Business Intelligence Proof of Concept

What Is It?
The BI Proof of Concept (POC) is a rapid development engagement designed to allow customers to visualize their company’s data utilizing the latest Microsoft tools. The outcome of this engagement is a multidimensional or Tabular Analysis Services cube. This cube will act as the backbone for visualizations or slice-and-dice operations to be performed against it. The objective is also not to build out a formal data warehouse or ETL layer, but rather show the ‘what is possible’ with Microsoft BI tools and Aspect.

The solution will be built either as a cloud-based Azure virtual machine (VM) (preferred), or in an on-premise solution that will be a self-contained sandbox. Based on what specifically the customer wants to see as part of the POC, the solution will require provisioning an Azure instance and getting the virtual machines uploaded to the instance.

How Do We Do It?
Aspect will work with the customer to identify a representative dataset that encompasses the theme of the POC. Specific guidelines are in place to ensure the dataset is not too large or complex to complete in the desired timeframe. The scope may vary slightly based on whether the customer wants to incorporate the BI solution into SharePoint, or simply look at the new BI functionality of SQL Server 2012. The general parameters for the POC will be defined as:

- A single measure group table (“fact”) containing up to seven base measures
- Up to five dimension tables used to slice the measures group
- Up to ten additional calculated measures
- Up to five named sets

During the customer engagement of the POC, Aspect and the customer will determine the best delivery channel for the solution. Potential visualization options include:

- An Excel 2010 workbook containing a sample Excel PivotTable solution
- An Excel 2013 workbook containing a sample Excel PivotTable solution as well as two PowerView enabled tabs
- Two SQL Server Report Builder Reports
- A PerformancePoint Dashboard containing four KPIs, two filters, and up to three supporting visualizations (graphs / grids)
- A BISM (BI Semantic Model) file connection for PowerView authoring inside of SharePoint

Aspect will assist the customer in the creation and uploading of the VMs if the cloud instance is utilized. The customer will be responsible for any Azure hosting or data transfer costs.

The fixed price for this engagement is $15,000USD, not including travel.

The estimated duration of the engagement is two to three weeks.