From Legacy to Modern Reporting
The four-step migration path

See a report migration solution in action*

Watch 4 minute demo

*See reports being converted from Crystal Reports to TIBCO Jaspersoft software. For conversions from other tools to Jaspersoft software, contact connect@dataterrain.com.

Who should read this?

This book is written for IT managers, enterprise architects, infrastructure administrators, technology executives— and anyone else who directly or indirectly works with an incumbent reporting solution.

From both a business and a high-level technical perspective, this book examines why and how to migrate from legacy reporting solutions: Crystal Reports/SAP BusinessObjects, Oracle Reports, InformationBuilders, Actuate BIRT, IBM Cognos—to TIBCO Jaspersoft software.

Migration. When do I have to think about it?

When your reporting platform is on old, unsupported, or includes end-of-life versions = you need to migrate

Migrating to a new version or an alternative from your current vendor may be as difficult and as expensive as going to a new platform because:

Your reporting vendor is jacking up maintenance charges, or makes it cost prohibitive to change.

You are moving to the cloud.

- Can the reporting platform technically run in the cloud?
- Will it be cost effective to run?
- Can you leverage services from the cloud provider, or is the reporting platform restrictive?
- Is cloud licensing and support from the platform vendor good? Reasonable?

Your enterprise has a variety of reporting tools due to departmental decisions over time and events like acquisitions. You need to consolidate your technology spend and focus, or manage budget changes.

What are your options?

Stay with what you have

Delay migrating to a new reporting platform.

Migrate and Modernize

Migrate from your legacy reporting to a new reporting platform.

Option 1: Stay with what you have
Migrating to a new reporting platform is scary.

If legacy reporting meets current requirements and wins a cost/benefit analysis, staying with what you have could be an option. Migrations are complex, expensive and disruptive.

