



Leveraging data visualization tools like QlikView and Tableau for effective risk analytics and reporting

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Abstract

In the era of data-driven decision-making, effective risk analytics and reporting have become critical for organizations aiming to navigate complex risk environments. This paper reviews the application of advanced data visualization tools specifically QlikView and Tableau in enhancing the efficiency, clarity, and strategic value of risk management processes. Traditional risk reporting methods often fall short in delivering timely, actionable insights due to static formats and limited interactivity. Tools like QlikView and Tableau address these limitations by enabling dynamic dashboards, real-time data integration, and intuitive visual interfaces that support multidimensional analysis. Through a comparative evaluation of these platforms, this review highlights their distinct strengths in handling diverse risk categories including financial, operational, and cybersecurity risks. Additionally, it explores real-world use cases, integration capabilities, and usability factors that influence tool adoption in risk-focused environments.

Keywords: Risk Analytics; Data Visualization; Qlikview; Tableau; Risk Reporting; Business Intelligence

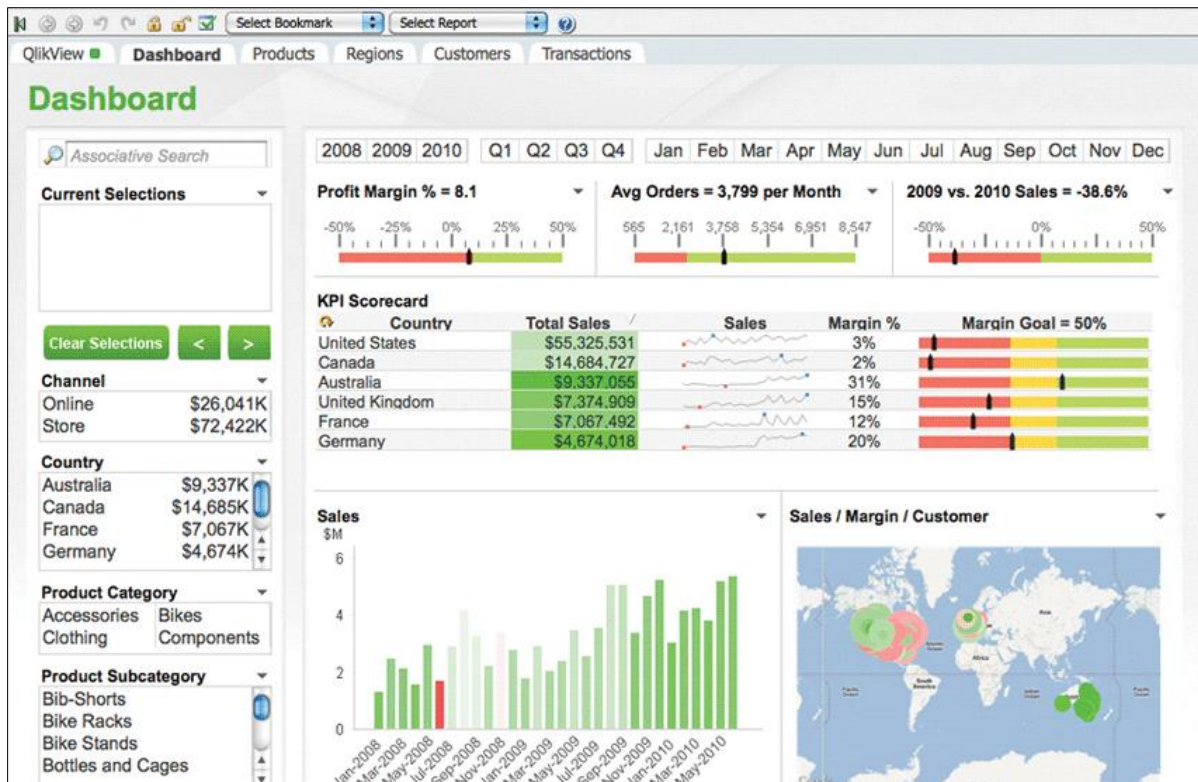
1. Introduction

As the business landscape becomes more volatile, the ability to assess and report risk by using real-time information is no longer something nice to do; it must be on the table as a competitive necessity. Too often, outdated reporting methods fall prey to data overload and limited analytical depth. Data visualization tools such as QlikView and Tableau have brought a world of change to risk analytics. This review paper tries to cast an extensive net over the use of these platforms for risk identification, monitoring, and communication through dynamic dashboards and interactive visualizations. By the end of this treatise, the reader will have a clear view of each tool's merit and benefit, how they relate in real-life scenarios of risk reporting, and what exactly should influence their deployment in enterprise risk management strategies.

