

Applications of Business Intelligence Technology in the Airports and Airlines Companies

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Abstract

There is less research literature about the business intelligence technology applied in airports and airline companies. This paper mainly summarized and commented on the business intelligence technology applied in domestic and international airports and airlines companies especially focus on the data warehouse and data mining. In the data warehouse application, radio frequency identification technology enhanced fuzzy neural network technology and online analytical processing technology and other key technology have been applied in the daily management of business data of airports and airline companies. And in the data mining application, clustering, classification, decision tree, regression analysis and fuzzy detection analysis have been used in the management of airports and airlines. In recent years, the application of business intelligence technology in airports and airline companies has achieved satisfactory results. The summaries and comments in this paper aim to provide the reference and help to relevant field of researchers

Key words: Business intelligence; Data warehouse; Data mining; Airlines; Airports

1. Introduction

Business intelligence (BI) refers to the use of data warehouse technology to store and manage operational data, and through a variety of statistical analysis tools and data mining techniques to analyze operational data to provide a variety of analysis reports which can offer the support information for a variety of business decision-making activities.

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Business intelligence is the enterprise use of modern information technology to collect, manage and analyze structured and unstructured data and business information to create and cumulate business knowledge and insights, to improve business decision making, to carry out effective business operations, to improve various business processes, to promote the business performance, and to enhance the overall competitiveness of the wisdom and ability. Typically enterprise business intelligence analysis, including business dashboards, scorecards, ad hoc query, reporting and operational analysis and forecasting, business strategy implementation monitoring and other topics. Through the data warehouse modeling and centralized management of KPI, it can solve the problems of performance of business operations, to monitor the development of enterprises, to present a complex reports in a simple way. In the existing business intelligence systems, statistical analysis capabilities needed to help analyze customer segments, predict customer behavior, predict trends in customer service, and identify fraudulent behavior. From the perspective of aviation and airport industry, business trends is the aviation-related business revenue growth is less than business revenue growth, and how to analyze these business trends and the relationship between aviation-related business revenue and business revenue, is the major research contents in business intelligence analysis.

2. Data warehouse and information collection

Data warehouse is a kind of data collection which is subject oriented, integrated, relatively stable, changing with time (different time) to support management in decision-making process, to help the data be geared to the needs of the subject, and to correspond to traditional database application. Subject will be a higher level of data classification standards for each subject area corresponds to a macro-analysis: integrated nature of the data warehouse is that before the data entering into the data warehouse, the data must be processed and integrated, which is a key step in the establishment of data warehouse. The contradictions in the raw data should be unified, but also the raw data should be changed from the application-oriented structure to the subject-oriented. Stability of the data warehouse is that data warehouse reflects the historical data, rather than data generated in daily transaction. After processed and integrated data entering into the data warehouse, there is little or no modification. Data warehouse is a collection of data at different times. It requires that retention of the data in data warehouse must meet the needs of decision analysis, and data must indicate the historical period of the data.

With the data warehouse technology application deep going in recent years, data warehouse technology develops rapidly. Many companies already well accepted 'the integration of data, find knowledge from the data, use of data, and explanation with the data' and other new concept related to the improvement of all aspects of production, improvement of production efficiency and the development of the productive forces. Both domestic and foreign experts have done some research about data warehouse applications in airports and airlines. Harry K.H. Chow, King Lun Choy, W.B. Lee, K.C. Lau (2006) proposed the management of the airport's cargo through the application of RFID-based resource management system. By using Radio frequency identification, case-based reasoning technology to improve resource management efficiency, the practice prove that using data warehouse technology can improve the management efficiency, save time and reduce the cost.

T. C. Poon, K. L. Choy, Harry K. H. Chowa, Henry C. W. Lau, Felix T.S. Chan, K. C. Ho (2009) used radio frequency identification technology based on logistics and resource management system to manage data. Radio frequency identification technology is used to get the airport cargo data to test the performance of RF equipment. Three objectives are achieved: (i) a simplification of RFID adoption procedure, (ii) an improvement in the visibility of warehouse operations and (iii) an enhancement of the productivity of the warehouse. At the end of the article, author gave the technology high evaluation and he thinks that the technology is available in practice. S G Li, X. Kuo (2008) proposed an enhanced fuzzy neural network (EFNN) technology based on the central warehouse management reserve inventory decision support system. Traditional neural networks are found to be suffered from the problem of low accuracy of forecasting unseen examples. Therefore, in this EFNN, the following improvement is made: First, it assigns connection weights based on the fuzzy analytic hierarchy process (AHP) method without painstakingly turning them. Second, by generating and refining activation functions according to genetic algorithm, EFNN can provide comprehensive and accurate activation functions and fit a wider range of nonlinear models. Last, but not least, an adaptive input variable is introduced to decrease the impact of the bullwhip effect on the forecasting accuracy.

In China, some experts and scholars have done some research on the data warehouse applied in the airport and airlines.

Yuhong Liu, Xiaopei Luo(2009) proposed solutions of the use of online analytical processing and data warehousing techniques to build decision support system through researching air ticketing system. Establishment of the data warehouse models and the cube in the airline ticket system is discussed and data extraction, transformation, loading and front-end results are shown. The use of table partitioning techniques to solve the mass data storage in decision-making system is issued. Through the use of decision analysis systems, data warehouse provides valuable decision-making data and largely improves the work efficiency.

