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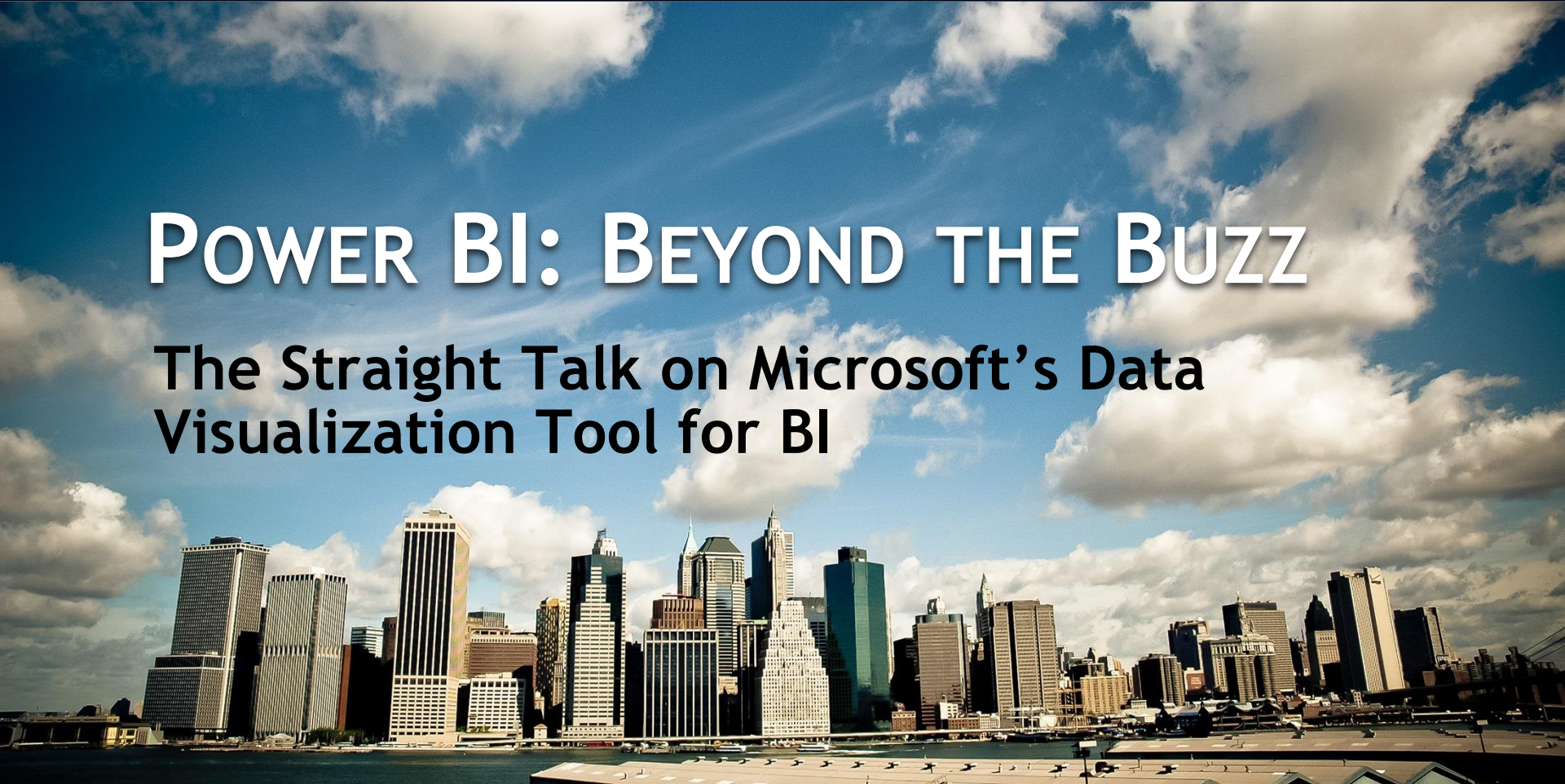
POWER BI: BEYOND THE BUZZ

