Q: What is SAP Predictive Analysis?
A: Predictive Analysis is the latest addition to the SAP BusinessObjects BI suite and introduces new functionality to the existing BusinessObjects toolset. Predictive Analysis extends the visual intelligence offerings of SAP Lumira (formerly known as SAP Visual Intelligence) to include new predictive functionality. The target user for Predictive Analysis is a team member who needs to extract predictive insights from data, but is not necessarily a trained statistician or data scientist.

Q: What is a predictive model?
A: A predictive model is an equation, algorithm, or set of rules used to predict an outcome based on input data. Predictive models allow businesses to forecast the outcomes of alternative strategies prior to implementation and determine how to most effectively allocate scarce resources. Predictive models can simply be a set of business rules based on past observations, but to develop more accurate and statistically rigorous predictions, statistical algorithms for developing the predictive equation are often used.

Q: When evaluating predictive tools, what functionality should you consider to ensure a tool meets your needs?
A: Functional areas to review when evaluating predictive tools include data access, data manipulation, system architecture and processing capacity, user interfaces, predictive algorithms, model evaluation features, model implementation and maintenance features. An organization’s needs might determine the category of tool that works best; some categories include algorithm-specific tools, full-function code-based tools, and cloud tools.

Q: Do you need SAP HANA to use Predictive Analysis?
A: No. Although Predictive Analysis is designed to complement HANA, you can use Predictive Analysis without HANA.

Q: What are the two modes Predictive Analysis operates in?
A: The two modes Predictive Analysis operates in are:
• HANA online mode, in which data is stored on HANA and predictive algorithms are run on either HANA or an affiliated R Linux host
• Offline mode, in which data from a flat file or database is downloaded to the user’s workstation and...
processed using only the client system resources.

**Q: What is R?**

**A:** R is an open-source programming language used by statisticians and mathematicians, and is freely available under a general public license. SAP uses R as an engine for Predictive Analysis because it complements the in-memory architecture of HANA and because of its open-source nature.

**Q: What is the HANA Predictive Analysis Library (PAL)?**

**A:** The HANA PAL is a set of predictive algorithms that lets HANA execute complex predictive algorithms within the HANA database, avoiding any cost of transferring data between systems and taking advantage of HANA’s powerful in-memory processing power.

**Q: What features does Predictive Analysis include that are not available in Lumira?**

**A:** With Predictive Analysis, the Predict pane is available as a separate functional area within the same user interface as Lumira. The Predict Pane holds all the Predictive Analysis functionality, including data preparation, modeling, and data writer tools, and allows users to create predictive workflows to combine these tools in a familiar drag-and-drop interface (Figure 1).

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