

## 6. Summary and Outlook

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A recapitulation of the thesis and its results is provided in this chapter. Different possibilities for the project's future development and applications are outlined.

### 6.1. Summary

The field of dashboards and cockpits is evolving dynamically driven by the desire of companies to gain better insight into their projects and processes. Dashboards provide consolidated data and analysis capabilities, which assist project managers to track a project's progress and spot potential risks and problems. Project cockpits go a level further by discovering trends and making suggestions based on previous decisions taken in similar situations. As expectations towards cockpits rise, the difference between a business intelligence product and a performance management product begins to dwindle. Although originally used by sales departments, business intelligence (BI) could provide benefits to other departments as well. Common BI functions, such as data mining, analytics, performance management and predictive analysis could provide better understanding of both software development projects and processes. This is an important realization, which evolved during the development of this thesis.

The properties of dashboards, cockpits and business intelligence are discussed in this thesis and their similarities and differences are analyzed. A systematization of central terms and technologies in the field of project controlling and performance management is provided. It is an important result of the thesis, because it addresses the existing terminology confusion.

Requirements engineering is critical to the success of a software engineering project [AM04]. The decision whether to make or buy a product heavily depends on the specific requirements of a company. Therefore a thorough systematic requirements engineering phase was performed to identify the requirements to project performance management products. It was performed at a specific company, but reflects the demands and expectations of perhaps many other big software development companies. The applied methodology and the results are described in this thesis. A snapshot of possible solutions for the provided sce-

nario and a discussion is offered. Guidelines and considerations are provided for companies and research groups, which prefer the development of an own solution. The conceptual model provides a vision for a modern cockpit product and includes an analysis of the potential use cases and users, discussion of its main features, a metric model and architectural considerations.

### **6.2. Outlook**

The results of this work can be used by GDIS for choosing a solution for their business case. Other decision makers could use them to better understand the possibilities for improvement of the management and visualization of data for the purposes of project control at their companies. The performed analysis provides a vision for the future development of cockpits, which could be of interest to all organizations that are considering a cockpit or a business intelligence initiative. Research institutions and companies could use the theoretical foundations, the specified set of requirements, the products analysis and the conceptual model, provided in this thesis, to develop their own cockpit solution.