The Straight Talk on Microsoft's Data Visualization Tool for BI

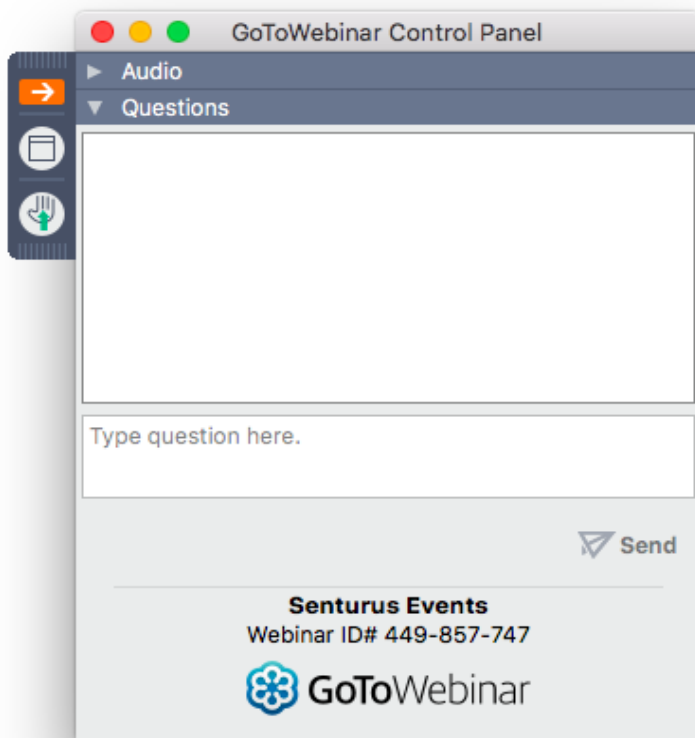# GoToWebinar Control Panel

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Presentation Slide Deck

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Agenda

- Introductions
- What is Power BI?
    - Context
    - Overview
    - Demo
- Senturus overview
- Additional resources
- Q&A

Introducing...Today's Presenters

Shawn Alpay

BI Architect

Senturus, Inc.

Michael Weinhauer

Practice Area Director/
Solutions Architect
Senturus, Inc.

Poll #1

What elements of the Microsoft BI stack does your organization currently use? (Select all that apply)

- SQL Server
- SSAS or SSRS
- Power BI
- Power Query/Power Pivot/Power View
- None of those listed

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Power BI: Beyond the Buzz

Agenda

What is Power BI?
(I'll tell you *and* I'll show you)

But first...

Why Power BI?

The Two Modes of Business Intelligence

- According to Gartner: "**Bimodal** is the practice of managing two separate but coherent styles of work – one focused on **predictability** and the other on **exploration.**"
  - Mode 1: Enterprise BI or **linear** approach
  - Mode 2: Self-service BI or **nonlinear** approach

Mode 2 is exploratory, experimenting to solve new problems.

