BI360 – Release Notes

User Guide 4.5

Published: January 19, 2015

For the latest information, please visit our support site:

support.solverusa.com

Follow Us

Table of Contents

Introduction 3
Who Should Read this Manual 3
What Is Included in this Manual 3
Symbols and Conventions 3
System Requirements and Installation 3
Obtaining the Software 3
Upgrade Procedures 4
Obtaining the Licenses Key 5
BI360 Reporting 6
Features and Enhancements 6
BI360 Web-Based Budgeting 6
BI360 Data Manager 9
Global Values 9
Support for External Third-Party Document systems 10
New Rendering Service – performance enhancement in BI360 Portal 10
Fixed issues and minor enhancements 11
BI360 Planning & Data Warehouse Manager 12
Upgrade Information 12
BI360 Planning 13
Features and Enhancements 13
Improve Speed when Loading Data 13
Increase Number of Storage Fields 13
Additional Bug Fixes and Enhancements 13
BI360 Data Warehouse Manager 14
Features and Enhancements 14
Data Warehouse Admin Login 14
Improvements to Data Warehouse Tree Menu 14
Additional Bug Fixes and Enhancements 15
Additional Information 16
Solver Support Center 16

Solver Forum 16
Solver Feedback 16

Introduction

The following is a list of all new features, enhancements and bug fixes found in the BI360 Suite. The release notes are divided into two sections, one for Reporting and one for Planning and Data Warehouse Manager, but also contains information related to other modules of the BI360 Suite.

Please read the Release Notes to be introduced to many of the new features and enhancements found in this version of the software.

Who Should Read this Manual

All users of the BI360 Suite should read over this manual to become acquainted with all of the new features in this version of the software.

What Is Included in this Manual

This manual is designed to introduce many of the new features found in each component of the BI360 Suite. Further, the user guides for each component, found on the Solver Support site, go into greater detail about how to use the features discussed in this manual.

Symbols and Conventions

This manual uses the following symbols to make specific types of information stand out.

Symbol	Description
	The sunlight symbol indicates helpful tips, shortcuts, and suggestions.
	The warning symbol indicates situations we recommend to be aware of when completing tasks. Typically, this includes cautions about completing steps in their proper order or important reminders about how other information in BI360 may be affected.

System Requirements and Installation

Please review the System Requirements and Installation User Guides before proceeding with installing or upgrading the software. These two user guides are available on the Solver Support site.

Obtaining the Software

The software can be found at http://support.solverusa.com/. Once logged into the Solver Support site, select **Downloads** from the site header. Under Current Versions, click **Install Documentation** for the product being installed. Users will find a link to the BI360 Installation Guide.

Upgrade Procedures

After downloading the Reporting and/or Planning & Warehouse installation files, the following is a high level overview of how to complete the upgrade:

If the organization is upgrading to Data Warehouse Manager 4.5, they must upgrade to Data Warehouse 4.0 before upgrading to 4.5.

Warning: Upgrading from BI360DW 3.x to 4.x includes a database structure change. All ETL/SSIS processes will require modifications. Please contact Solver or your Partner for assistance before upgrading.

A backup of your BI360 databases; this includes the BI360 Data Warehouse and/or the Repository database must be taken before upgrading. Additionally, it is strongly recommended to upgrade your database in a development environment and test before upgrading production.

1. **Reporting**:
   - Run the correct installation file and follow the steps listed.
   - Once the upgrade is complete. Open the Admin Tool and install the updated Integration Packages for the integration that is in use (if required). This can be found under the Integration Management menu option.

   Please see the full installation guide for more details, including upgrade deployment via login scripts.

2. **Planning/Data Warehouse Manager, Data Warehouse Database**: This installation file will work for all operating systems and all Excel versions listed in the System Requirements User Guide.
   - Run the correct installation file. The upgrade is performed by the installer. After the installer has finished, the application has been upgraded to 4.5.

