

What's the difference between Business Analytics and Business Intelligence? The correct answer is: everybody has an opinion, but no one is wrong nor there is just one perfect answer.

Everybody has a different notion of what ANY particular term associated with analytics means.

However “business analytics” is an umbrella term including data warehousing, business intelligence, enterprise information management, enterprise performance management, analytic applications, and governance, risk, and compliance.

“Business analytics” on the other hand indicates some level of vertical/horizontal domain knowledge tied with statistical or predictive analytics.

At the end of the day, there are two aspects worth differentiating:

1. Analysis and Inference — the need to get the most value out of information. This need hasn't really changed in over fifty years (although the increasing complexity of the world economy means new concepts like unstructured data, real-time data, Big Data etc.). And the majority of real issues that stop us from getting value out of information (information culture, politics, lack of analytic competence, lack of storage, data noise etc.) haven't changed in decades either.
2. The second is the IT aspect of BI — what technology is used to help provide the business need. This obviously does change over time. There are different analysis tools like SPSS, SAS, R, Minitab, Python and hosts of data storage mechanisms in warehousing or file systems like Cognos, Oracle, Hadoop, Tableau etc.

The problems in nomenclature typically arise because “business intelligence” is commonly used to refer both of these, according to the context, thus confusing everyone.

At the end of the date, nobody important cares what this stuff is called. If you're in charge of a project, what matters is working out the best way to leverage the information opportunity in your organization, and putting in place appropriate technology to meet that business need — and you can call that process whatever you like: it won't make any difference...