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FOREWORD

“Raj has spent many years consulting in SAP BW for fortune 500 companies. He has taught numerous BW students from around the world, many of whom are now working as SAP BW Consultants and he has interviewed many candidates for consulting and permanent positions.

Raj graduated with a BSc in Electrical Engineering, he is also a SAP Certified BW consultant, with many years in SAP, BW and general IT Consulting. Currently he is a partner in a leading ERP consulting company.

Raj wanted to share his vast experience with others and has now done that through this book. We are often confronted by a closed network type society in the BW world, so to find an expert willing to share his ideas and tips is refreshing and should be grabbed with both hands.

Although the title says 201 Interview Questions, thanks to Raj we have more than 100 bonus questions, as well as extra material, made available exclusively to those who have purchased this book. Read the introduction for details on how to get the extra material that can be found on GeniePress.com.

SAPGenie.com and GeniePress strive to bring REAL value to SAP interested parties in the market place and I trust that you will enjoy using this book and all its' bonus material.”

*Kevin Wilson – Chairman Genieholdings.COM and founder of
SAPGenie.COM*

INTRODUCTION

How to use this book:

As a consultant / analyst:

- ✓ Start by reading this book from cover to cover.
- ✓ Repeat that until you think you know all the details.
- ✓ Now practice what you have learnt in the system.

If you are an employer looking to hire/contract a BW professional:

- ✓ The first part of the book highlights key questions that you should be able to ask a candidate and therefore gauge their competency based on their answers.
- ✓ By randomly adding in a few questions from the rest of the book you can focus on a specific area and ensure that the candidate really knows the relevant information.
- ✓ Before interviewing a candidate, always make sure that you fully understand the question and the answer. Although every effort has been made to make the questions and answers simple in their explanation, some questions may still not make sense to an untrained user.
- ✓ We suggest highlighting those questions that you wish to ask, familiarizing yourself with the answers and then conducting the interview.

Note that the chapter / topic that the question covers is always listed on the top of each page. This is because it is always important to know in what context the question was asked, to ensure that the candidate can respond to it as correctly as possible e.g. If you are asking a reporting question then explain to the candidate that the following question pertains to reporting.

Key:

Each question has a rating which is illustrated by the following symbols:

- ① Basic
- ①② Intermediate
- ①②③ Expert

As an added benefit we've included several worksheets and bonus material on Geniepress.com, including candidate worksheets which have all the questions marked out for you, provide space for the candidates name, the date of interview and their overall scores.

There are also links to other BW data provided by the author, such as SAP's standard cubes. Links to SAPGenie's BW material are also available from this bonus area.

To access this information: go to <http://www.geniepress.com/201bw> and enter the username 201bw and password 1sd2lk

Good luck and enjoy!

Key Questions

These are the top questions,
to ask of a consultant,
to gauge their competency level
in a fast and efficient manner.

Basic

1. What are the advantages of an Extended star schema of BW vs. The star schema?

- ✓ Uses generated numeric keys and aggregates in its own tables for faster access.
- ✓ Uses an external hierarchy.
- ✓ Supports multiple languages.
- ✓ Contains master data common to all cubes.
- ✓ Supports slowly changing dimensions.

2. How many dimensions are there in a cube?

There are a total of 16 dimensions in a cube. Of these 16, 3 are predefined by SAP and these are time, unit and request. This leaves the customer with 13 dimensions.

3. What is the transaction for the Administrator work bench?

Transaction RSA1

4. What is the “myself data mart”?

A BW system feeding data to itself is called the myself data mart. It is created automatically and uses ALE for data transfer.

5. What is an aggregate?

Aggregates are mini cubes. They are used to improve performance when executing queries. You can equate them to indexes on a table. Aggregates are transparent to the user.