BMS 5th Generation

Technical Information

This document is aimed at IT-decision makers. You will learn about hosting options, security, technical requirements, and system integration

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Technical Information

What is BMS?

BMS is an application for Trade Promotion Management and Customer Business Planning.

BMS is based on the well-known and recognizable Microsoft software. The people behind BMS are industry experts with many years of experience. BMS is using the best practices from leading FMCG companies. It is a standard application with a highthe level of flexibility, which means that all areas of the application can be customized and localized to match the requirements and tone of voice of the specific organization, all the way down to the end user who will be using BMS on a daily basis.

Data in BMS

To run BMS you need a few simple sets of master data for your product and customer. This can be created directly in BMS, imported from Excel/CSV or integrated by Interfaces.

With BMS, the users will create promotions, baselines, returns, and launches. In general, the user plans in units and BMS automatically valorized units, into your fully customized commercial P&L.

Hierarchies

Products can be arranged in up to 9 levels of hierarchy. The levels are used for arranging views, reporting, and for building a planning hierarchy in BMS.

The planning hierarchy defines the input level for the user to type in the baseline. The planning hierarchy is based on rules linked to the product hierarchy. In this way you can plan some SKUs on the lowest level, while others are planned on the sub-brand or brand levels.

Customers are also arranged in hierarchy. For input of data they can be stand-alone or linked in a wholesaler-banner relationship. For reporting, an additional 4 levels exist for aggregating units & P&L.

Flexibility and customization

BMS is a flexible tool. It comes with a simple standard appearance. Behind the scenes you can easily let a superuser customize input screens.

Reporting

BMS contains a built-in report generated and created for business people. This includes sample reports and report packs for you to get started.

For more advanced reporting, BMS uses the Microsoft Analysis Server to allow you to build your own customized reports in Excel.

Security

BMS contains a flexible, role-based functional security module. This allows you to create different roles for the users. Each role can have access to certain kinds of functionality.

In addition, each user can be limited to selected customers, and other customers will be either hidden or read-only.

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Hosting Options

BMS is provided as a Software-as-a-Service. We can host BMS for you in our cloud, or you can get the installed version for your own server or a hosting partner of your choice.

If you are using the installed version, we recommend that you provide us with a VPN access for us to support both the end users and the server.

This is included in the license fee.

Standard Interfaces

BMS comes with a basic set of standard interfaces.

These interfaces cover the following input data:

- Product master data
- Display configuration
- Gross prices
- Cost prices
- Taxes
- Actual sales

There is also a number of output interfaces:

- Promotion list for field sales
- Listing and prices for field sales
- Display forecast
- SKU forecast
- Temporary price reductions

The setups of these interfaces are free of charge, but each interface has an ongoing license fee.

Custom Interfaces?

If you have other integration needs, we can do custom development for you. Typically, we will do a short meeting where you present requirements and file formats. Then we do a functional description and offer it for your approval.

Examples of customer interfaces we have built are forecast interfaces with built-in carry over calculation, purchase order creation in SAP, and trade terms upload to BMS.

We can also do custom interfaces with built-in data cleaning and filtering.

Documentation

BMS comes with a full set of documentation. This covers everything from evaluation guides, interfaces to an extensive Manual covering the entire system.

If we do any custom integration for you, this will also be documented as part of the development process.

System Requirements

BMS is built on Microsoft .NET technology and uses the SQL Server for the backend.

The BMS frontend application requires .NET framework 4.5 or newer.

The SQL Server must be at least version 2008 R2, but we recommend using the latest versions available.

For small installations with Office-access only you can, install the BMS client on your laptops/pc's and access the server through the LAN.

For larger installations we recommend using Microsoft Remote App, Citrix, or similar solutions for user access to BMS.

Performance

Performance is often a key question from our customers. BMS is in its 5th generation.

Making the best possible user experience has always been key for us.

There are a lot of factors influencing performance. Hardware, network, bandwidth,

number of users, number of customers and products.

We will be happy to advice on scaling based on your requirements.

BMS contains a built-in performance end user performance log. For example, how many ms does it take to open a promotion and how does this develop over time? This way BMS continuously monitors performance and any discussion on performance issues is based on facts.

During the evaluation phase, the users can evaluate the performance by themselves.

Implementation

We provide you with a 2-month free trial period. During this test and evaluation period your implementation team will be able – with support from EffectMakers – to manually upload master data and configure BMS to do a proper evaluation, based on your own data. Please refer to our evaluation document for additional information.

Training

We can provide training in BMS. Standard training in BMS functionality or tailor made training on specific needs or on your own data.

Future Development

BMS is developing over time and is getting better, with new functionality and easier to use. We listen to our customers' input and needs. A large proportion (almost 90%) has become standard functionality. Good ideas from you are implemented in BMS without any additional costs.

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