Mode 1 is predictable, improving and renovating in more well-understood areas.
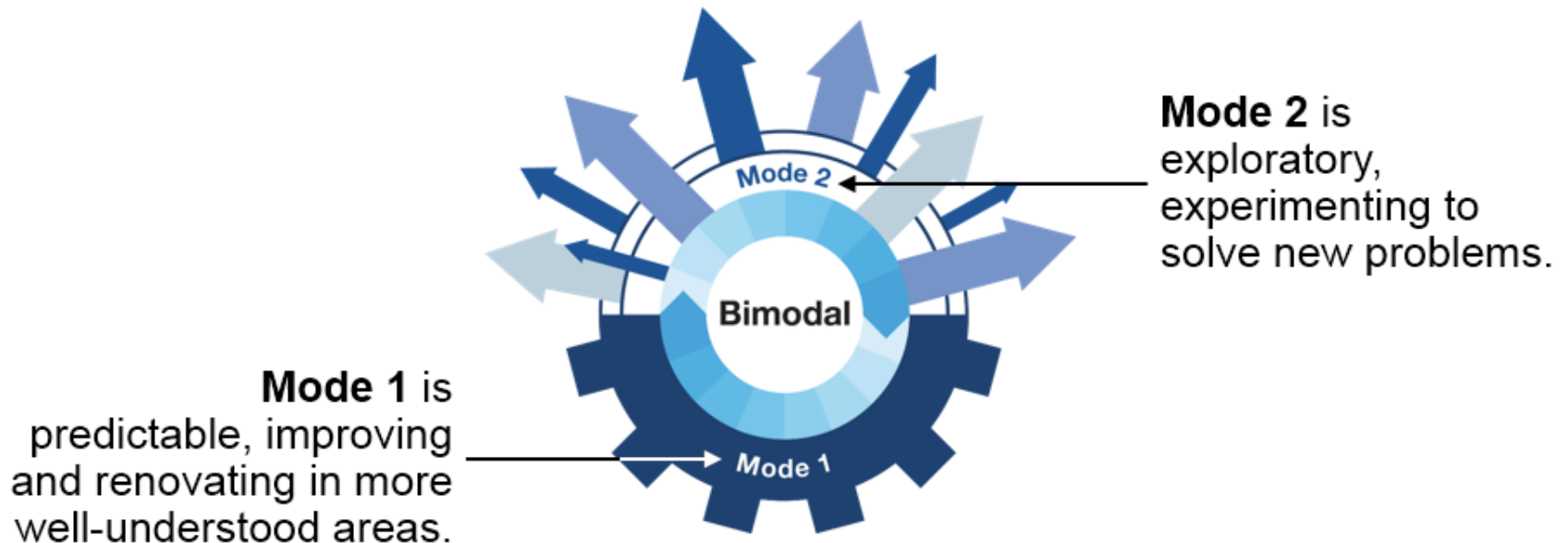
- Gartner now puts a stronger focus on **Mode 2** in its analysis of BI tools

Self-Service Use Case

I'm an eager analyst in a small company (or small business unit within a larger company). I have business data sitting in a bunch of flat files and I'm not going to bother IT with any of this yet (e.g. resources, politics, competence).

I have a lot to figure out! How am I going to:

Prepare	*Store*	*Model*	*Visualize*	*Share*
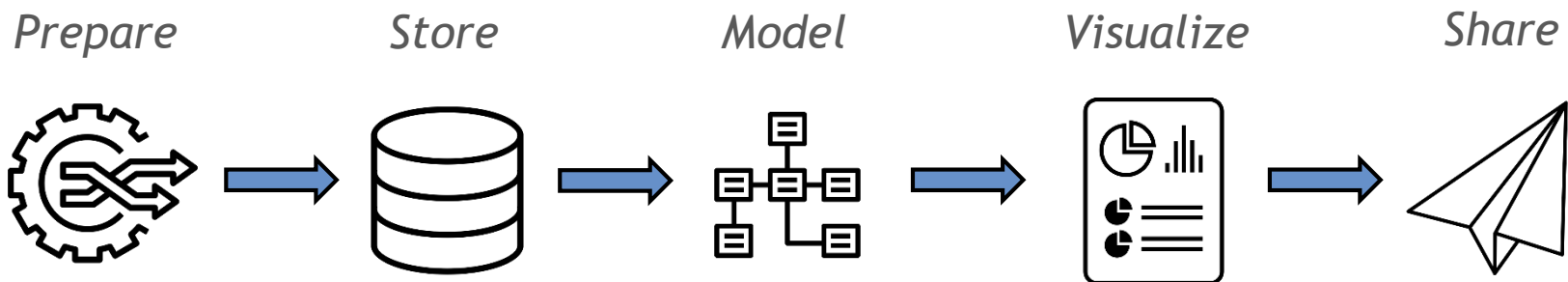
On top of all that, how am I going to:

- Have this operate super fast (perhaps by storing data **in-memory**)?
- Do it myself (**self-service**)??

Can one tool do it all????