   It is required that a user has sys_admin or db_owner rights in order to upgrade the database. Performing an upgrade as a sys_admin, creates a role on the msdb and master databases that is pre-configured with the necessary rights to grant users access to the *Data Warehouse Manager*'s Processes features. Full details may be found in the *Data Warehouse Manager User Guide.*

   Minority interests and elimination scripts have not been finalized for the BI360 Data Warehouse version 4.0. Solver Support will make an announcement once these scripts have been finalized.

Obtaining the Licenses Key

License keys are available on the Solver Support site. Once logged in, select **Licenses** from the site header. All licenses purchased by the company (based on company email) will be listed.

BI360 Reporting

This section will detail the features and enhancements found in Reporting 4.5. Additionally, at the end of this section will be a list of all issues addressed in this version. For additional information on a particular feature, please reference the user guide or contact Solver Support.

Features and Enhancements

1. Web Budgeting.
    - Ability for direct write-back to the budgeting tables in the Data Warehouse or supported ERP systems.
2. Global Values.
    - A system-wide value that can be shared amongst all reports.
3. Support for External Third Party Document Systems.
4. New Rendering Service for Portal.
    - Built in Excel rendering engine. It is no longer required to have Excel on the web server.
    - Performance improvement while running reports in the Portal.

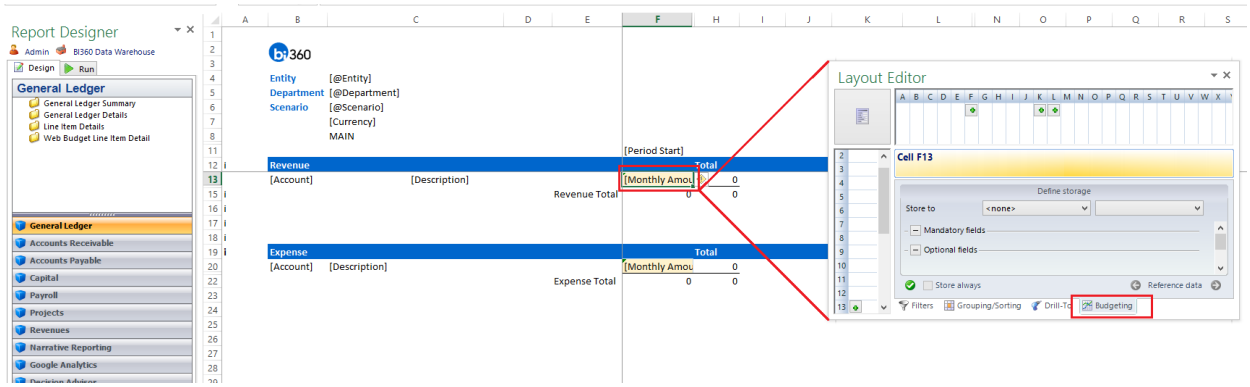
BI360 Web-Based Budgeting

BI360 Reporting 4.5 introduces Web-based Budgeting and direct write-back to the budgeting tables in the ERP system. This features offers the following:

1. Web-based data entry.
2. Design a budget template exactly the same way you would define a Report template.
3. Automatic storage rules are applied but may be customized.
4. Storage of calculated values.
5. Comparative data analysis with historical data.
6. Spreading Tool
7. Line Item details
8. Write back directly to supported ERP systems
9. View the data though a web based Data Manager

Note: This functionality will not appear in the Layout Designer until the Web Budgeting license has been installed.

