What's new in version 5.5

Orenburg is proud to announce version 5.5 which makes it possible for professionals to choose their data ‘engine’ type. Data may now be stored in either the proprietary multi-dimensional database (Multi-Dimensional Engine) or in relational databases (Relational Engine). The Dual version combines both Multi-Dimensional and Relational Engines for the highest architectural and application flexibility.

The release also continues to offer major differences versus traditional Business Intelligence software applications. The Board M.I.T. 5.5 Relational Engine supports data write-back, allowing the exploitation of all native simulation functions that have fueled Board’s international success as a rapid application development tool for decision support. For example, a budgeting solution created with the new version allows storage of the planning data directly inside the relational environment (e.g. ERP, CRM, company’s data-warehouse, etc.).

The new Relational Engine, with its ‘virtual cubes’, provides real-time access to data stored in existing RDBMSs, allowing for the development of new applications within Board (e.g. Business Activity Monitoring). It further extends Board’s ability to handle larger volumes of data, making the award-winning toolkit approach an even better fit for industries like banking and insurance, known for massive amounts of information.

Current customers who wish to benefit from the new R-OLAP capabilities must upgrade to the Dual-Engine version subject to an upgrade fee. Current customers not needing the relational engine capabilities and who have a software subscription contract can upgrade to version 5.5 and benefit from new features and enhancements of the M-Engine version.

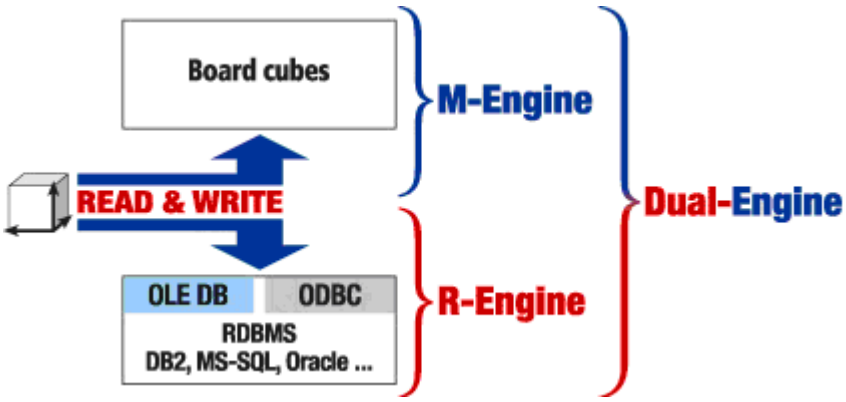
Board M.I.T. version 5.5 includes a rich list of new features and enhancements bringing significant improvements to your Board applications.

The database engine licenses: M-Engine, R-Engine and Dual-Engine

The Board database engine can be of three distinct types,

- **R-Engine**, allows to handle InfoCubes which are tables residing into an external relational database (refer to RDB InfoCubes hereafter).
- **M-Engine**, allows to handle InfoCubes stored into Board's multidimensional database. This is the Board database engine of prior releases.
- **Dual-Engine**, allows to handle both types of InfoCubes, relational and multidimensional. This type of engine provides all capabilities of the prior two.

Each engine type has a corresponding license, the R-Engine license the M-Engine license and the Dual-engine license.



Prior releases of Board could only handle multidimensional InfoCubes physically stored into the Board database. This capability is now referred to as the M-Engine. When upgrading a prior Board installation to version 5.5 it is immediately enabled as an M-Engine license. An M-Engine installation can be upgraded to a Dual-Engine in order to be able to handle the relational InfoCubes through a license upgrade.

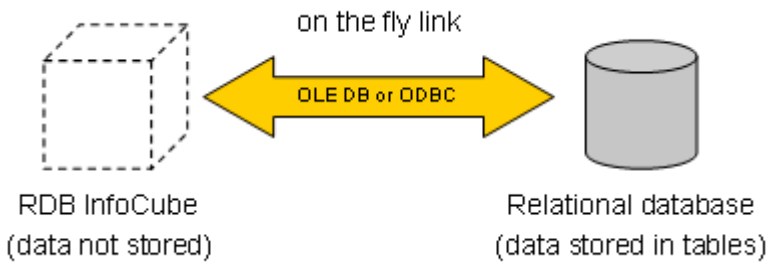
All end-user functions and features available in the Capsules environment are delivered by all three types of engines regardless of the type. All features such as creating any type of Layout, charts, using data-entry, split & splat and DataFlow procedures are supported on both types of InfoCubes.

RDB InfoCubes

An RDB InfoCube is an InfoCube for which data (the InfoCube cells) is physically stored in a table of a relational database and not into the Board multidimensional database. The RDB InfoCube definition is a protocol that maps fields of a relational table to the dimensions and the measure (in most cases a value filed) of the InfoCube.

Whenever a user views the InfoCube in a report, an ODBC or an OLE DB connection to the external relational database is established and data is retrieved from the relational table through a SQL statement.

An RDB InfoCube accesses data from a relational database on the fly when.



In order to create, edit or view an RDB InfoCube it is necessary to have an R-Engine or a Dual-Engine license.

Parent-Child databases

This feature allows to navigate from one database (the parent) to another one (the child) that has one or more entities in common in one of the following two ways:

- **Drill-down**: allows the end user to drill-down from the parent Board database to the child database.
- **Go-to screen**: allows the end user to navigate from a screen linked to the parent database to another screen linked to a child database while preserving the selections made on the parent database screen.

The purpose of this feature is to allow creating separate Board databases for storing information at different levels of detail which facilitates database administration, development and maintenance, however preserving the ability to navigate down and across databases as a unique environment.

Databases can be linked through a 1-to-N hierarchical relationship: a database, the "parent", can have one or more "children" databases.

Named Selections

A named selection is a selection of entity members saved under a given name. The named selection can be used in the Capsules environment and applied to analyses or applied in Procedures. For example you can create a named selection called *Summer Promotion Products* which is made of a set of items from the Product entity, then refer to the name *Summer Promotion Products* whenever you need to use it in a Capsule screen or in a Procedure.

Dynamic Time Selections

A Dynamic Time Selection is a selection on a time entity (Day, Month, Year) based on the computer's system date. The dynamic time selection can be used in the Capsules environment and applied to analyses or applied in Procedures. For example if you apply to a Capsule screen the dynamic time selection called *Current Month*, the screen selection on the Month entity automatically adjusts to the current month.

The New Text DataReader protocol

The interface of the text file DataReader has been restyled.

The New ODBC DataReader protocol

- It is now possible to use OLE DB connections to read data from an OLE DB provider.
- Data Type conversion formulas are automatically added when required.

Other changes and enhancements

A significant number of improvements and extensions to existing features has been implemented.