Microsoft's BI Offerings – Through the Years

	Excel	SQL Server	Access	Integration Services	Analysis Services (MD)	Reporting Services	PerformancePoint	Power Query	Power Pivot	Power View	Analysis Services (Tab)	Power BI
	87	89	92	98	98	04	07	10	10	10	12	15
Prepare	?	?	x	x				x				x
Store	?	x	x		x				x		x	x
Model	?		?		x				x		x	x
Visualize (reports)	?		x			x				x		x
Visualize (dashboards)							x			x		x
Share						x	x					x
In-memory		x							x		x	x
Self-service	x		x					x	x	x		x

One tool CAN do it all!! (Right...?)

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What is Power BI?

- A **self-service**, **business analytics** solution that lets you **prepare and present data** for your organization

- Power BI serves five essential functions:

Query engine	In-memory data repository	Semantic model	Visualization dev tool	Distribution portal
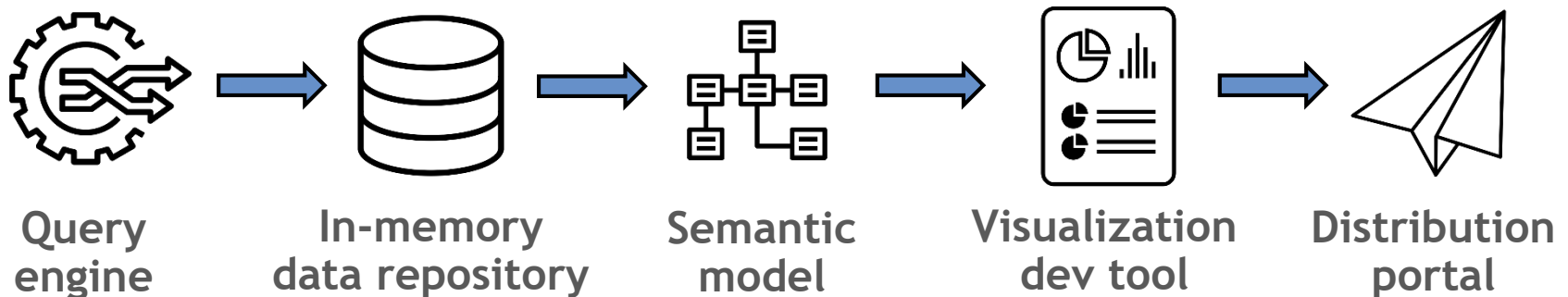
- Power BI is actually a **set** of tools (one tool CAN'T do it all):
  - Power BI **Desktop**
  - Power BI **Service**
  - Power BI **Report Server**
  - Power BI **Mobile**
  - Power BI **Embedded**
  - Power BI **Data Gateway**
  - …and **Excel** (???)

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Power BI Core Concepts and Workflow

Power BI Desktop

Data Sources

Queries — Model

Dataset

Report

- The **Dataset** consists of two object types:
  - The **Queries** are definitions of how to extract and transform *data sources*, accessed via *connectors*
  - The **Model** is a definition of *tables*, *relationships*, *columns* and *measures*
- The **Report** presents data from the *dataset* on one or more *pages* of *visuals*

Power BI Service

- The **Dashboard** presents *visuals*, pinned from *reports*
- The **App Workspace** is the draft container for these objects
- The **App** is the user-facing container for these objects
- The **Gateway** lets the Service connect back to data sources

Dashboard

App Workspace

App

Consume visuals

Create visuals

Analyze in Excel

User actions

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Power BI Demo

Other Power BI Details

- Release cadence: monthly for Power BI Service and quarterly for Power BI Report Server
  - Ideas can be submitted and upvoted on the Power BI ideas forum
- Licensing: Free vs. Pro vs. Premium vs. Embedded
  - **Free** is powerful, but limited in scope: no sharing with others, on-prem data connection or Analyze in Excel
  - **Pro** is necessary for content creation and it's $10/user/month
  - **Premium** is dedicated server capacity for the Power BI service, licensed by node instead of by user
    - Some features (e.g. paginated reports, incremental refresh) are only available in Premium
  - **Embedded** is dedicated server capacity for Power BI Embedded, also licensed by node
- Custom connectors and visuals
  - Senturus recently released a connector to Cognos!