A web budgeting form is created in Report Designer, like any other Report definition. Users will see a new tab in the Layout Editor, “Budgeting”, that will allow the user to convert the report definition into a budgeting template.
The picture below illustrates the definition of storage of the value in a specific cell in the budget form:



The process of defining a data input cell

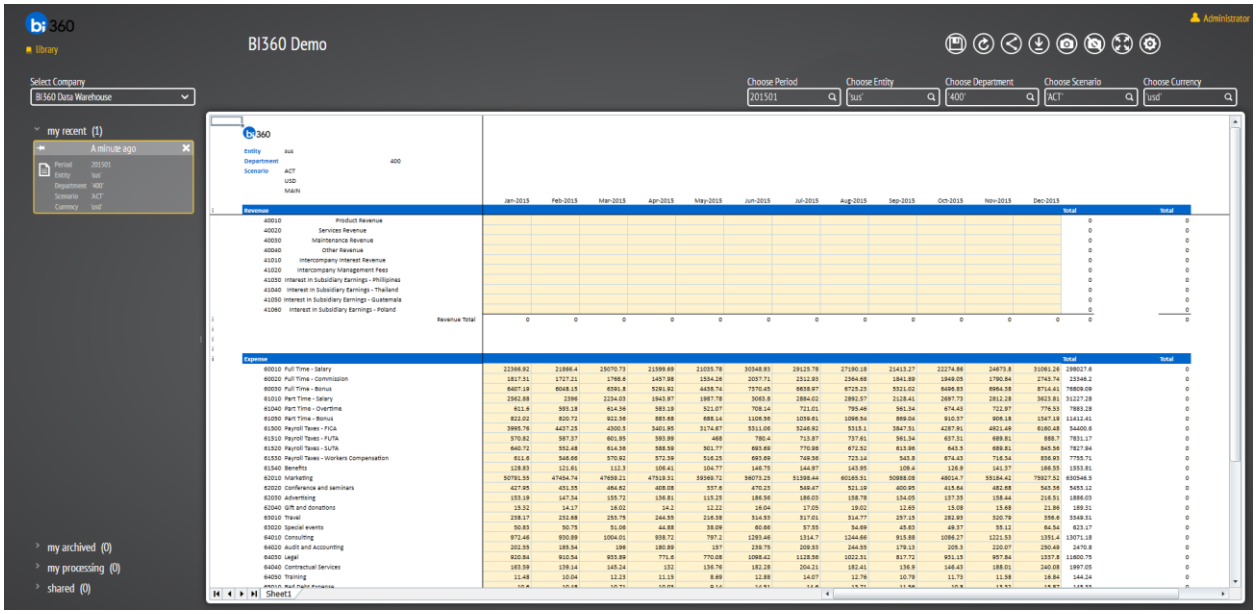
The data input cell will automatically get a set of default fields that will define the value in the database. The fields are inherited from the context of the cell.

In this example the dimensions *Budget version*, *Department*, *Account* and *Period* define the context of this particular cell. The stored value will get the runtime-expanded values of these dimensions when the users work with the web version of the form (see picture below).

The Budgeting store-back allows storage of both user-input cells and calculated cells. This is a strong feature as forms may be designed to allow for a user to input a value or for a value to be based on a calculation.

The Layout Editor also allows the administrator to define a historical selection of data, so that the user can reference the historical data to input new budget values.