Chuan Lu, Wenli Yan, Xinjie Hu (2010) pointed that passengers should be divided based on customer value under the analysis of domestic frequent passengers being insufficient. The aviation customer relationship management data warehouse is designed and decision support is provided to customers through SPSS data mining. A homogeneous source data is provided for airline customer relationship management and marketing. With data warehousing and data mining technology to analyze the data on passengers, this information can promote the competitive advantage of the airline company. Weibin Li, Jiafeng Yang, Baobao Wang (2010) proposed a aviation maintenance information analysis system model. This model can be applied to aviation maintenance information on-line analytical processing, and use the decision tree and association rules, data mining, aviation maintenance information to achieve the intelligent analysis.

3. Data mining and information analysis

Data mining is the use of mathematics, statistics, artificial intelligence and machine learning, to extract implicit, unknown and potentially useful knowledge from large, incomplete, noisy, fuzzy and random data. Data warehouse technology is a series of new independent application technology based on the needs of business information systems and the development of database systems. The essential difference between data mining and traditional data analysis methods (queries, reports, statistics and online analytical processing OLAP) is that data mining digs and finds that knowledge in the absence of clear information of assumptions. There are three characteristics in data mining model which are implicit, unpredictable, potential value.

In most cases, data should be first put in the data mining database or data mart. The data obtained directly from the data warehouse for data mining has many advantages. The data cleaning in data warehouse and in data mining is similar. If the data has been cleaned up in the import data warehouse, it's probably no need to clean up once in doing data mining and all the data inconsistencies have been resolved. Data mining database may be a subset of logic, and not necessarily have been physically independent database. However, if the data warehouse computing resources already strained, it is best to create a separate data mining database. Of course, data mining also do not have to build a data warehouse, data warehouse is not required. To build a huge data warehouse, unify the different sources of data together to resolve all data conflicts, and to guide all the data into a data warehouse is a huge project, which may take several years and cost millions of money to complete. If only for data mining, one or more read-only transaction database can be guided into a database. It can be regard as a data mart and data mining can be carried out in the data mart.

Some journals about data mining applications in airports and airlines in the domestic and oversea have been published in the literature. Viet Van Pham, Jiangjun Tang, Sameer Alam, Chris Lokan, Hussein A. Abbass (2010) found that the CO₂ concentration in some parts of Australia is much higher than other parts, especially in some majorities from the temporal and spatial analysis of fuel usage rate and emissions data. The emission results also show that NO_x emission of aviation may have a significant impact on the ozone layer in the upper troposphere, but not in the stratosphere. It is expected that with the availability of this real time aviation emission database, environmental analysts and aviation experts will have an indispensable source of information for making timely decisions regarding expansion of runways, building new airports, applying route charges based on environmentally congested airways, and restructuring air traffic flow to achieve sustainable air traffic growth.

FeyzaGürbüz, LaleÖzbakir, HüseyinYapici (2009) applied the data mining application on the incident data reports of the Federal Aviation Administration Accident Data System database. The categorization tools and decision trees are used to find the relations and rules about the incidents from 2000 to 2006 resulted in fatality. The accuracy and reliability of this method are valid in practice through analysis of the data.

Shijin Wang, Dong Sui, Bin Hu (2010) used gray mixed model to predict air flow. With the historical data analysis of the national-wide air traffic from the year 1985 to 2008, the forecasting applicability is examined with three different methods, such as the time series forecasting, regression forecasting and neural-network forecasting. The result shown that predict accuracy of gray mixed model was better than the other three models.

Feyza Gürbüz, Lale Özbakir, Hüseyin Yapici (2011) explored the use of different pretreatment techniques in handling airline data. This paper focuses on different preprocessing and feature selection techniques applied on the 15 component reports of an airline company in Turkey to understand and process the dataset. Regression analysis, anomaly detection analysis, find dependencies and rough sets are used in this study in order to reduce the dataset. Also the classification techniques of data mining are used to predict the warning level of the component as the class attribute. For this purpose, Polyanalyst, SPSS Clementine, Minitab and Rosetta software tools are used.

K.W. Yan, J.F. Zhu, S. Qiang (2007) analyze the application of data mining technology in the airport terminal data survey, and build decision tree model, to judge that in the development of future high-end users process, the airline should pay attention to different customer groups for marketing strategy. JAD Atkin, EK Burke, JS Greenwood (2008) established an automated decision support system for London Heathrow airport runway to find the best sequence of the plane took off. The system can significantly improve aircraft departure sequence during busy time. There is some literature published in the domestic. Lina Shi, Peide Yu (2006) used clustering methods to set customers' position according to the distinction between consumer behavior and established appropriate consumer system. The precise marketing methods achieved efficiency of customer relationship management, improved customer satisfaction, retain customers and prevent the loss of customers or a decline in value.

Be aimed at the problem of loyalty in customer relationship management, by analyzing airline's existing customer information in data warehouse, Hong Wang, Xiaohui Li (2005) proposed customer loyalty calculation model which based on data mining technology. And the cluster analysis on customer groups were carried out through experiments, which provide some theoretical basis for airline company developing and implementing of customer care and improving customer relationship management for different customer groups. Kewu Yan, Lei Zhang, Qiang Sun (2008) used ID3 classification algorithm to analyze terminal passenger survey data in the airport. It proposed that in the advanced stage of the development of high-end customer process in the airline, the marketing strategy should focus on the company's existing and future frequent customers. Frequent customers who reach the airport by cars are the most important marketing strategy.

4. Conclusion

With the continuous development of airports and airlines, airports and airlines will continue to increase in volume of business. The amount of various data of airports and airlines becomes very large, large amount of data can affect the speed of the decision maker. Business intelligence technology applied to airports and airlines will assist decision-makers to make more timely and effective, more scientific and reasonable decision-making. Decision-makers' decision-making will be on a higher level.

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