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# The Future of Dashboarding Is the Future: Presenting Foresight through Analytics Using Dashboarding Techniques

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## ABSTRACT

Dashboards have taken hold in business intelligence, because they are a way to distill down a huge volume of information to the key items that might (or might not) need exploration. But like the dashboard in your car, enterprise dashboards tend to focus on the current state of key metrics and the past. While this might be true to the dashboard metaphor, the real power of dashboarding is the practice of aggregating key pieces of information in a manner that gets attention. The techniques of dashboarding can apply to analytics and forecasting just as easily as they apply to past metrics and historical data.

Dashboarding through business intelligence has visually helped understand questions like: what has happened, how many, and how much. These questions naturally lead to the future of dashboarding and that is through business analytics. Dashboarding through business analytics address more compelling questions that go beyond reporting on what has happened in your business to discovering why it has happened. This paper explores the application of dashboard technologies along with various SAS® technologies—including enterprise business intelligence, SAS® BI Dashboard, SAS® Enterprise Miner™, and SAS® Forecast Server—so that key stakeholders can go beyond the past (hindsight), have an understanding of the present (insight), and proactively make decisions on the future (foresight) through the application of analytics and forecasting models.

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