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Newer Features in Power BI

- Paginated reports: reporting Services within Power BI

- Dataflows: queries in the cloud, which can be reused

- Reports across workspaces: create a report in Workspace A that points to a dataset in Workspace B

- Many core components (e.g. filters, visuals and data modeling) have been refreshed and overhauled
  - Can now group visuals together like in PowerPoint

- The roadmap lists a lot of new stuff coming soon
  - Data lineage, better usage reporting, datasets larger than 10 GB and improved data protection

Limitations of Power BI

- Despite its recent growth spurts, there are still many frustrating shortcomings
  - Can't drag across the screen to select multiple visuals
  - Does a given connector have DirectQuery and/or single sign-on?
- It is a competitor to Tableau, but Tableau is the better visualization tool…for now
- Monthly release cycle means some components aren't always complete on first release
- Jack of all trades, master of none

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What About Other Microsoft BI Tools?

- Power BI can be used to gather and prepare data
  - …but the options are limited (e.g. data sources, refresh cadence) and the destination can only be Power BI
  - …whereas **Integration Services** can be configured precisely and load other destinations (e.g. SQL Server)
- Power BI can be used as a data and metadata repository
  - …but it has a 10 GB limit, whereas **Analysis Services** is built to scale
- Power BI can be used to build reports
  - …but they don't print well, get distributed by data-driven subscription or are "pixel-perfect," whereas **Reporting Services** shines here
  - Paginated reports are now available in Power BI, but are still maturing
- Power BI can be used as an ad-hoc query tool
  - …but we can connect to a Power BI dataset in **Excel** and use **PivotTables** much more easily
- Power BI may eventually be the umbrella for all Microsoft BI tools
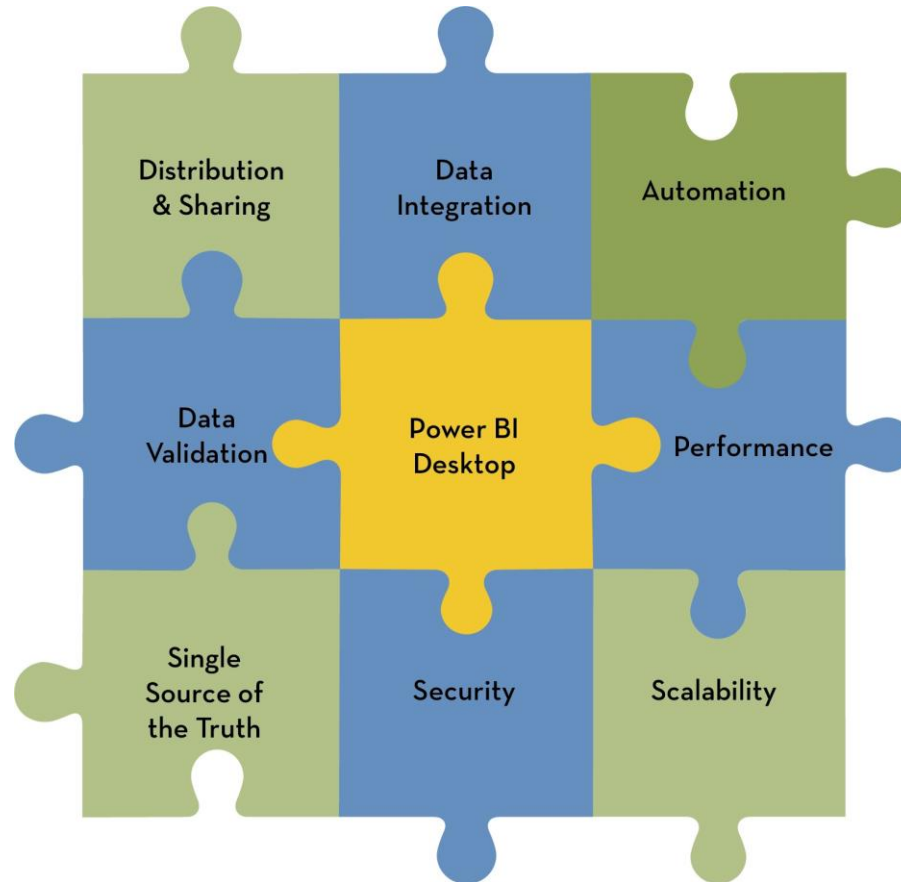
So That's All There Is To Know… Right?

