

What is EMBEDDED BI?

As is often the case with software terms, **“embedded BI”** can mean different things depending on who you ask. To help you understand the nuances, let’s start with an authoritative definition from **Gartner**:

“Embedded analytics is the use of reporting and analytic capabilities in transactional business applications. These capabilities can reside outside the application, reusing the analytic infrastructure built by many enterprises, but must be easily accessible from inside the application, without forcing users to switch between systems.”

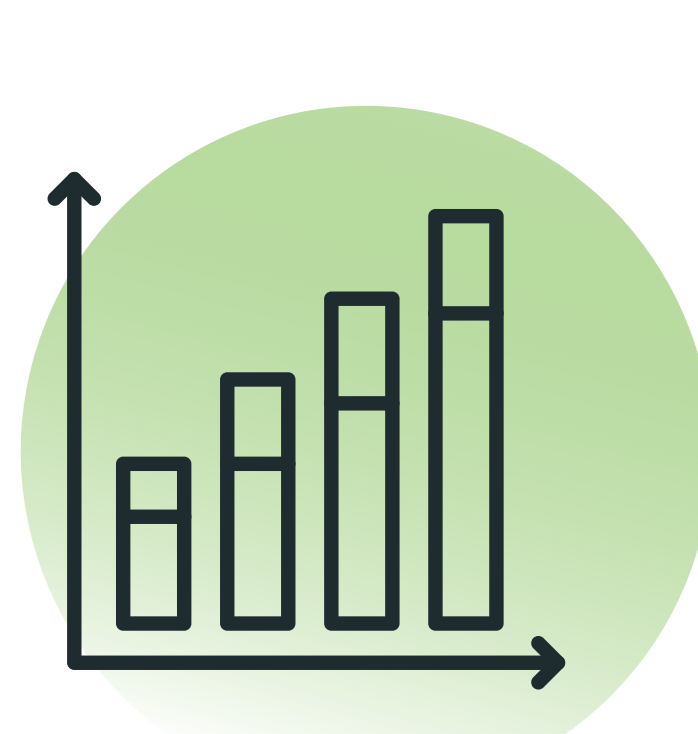
Sounds straightforward, but embedded BI often vary in **what** they embed, **how** they embed, and **where** they embed.

What gets EMBEDDED?

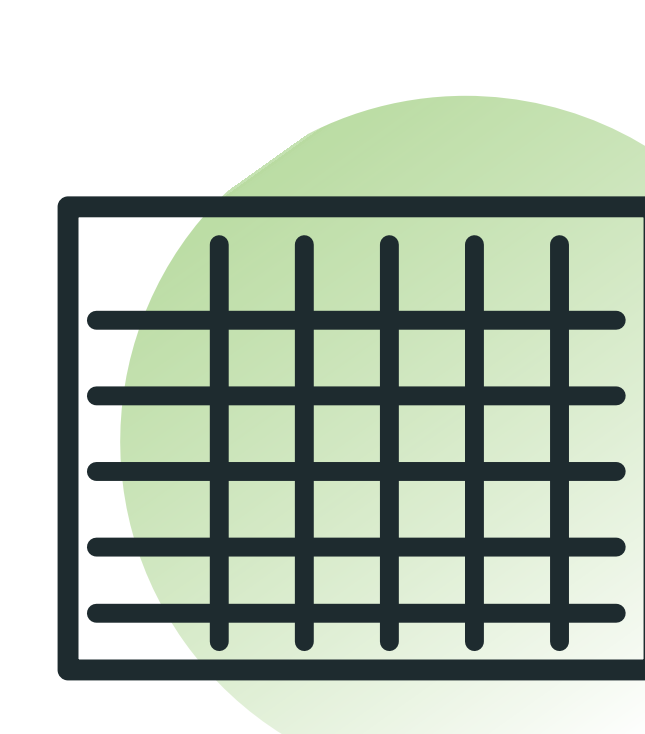
This is an important question to ask as you evaluate potential embedded BI solutions, as **“reporting and analytic capabilities”** can refer to any or all of the following:



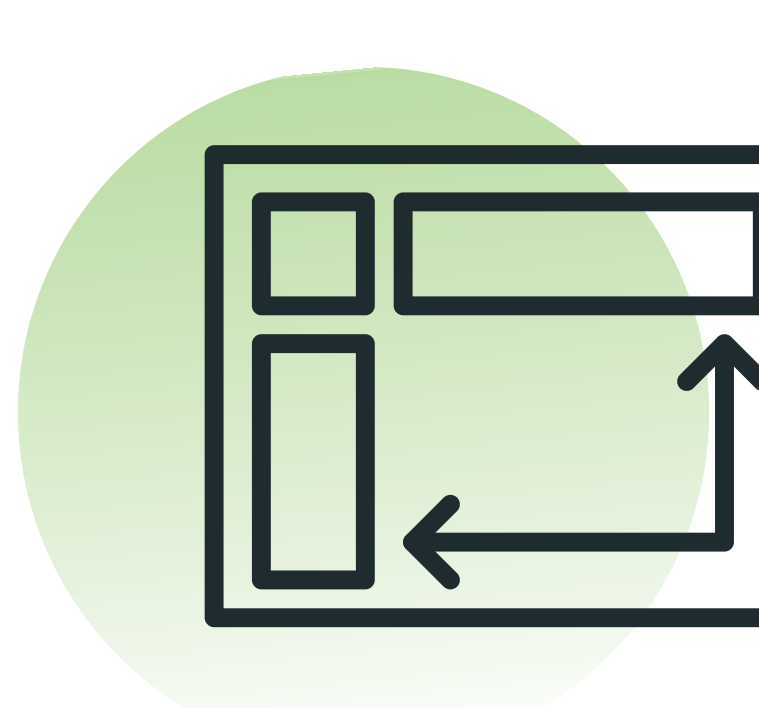
Dashboards.



Charts.



Tabular reports.



Pivot tables.



Report-building studios.



Dashboard-building studios.

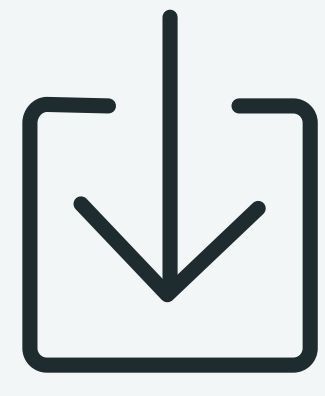
Which is to say that some applications support embedded report **builders** while others embed only the **reports** themselves.

Those looking to offer self-service reporting and dashboard design should ask specifically about **embedded analytics studios**.

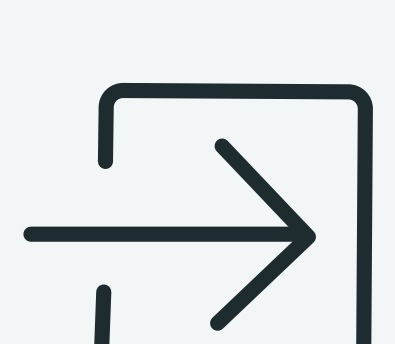
How is it EMBEDDED?

Embedded analytics must be **“easily accessible from inside the [host] application”** and not require the user to **“switch between systems.”**

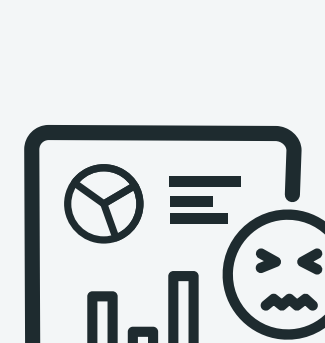
Still, some embedded BI applications may require your users to:



Download a software plugin.



Sign in to an analytics portal after logging in to your application.



Contend with reporting tools that don't look or behave like your application.

And that's probably not your idea of easy!

Avoid these user experience pitfalls by looking for:
100% web-based single sign-on embedded BI
with a **robust API** and **white labeling capabilities**.

Where is it EMBEDDED?

How a solution embeds will impact where users may access it.

The first thing to determine is whether or not the solution is modular.



Non-modular solutions must be accessed in a centralized location, such as through a link or menu option. BI components and host application components cannot appear on the same page without use of an iframe.



Modular solutions may be broken up into their component parts and distributed throughout an application. BI components and host application components may appear on the same page in any configuration.

For a seamless user experience, look for a modular application that embeds using a JavaScript API.

Your EMBEDDED BI Checklist

So what should you look for in an embedded analytics solution?

Here's a handy checklist:

- ✓ Embeds output (*charts, reports, dashboards*)
- ✓ Embeds studios (*report and dashboard builders*)
- ✓ Single sign-on
- ✓ 100% web-based (*no plugins*)
- ✓ Robust integration (*open API*)
- ✓ White label (*open CSS, full localization*)
- ✓ High-performance embedding (*JavaScript API*)

Stick to these standards, and your users will have no idea they're using a third-party solution.

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