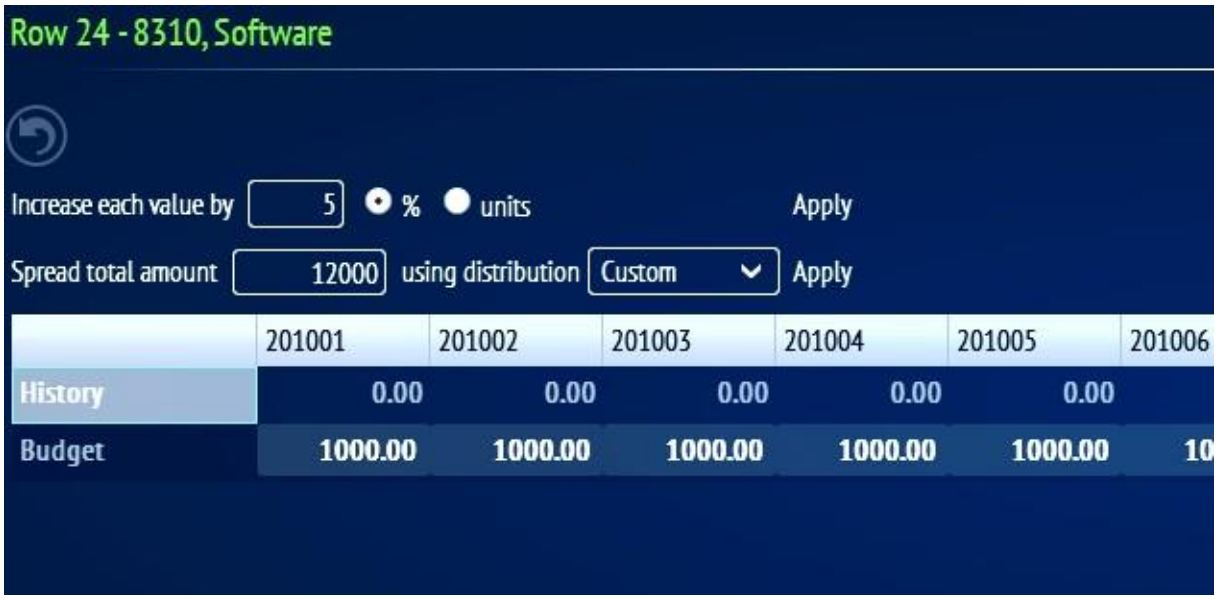
An uploaded budgeting form will look similar to how it has appeared in the Report Designer view.



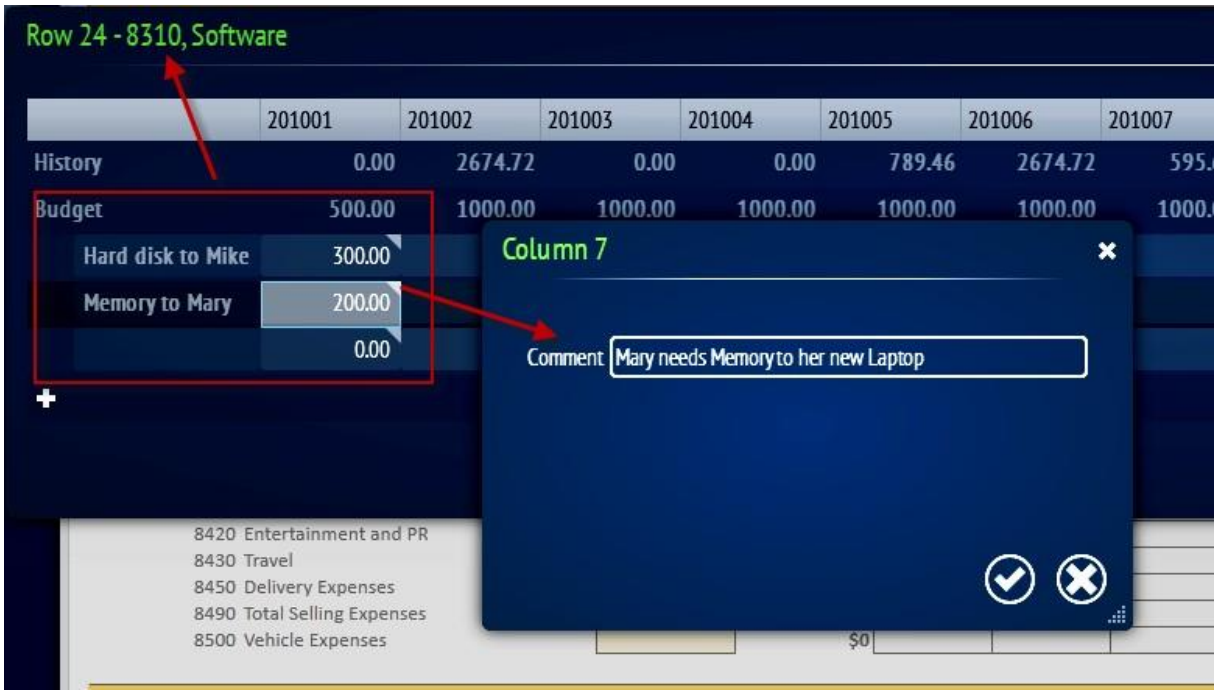
The user has the following options for entering data:

- Manually entering the data directly into the form
- Use the spreading tool to help create the values
- Use the Line Item Detail specification to enter data on the lowest level

The picture below shows the Spreading tool and the different options the user has. In this example the historical data which may be used for comparative analysis has not been defined.