- There's so much we didn't discuss!

- Power BI is a flexible and deep tool, so it's tough to keep track of everything it can do (and will do in the future!)

- Reach out if you have questions
  - salpay@senturus.com

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Power BI Blueprint to Success

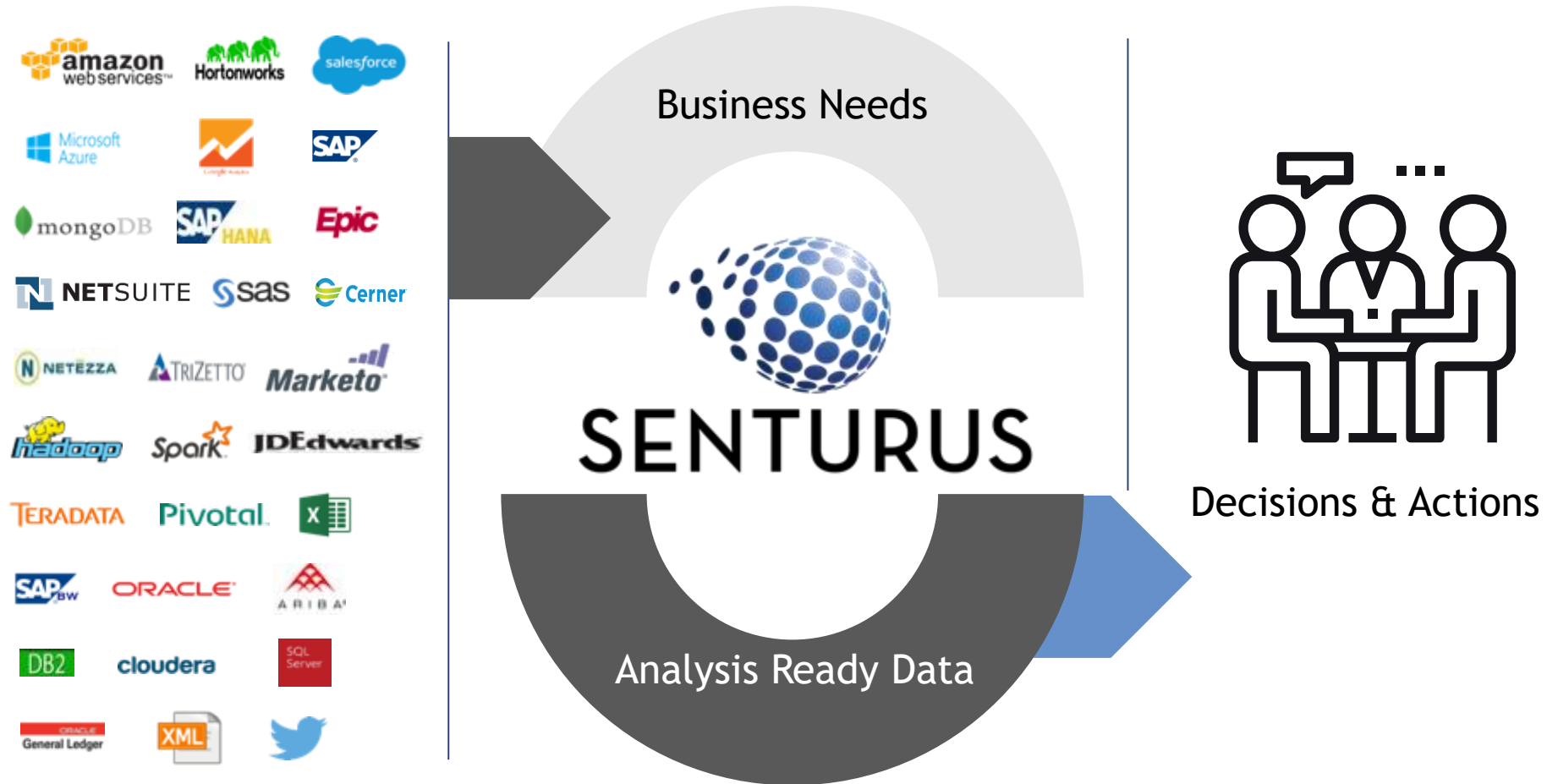A roadmap to building a foundation for optimal performance and a scalable architecture.