Pros

- No new software to install and learn
- Migration risks and costs avoided

Cons

- Not achieving migration goals and benefits
- You're technologically stuck, which prevents you from integrating with new data sources, applications, and deployment techniques
- Legacy license and maintenance costs are expensive, with no additional value being realized
- Skills will become scarce and difficult to support
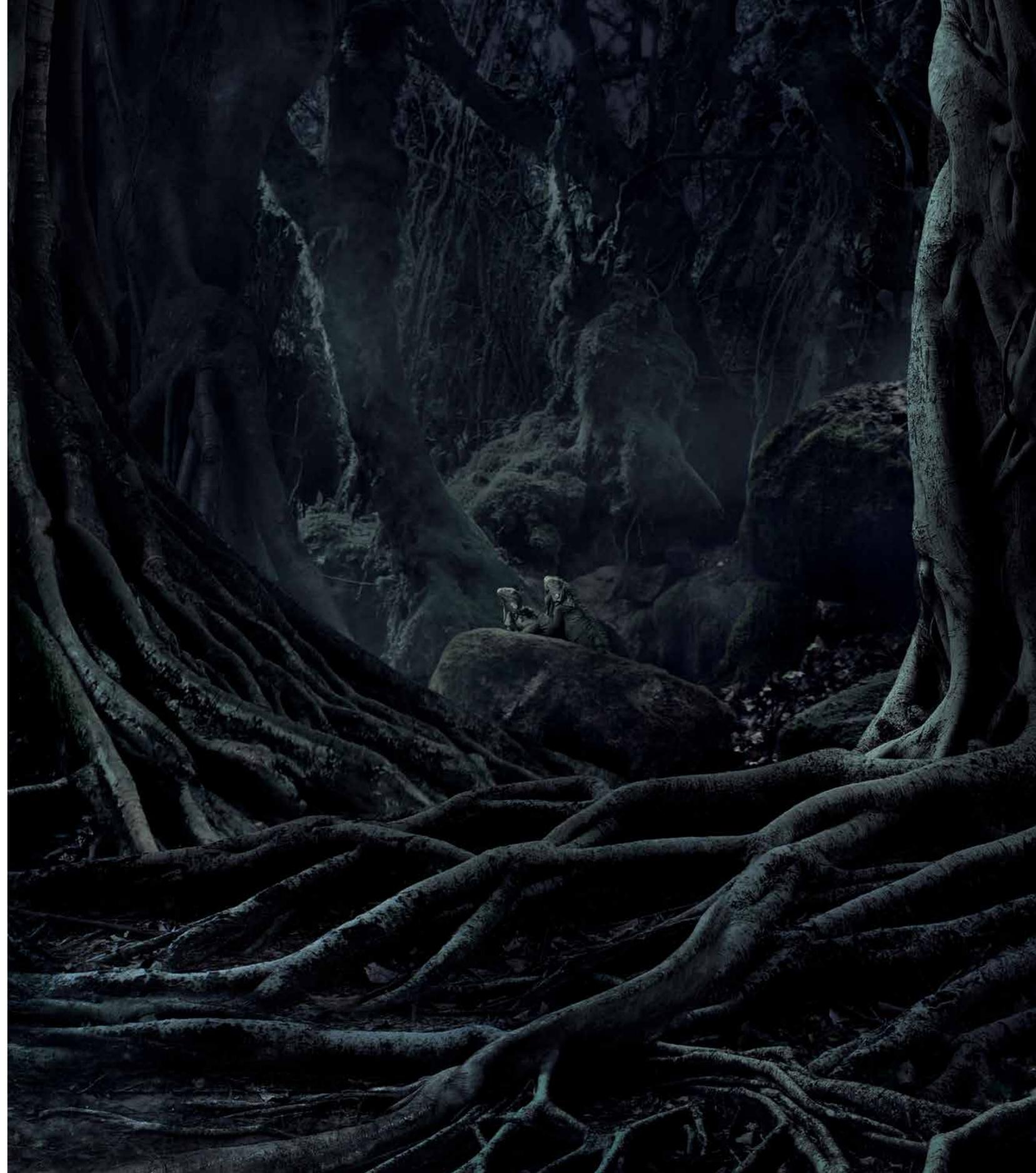
Option 2: Migrate and modernize

While avoiding a painful migration has obvious appeal, the reality is that option 1 is only delaying the inevitable.

Migrating is a matter of when, not if. You can reduce a lot of risk if you take a proactive approach to modernization and leverage the latest reporting features and technologies.

Pros

- Modern architecture lets you use the cloud, and new data sources, deployment   methods, and modern APIs
- Reduced costs
- New features like interactive dashboards
- Increased business agility due to new insights

Cons

- Difficult to scope
- A lot of work
- Potentially risky for data and systems
- Requires skills for both platforms

And the winner is...
Migrate and modernize

Why migrate and modernize?

Greater agility is possible with open solutions compatible with cloud native technologies such as containers (Docker, Kubernetes) that can leverage a wide variety of cloud services. Modern reporting solutions deliver these benefits, while legacy reporting tools simply can't. To survive in today's business climate, your organization needs to adapt to changing demands—and that requires the ability to access data wherever it is—a traditional relational database, a more modern database like NoSQL, and even web service data sources. You also need software that is flexible and agile so you can react to market changes as quickly as they are identified.

Modern reporting solutions

What you had, attractively priced

- Migration will allow existing reporting assets to be available in the new platform.
- Pricing is based on the required computing power, not the number of users, making reporting much more affordable for large deployments.
- No upgrade fees.

Flexible & open

- Connect to any data source.
- Deploy to any environment, leveraging available, cost-effective services in those environments.
- Use modern REST APIs for powerful control over your reporting environment.

New features users love

- Interactive visualizations and dashboards.
- Easy to use, self-service data so users don't have to wait for IT to develop new reports and dashboards.
- Reporting and analytics embeddable in apps and process, providing expanded access to BI.

But modernization can be difficult!