The following picture shows the Line Item Detail specification dialog. In this example the user has specified details for the account "8310 Software". It also illustrates that it is possible to enter comments for each period.

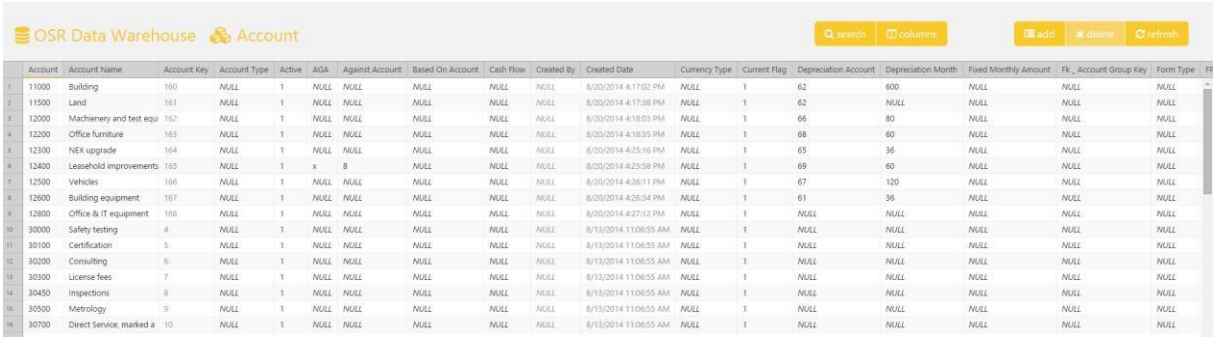


BI360 Data Manager

The BI360 Data Manager is a new feature in the BI360 Portal 4.5 that offers you the ability to insert, delete or change data in your Budgeting Data Warehouse. This screen is only available to those how have been assigned to the administrative role.

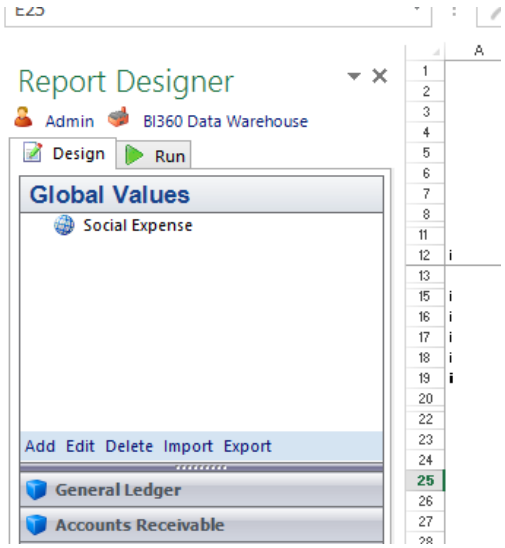
This feature is only available for budget usage.

The picture below shows a screen shot of the Data Manager and the maintenance of the Account Dimension in the BI360 Data Warehouse.



Global Values

User can now define system-wide, shared values that can be refer to and use in multiple reports or budgeting forms. These values can be useful when an administrator would like to define an increase percentage that all users should reference.



Support for External Third-Party Document systems

Reporting 4.5 introduces functionality to support third-party Document Systems. Some systems are already supported; these include Visma Document Center and Basware. Please contact your partner or distributor for more information about the options and possibility of integrating your Document management system. This feature makes it possible to drill-to a scanned voucher or other kind of document that is associated with a transaction posting.