Who We Are
Full Spectrum of Services for BI

Bridging the Gap between Data & Decision Making

Business Needs

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Analysis Ready Data

Decisions & Actions

Full Spectrum of Services for BI

- Dashboards, reporting and visualizations

- Data preparation and modern data warehousing

- Hybrid BI environments (migrations, security, etc.)

- BI support retainer (expertise on demand)

- Software to enable bimodal BI and platform migrations

- Training and mentoring

IBM® COGNOS® ANALYTICS   Power BI   +tableau®

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1300+ Clients, 2500+ Projects, 19+ Years

Additional Resources

Upcoming Event

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COMPARISON OF POWER BI, TABLEAU & COGNOS

A DEMO AND COMPARISON OF DATA LOADING, DATA PREP AND BUILDING OF DASHBOARD VISUALIZATIONS

Thursday, September 26, 2019 - 11am PT (2pm ET) - 60 minutes

Free Resources

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UPCOMING EVENTS

RESOURCE LIBRARY

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Training for Cognos, Power BI and Tableau

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CORPORATE TRAINING

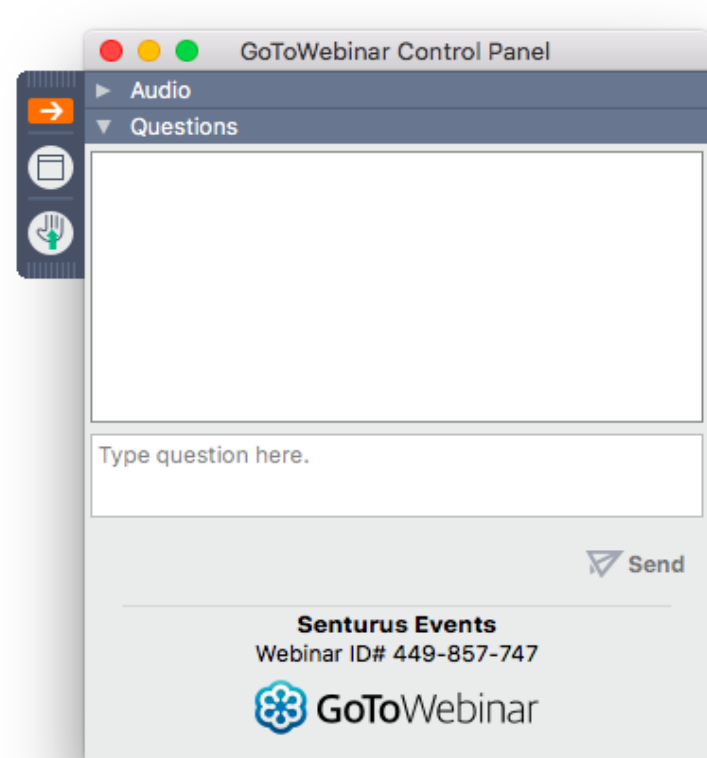**SELF-PACED LEARNING**

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Q&A

If your question or issue is broader than what can be answered today, contact us at

info@senturus.com

and we will set up a free consultation.

Thank You!

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