Why is migrating to a new reporting solution so hard?

Difficult to scope

Reporting environments can consist of hundreds or thousands of reports. Each report may have its own design, use different data sources and queries, and be delivered to different people. With so many factors to consider, the scoping process alone can be overwhelming.

Painful to execute

Once scoping is complete, the process of converting your existing reports and environment to the new solution begins. For the most part, this is a manual effort. A documented process is a necessity, but even then, migration can be extremely time intensive.

No margin for error

Reporting systems are often deeply embedded in day-to-day operations and critical processes. The migration must be done seamlessly. Mistakes can result in key information failing to reach an employee or customer.

What do you need to make it happen?

Proven process

You need a clear plan that tracks every step of the migration and addresses all technical and business issues.

Automation

Reducing manual work helps ensure consistency across reports and provides significant savings in time and cost.

Expertise

Get experienced help. The best experts follow a proven process and provide some level of automation. Fixed-cost services eliminate surprises.

How does it work?
Migration flow with DataTerrain

DATABASE

CRYSTAL REPORTS → AUTOMATED CONVERSION → JASPER REPORTS → UNIT TESTING → INTEGRATION TESTING → UAT → PRODUCTION DEPLOYMENT

BUSINESS USER

INTERFACE WITH CLIENT SOLELY BY DATATERRAIN

PROJECT MANAGER   SMARTSHEET

SENIOR MANAGMENT

DATATERRAIN TEAM
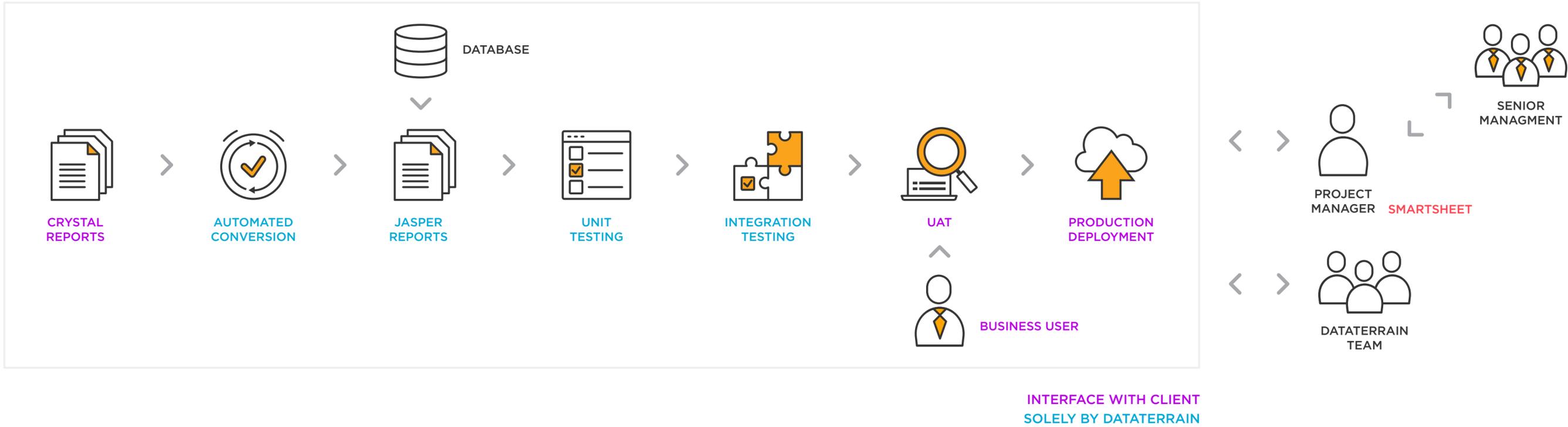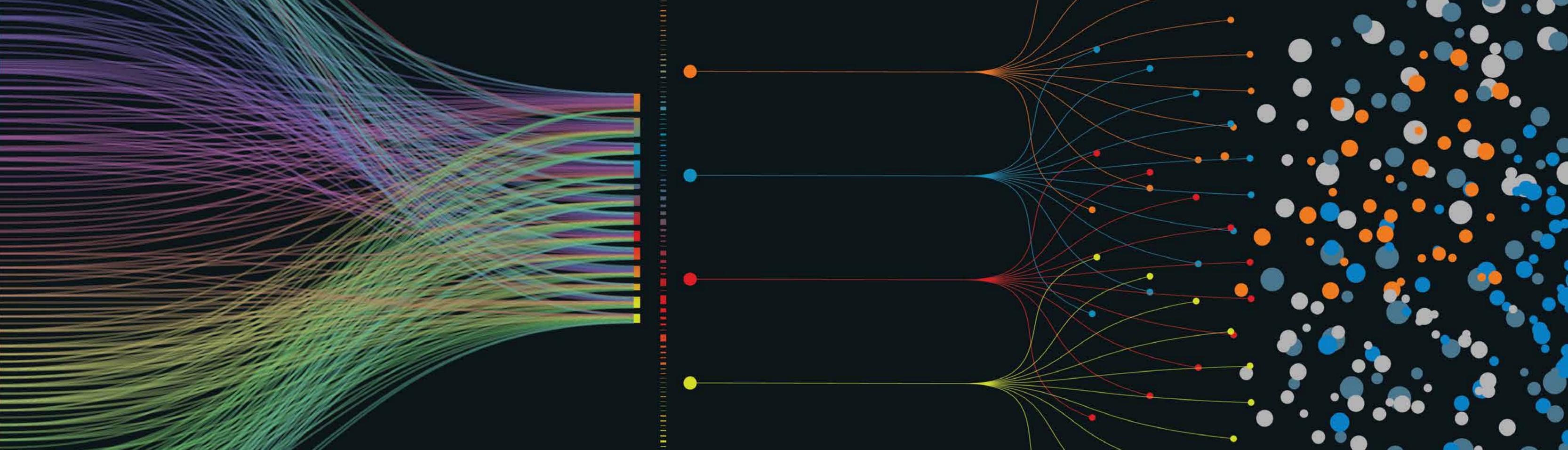
4 Step Conversion Process