New Rendering Service – performance enhancement in BI360 Portal

Version 4.5 introduces a new Rendering Service for the Portal. In version 4.0 the Portal rendered reports using an Excel object on the IIS web server. In some situations with many concurrent users and big reports the report rendering service availability could be reduced and the performance would decrease. In version 4.5 the BI360 Portal uses a third-party spreadsheet component to render the reports, without any need for Microsoft Excel. As such, having Microsoft Excel installed on the server is no longer a requirement, it is however an optional component depending on your rendering needs.

The Microsoft Excel rendering option is still supported but it is not the default configuration when the BI360 Portal 4.5 is installed. Please see the User Guide and Installation Guide for how to switch between these two rendering options.

Fixed issues and minor enhancements

The following reported issues have been fixed from previous BI360 versions. The table below describes the issue in short. If you need more information about one or more of these items, please contacted Solver Support.

ID	Application	Issue – Short Description	Type
NA	Designer	Copying of group-in-group does not work	Bug
NA	Installer	On a new installation the Add-in would not be loaded, since VSTO was not installed. Reason: VSTO would not be installed by the installation package due to changes on Microsoft's website	
NA	Portal	Administrator cannot see all users/roles in Library Administration	Bug
NA	Composer	If using Expressions as filter in Composer or Designer it cannot be combined with filter on other dimensions	Enhancement
NA	Portal	When closing a report you now return to the original category	Enhancement
NA	Designer	Creating Expressions without names is allowed and causes errors	Bug
Changeset 12620	Portal	Support for KPI-filter in Dashboard Designer (without group name)	Enhancement
NA	Portal	Support for Visma Document center	Enhancement
NA	Portal	Support for Basware	Enhancement
#1059	Designer	BI360Ref named ranges causing issues when saving	Bug
NA	Portal	New Rendering Service	Enhancement
#1536	Portal	Date parser improvement to avoid parameter error	Bug
NA	Administration	"Auto-login with Windows user" not sticking	Bug
	Designer	Drill to for DW tree reports does not work	Bug
	Portal	Drilldown/Drill-to for DW Tree reports does not work	Bug
#1543	Designer	Detail sheet in Sheet per value report is hidden after returning to design mode	Bug
	Portal	Cannot drag a new uploaded item to a category	Bug
	Portal	Admin user should have full control of categories	Bug
	Portal	DateTime Timezone and Auto-Refresh issues	Bug
	Portal	Keep session alive with ping	Bug
	Publisher	SMTP timeout settings	Bug
	Publisher	Add drag and drop feature to rearrange files in publisher subscription	Enhancement

BI360 Planning & Data Warehouse Manager

The following section will detail the features and enhancements found BI360 Planning and Data Warehouse Manager. This section will be divided into three sections:

- Section 1 details Planning new features and enhancements.
- Section 2 details Data Warehouse Manager new features and enhancements.

Additionally, at the end each section is a list of all bug fixes per application.

Upgrade Information

Please note that for this upgrade there have been major changes to the database structure. These changes will require the following to be done:

If the organization is upgrading Data Warehouse Manager, they must upgrade to Data Warehouse 4.0 before upgrading to 4.5

Warning: Upgrading from BI360DW 3.x to 4.x includes a database structure change. All ETL/SSIS processes will require modifications. Please contact Solver or your Partner for assistance before upgrading.

Please ensure the BI360 database is backed up before upgrading the database.

BI360 Planning

The following will detail of some of the features and enhancements found in Planning 4.5. All features described in this section are detailed in the BI360 Planning 4.5 User Guide.

Features and Enhancements

1. Improve speed when loading data
2. Increase Number of Storage Fields

Improve Speed when Loading Data

Planning 4.5 utilizes further optimization to improve the loading speed of the Planning window. Users can expect faster loading times while using Line Item Detail.

Increase Number of Storage Fields

In previous versions of Planning, users could only write back to 20 storage fields. Planning 4.5 introduces the ability to store to as many attributes that exist on a particular module.

