connecting Tableau to their folders in subject areas.

BI connector is simple to install, takes minutes to configure, and provides reliable connectivity from Tableau to OBIEE.

- **BI connector offers superior query performance compared to ODBC driver**

When Tableau connects to a data source, it makes discovery queries that are similar to "Select * from table". Such queries are expensive and resource intensive in a large environment such as OBIEE. ODBC drivers do not prevent such queries and could lead to performance issues in OBIEE.

BI connector has built-in optimizations to prevent such queries from Tableau.

- **BI connector offers a single solution for 10g, 11g, 12c**

BI connector provides seamless integration from Tableau to OBIEE 10g, OBIEE 11g, and OBIEE 12c with a single installation.

ODBC drivers require different versions for each version of OBIEE making it complex to install and manage.

6. Does BI connector work when OBIEE is set up with Single Sign-On (SSO)?

BI connector works with most SSO configurations for OBIEE. When you connect from Tableau to OBIEE, use "Single Sign-On Enabled" checkbox if OBIEE is set up with SSO. If you are not able to connect from Tableau to OBIEE, then contact us at support@biconnector.com. Our Professional Service team will build a custom SSO module for your environment.

7. Can you share a customer success story?

A U.S. bank based in Miami, Florida is using BI connector to visualize and analyze its business data in OBIEE with Tableau. With BI connector, the corporate finance team is able to reuse existing OBIEE meta data in Tableau to analyze customers, mortgages, and loan performance to make data-driven decisions about its business portfolio.

The bank chose Tableau over competitive BI platforms primarily because BI connector enabled its business users to connect from Tableau to OBIEE without requiring any changes in OBIEE.

8. How is BI connector licensed?

BI connector Desktop Edition is licensed per named user. It is available with an annual subscription fee or one-time fee with annual maintenance. Annual subscription fee starts at \$240 per user.

BI connector Server Edition is licensed per server. It is available with an annual subscription fee or one-time fee with annual maintenance. Annual subscription fee for 1st year starts at \$7,495 per server, per year.

For more information, please visit [BI connector pricing](#) page.

9. Do you offer any starter packs?

We offer an attractive Starter Pack license to deploy BI connector in a pilot project and experience the value of BI connector.

- **Subject Area Starter Pack** includes the following:
 - One-year subscription of BI connector Server Edition – OBIEE Subject Area connector for one server
 - One-year subscription of BI connector Desktop Edition – OBIEE Subject Area connector for 3 users
 - Value Price: \$7,495 for 1st year
- **Subject Area + Reports Starter Pack** includes the following:
 - One-year subscription of BI connector Server Edition – OBIEE Subject Area + Reports connector for one server
 - One-year subscription of BI connector Desktop Edition – OBIEE Subject Area + Reports connector for 5 users
 - Value Price: \$10,495 for 1st year

10. Where can I find additional information regarding BI connector?

BI connector website: www.biconnector.com
 BI connector resources: www.biconnector.com/resources.php
 BI connector pricing: www.biconnector.com/buy.php
 BI connector support: www.biconnector.com/support
 BI connector blog: www.biconnector.com/blog

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