Analyze

- Analyze reports for complexity based on criteria: simple, medium, complex, ultra complex.
- Analyze business logic and verify whether it can be adapted to the target environment.
- Analyze report migration duration and effort.

Convert

- Extract report objects like tables, pivots, queries, formulas, graphs, conditional formatting, and code logic.
- Convert all components and fields from the source reporting platform to the corresponding equivalent element in Jaspersoft software.
- Automation Tool Demo

Validate

- Execute the report in the Jaspersoft environment.
- Validate report layout and dataset results.
- Make changes as needed.

Publish

- Deliver reports to the new environment.
- Assure user acceptance.
- Receive customer sign-off.

ORACLE — ANALYZE > CONVERT > VALIDATE > PUBLISH — TIBCO® Jaspersoft™

Case study: Government of Newfoundland and Labrador

Client

Provincial government of Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada.

Team

- 1 project manager
- 5 offshore developers
- 1 offshore QA analyst

DataTerrain Solution

- Automated conversion from SAP Crystal Reports to Jaspersoft software, including 14 complex reports with subreports and charts migrated in one month.
- Offshore delivery model enabled follow-the-sun work hours.
- Immediate feedback from collocated quality analyst reduced cycle time.
- Pixel-perfect reporting and testing ensured one-to-one conversion.
- Weekly technical meetings supported on-time delivery.
- Report charts implemented with advanced HTML5 properties, available in Jaspersoft software.
- Customer expectation achieved, with all reports delivered without any bugs.
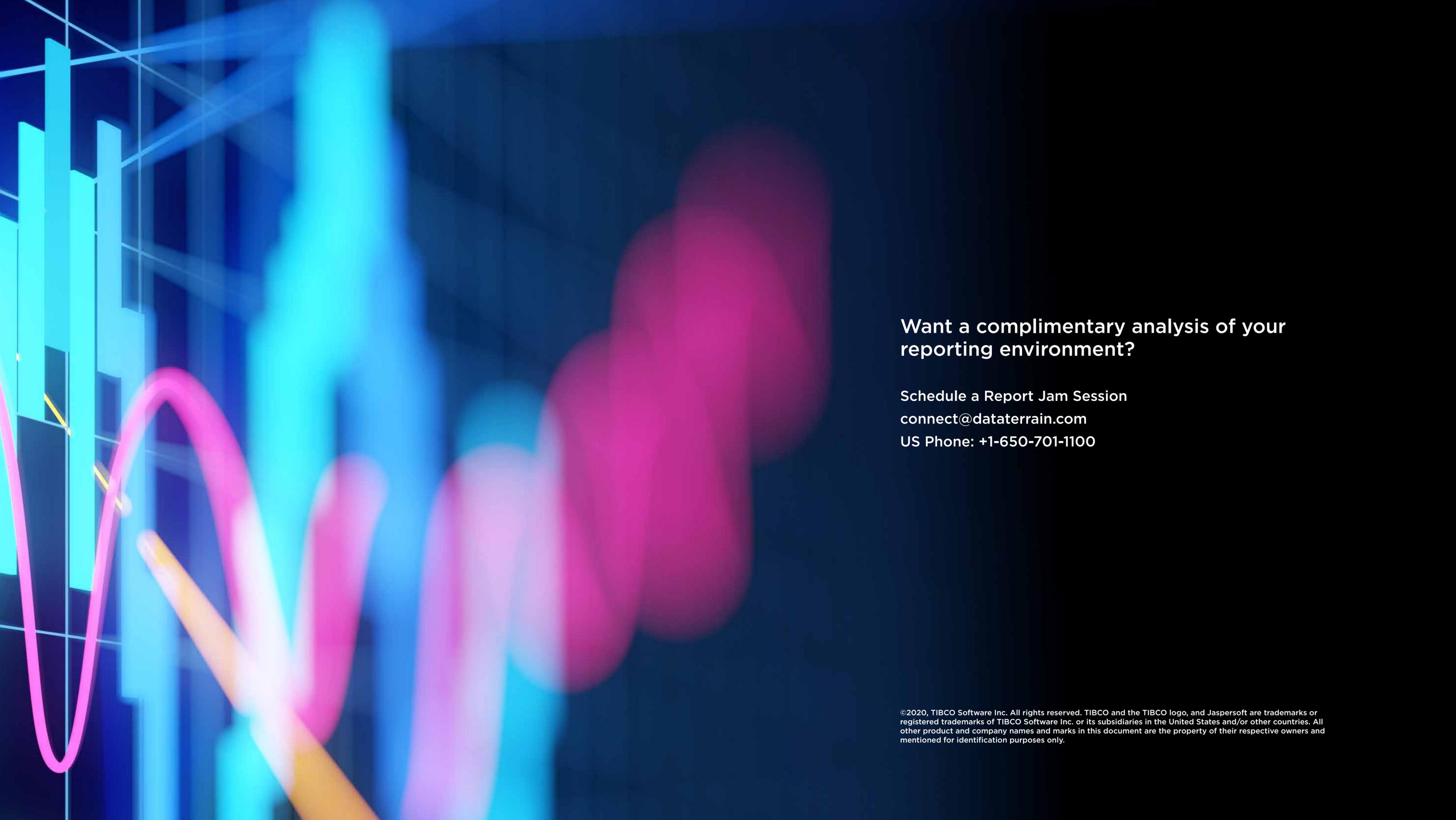
Want a complimentary analysis of your reporting environment?

Schedule a Report Jam Session

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