Additional Bug Fixes and Enhancements

The following table provides a short description of all new features, bug fixes and enhancements found in this version of the software. For additional information on a particular features, please contact Solver Support (support@solverusa.com).

ID	Description
SIM-533	Planning should not reference interface settings if the planning window is disabled
SIM-569	Data Settings -> DimLookup for Currency not returning results
SIM-574	Able to save data to an upcoming assignment parameter value
SIM-577	Percent Adjustment Intervals does not allow decimal points
SIM-578	Opening an Assignment in Excel 2013
SIM-581	Can't use assignments with degenerative dimensions enabled
SIM-584	Improve error message when "I" is missing
SIM-586	Deleting interface settings sheet causes excel to crash
SIM-589	Cannot use assignments with macro planning forms
SIM-592	Error recreating data settings
SIM-549	Increase number of storage fields
SIM-567	Review storage and loading processes to improve performance
SIM-568	Long writeback field names get cut off
SIM-570	Wrong error message shown when adding a file to assignments
SIM-571	Assignment summary details cut off with multiple parameters
SIM-573	Improve loading speed of Admin Panel and Assignments Wizard
SIM-576	Improve experience on new installs (Prompt for default connection)
SIM-534	Force Close Admin Panel when changing Default connection

BI360 Data Warehouse Manager

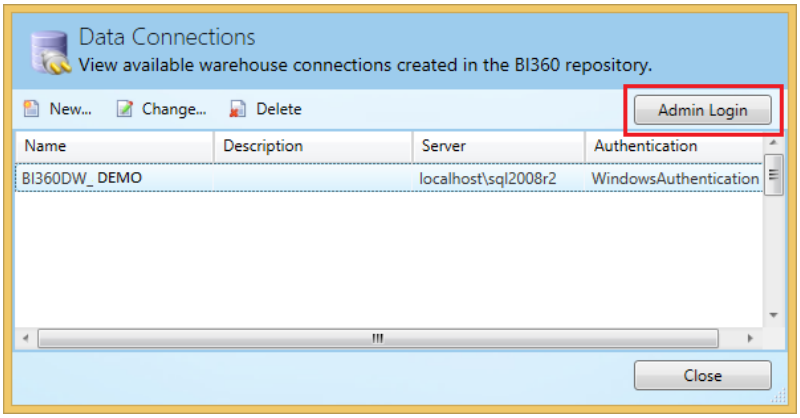
The following will detail some of the features found in this version of Data Warehouse Manager. All features described in this section are detailed in the BI360 Data Warehouse Manager User Guide.

Features and Enhancements

1. Add Data Warehouse Admin Login
2. Improvements to Data Warehouse Tree Menu.

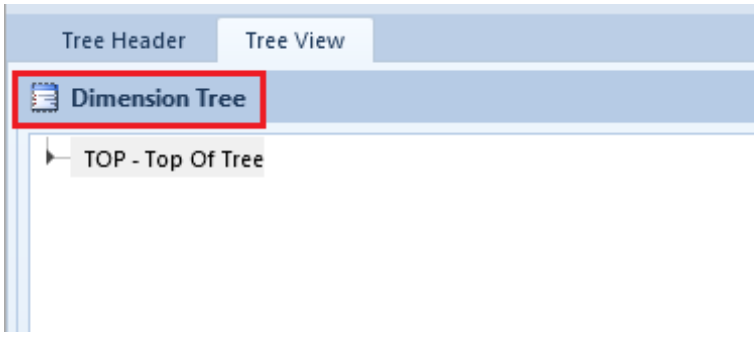
Data Warehouse Admin Login

Data Warehouse Manager 4.5 introduces an Admin login to the Data Warehouse Manager. This will allow an organization to access and manage the Data Warehouse if users have been locked out. To access the admin login, click on Details from the login page. In the upper right hand corner, users will see an Admin Login button. Click this to gain access to the application. The default password has been set to "BI360@dmin".



