

## What is a Data Warehouse?

What is a data warehouse? The simple answer is that a data warehouse is a collection of data from one or more different sources that are integrated for the purposes of reporting and analytics. The more complete answer, and one specific to Caltech financials, is that a data warehouse is a *process* that:

- Collects data from multiple administrative systems, for example:
  - ✓ Oracle eBS (Purchasing, AP, Grants Accounting, GL, HR, Payroll, etc.)
  - ✓ Advance
  - ✓ AiM
  - ✓ CardQuest
  - ✓ TechMart
- Transforms, restructures, integrates, and reorganizes that data in order to:
  - ✓ Improve data quality
  - ✓ Bring together data in a meaningful way
  - ✓ Provide historical insight

The Caltech user community is able to utilize OBI for reporting and analytics across this integrated, consistent, and accurate data foundation.

Data warehouse financials are loaded from data sources (Oracle, Advance, etc.) to the data warehouse on a nightly basis, *except* during the month-end financial dark period.

## What is OBI?

OBI stands for *Oracle Business Intelligence*, which is a set of reporting and analysis tools that is well-integrated with Oracle eBS. The Caltech Data Warehouse project is using OBI to enhance financial reporting by delivering timely and high quality data through an integrated set of reporting and analysis capabilities.

OBI offers many advantages over static reports. Via the single reporting interface and the common data foundation provided by the Caltech data warehouse, users can navigate across different subject areas (e.g., Costs and Commitments, Financial Summaries, Award Installments, etc.), drill into transaction details, and customize reports for a better fit with administrative responsibilities and needs.