Improvements to Data Warehouse Tree Menu

Data Warehouse 4.5 has made enhancements to trees. In version 4.5 users can expect an improved experience while creating trees from within the application. Additionally, an "Expand All" feature has been added so that users can see the entire tree structure more easily. By clicking on the icon next to "Dimension Tree", users can collapse and expand their entire Data Warehouse tree.



Additional Bug Fixes and Enhancements

The following table provides a short description of all new features, bug fixes and enhancements found in this version of the software. For additional information on a particular ID, please contact Solver Support (support@solverusa.com).

ID	Short Description
SODSUI-405	Creating Level1 of tree is difficult
SODSUI-457	Data Explorer keeps processing when user inputs invalid period
SODSUI-469	Cannot edit the CurrencyCode from an Entity
SODSUI-470	Currency menu should be hidden until user enables Currency Dimension
SODSUI-475	Attribute data types can be changed after created
SODSUI-477	asterisk symbol does not work on User -> Data
SODSUI-484	Error generating last period for custom calendars
SODSUI-487	delete button deletes transactions when you have read permissions
SODSUI-490	The exported data is not based on the filtering at the time of Export
SODSUI-493	Error updating existing rule
SODSUI-498	Can't use Data Explorer after adding Degenerate Dimensions
SODSUI-500	Dim1+ default attributes not added to dimattribute table.
SODSUI-501	Ensure Amount Column in Data Explorer Export are type Numeric
SODSUI-507	Sorting child doesn't save on a large tree
SODSUI-508	Incorrect Currency column headers
SODSUI-509	Dimension Codes List in Tree Viewer Needs to be sorted by code
SODSUI-511	Increase field length of label & attribute tables
SODSUI-517	Error importing data when only Code Column Exists
SODSUI-302	Rename SODS_User for new installs
SODSUI-373	Grey out Delete button when at the dimension level of a tree
SODSUI-388	Ability to "Expand All" in DWM Trees
SODSUI-396	close import wizard after import completion
SODSUI-412	Improve load speed and preview of large files
SODSUI-445	Created By and UpdatedBy are not getting populated for dimension codes
SODSUI-482	Add Clustered indexing on dimension tables
SODSUI-488	First user added to DWM should be added as a DWM Admin
SODSUI-489	Increase maximum characters for Username Field in Users table
SODSUI-491	Change default rate conversion type from BLC to BSC on new DW
SODSUI-494	EntityCorr should not be included in the f_trans tables by default
SODSUI-495	Improve experience adding users on new installs
SODSUI-496	Add administrator login for DW
SODSUI-497	Refresh button icon should show as disabled while processing to match button
SODSUI-505	Adding dimension to module is causing application timeout
SODSUI-377	Filtering on the dimension table
SODSUI-472	Add application logging to DWM
SODSUI-564	Error updating Dim0+ tree using import file

Additional Information

Solver Support Center

The Solver Support Center (support.solverusa.com) is the centralized location for users to learn more about the BI360 Suite. From opening and managing your support tickets to reading knowledgebase articles about the product, the Solver Support Center has everything a user will need.

Users may contact Solver Support if they have questions about the BI360 Suite. One of our technical support consultants will gladly assist you.

Users can access the Solver Knowledgebase for more information about the entire BI360 Suite. From user guides, white papers, training manuals and much more, the Solver Support Center has everything a user will need to get started with the application.

Solver Forum

The Solver Forum (solverusa.com/forum) is a great resource for users to ask questions about the software. Other users or one of the many Solver employees frequently check the boards and can quickly answer your questions.

Solver Feedback

Solver invites customers to participate in providing feature requests for future versions of BI360 on a site just for user feedback, feedback.solverusa.com. On the Solver Feedback site, users may suggest features for updates and upgrades to BI360 – and/or vote on existing feature submissions from fellow customers to really push for feature(s) that would make BI360 even more powerful, dynamic, and intuitive.