QlikView and Tableau are among the most widely used visualization tools in contemporary risk management practices. Both platforms empower organizations with a viable way to morph raw data into interactive dashboards and visual analytics, thereby easing the process of identifying an emerging risk, finding hidden patterns, as well as communication of insights.

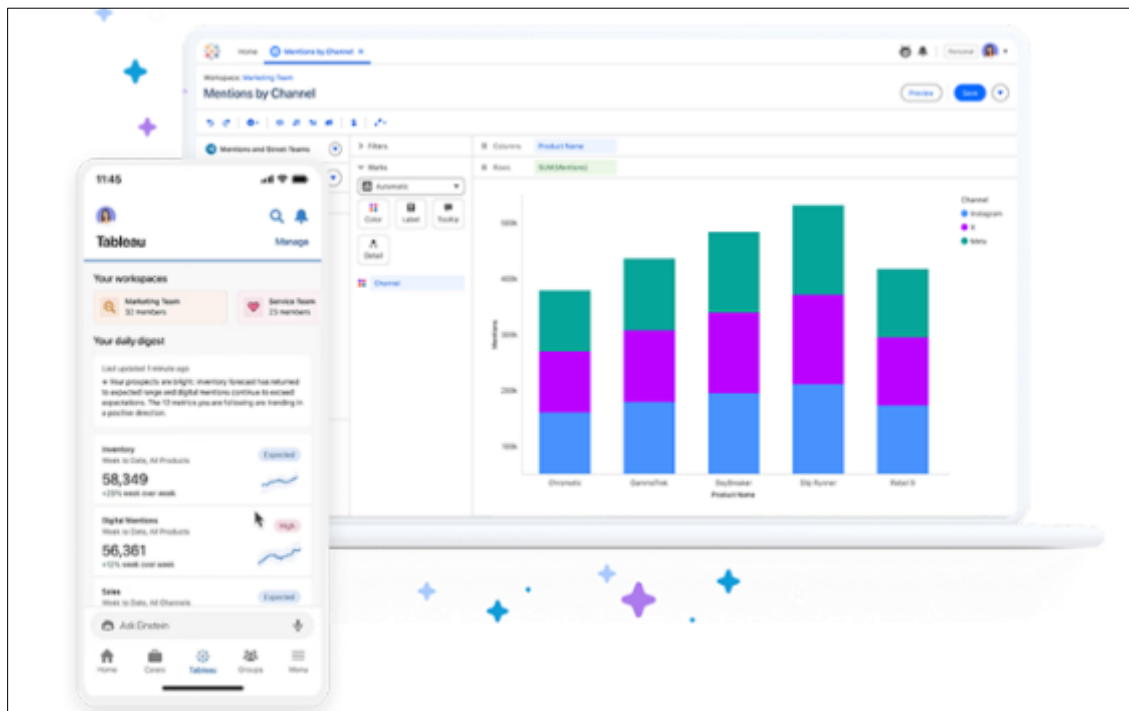
QlikView became known for its associative data model, where users can examine a data set from any vector without predetermined queries. The ability to navigate complex, multidimensional data sets is particularly critical in risk environments, as it can spotlight correlations and outliers that otherwise might be ignored [1]. Figure 1 shows a typical risk dashboard in QlikView with a heavy interface and an associative filtering mechanism for superior explorations [2].

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Source: Adapted from Qlik (2023)

Figure 1 QlikView dashboard example displaying associative data navigation for risk analytics



Source: Adapted from Tableau (2023).

Figure 2 Tableau dashboard example demonstrating intuitive UX and real-time data visualization for risk management

Tableau, by contrast, operates in a drag-and-drop style with intuitive visual storytelling. While users can create dynamic dashboards and share them across departments to collaborate on speaking about risks, this is all Tableau can do simply. It specializes in taking complicated data relationships and turning them into visuals that are immediately recognizable for monitoring and decision-making purposes in real time [3][4]. Figure 2 features a Tableau dashboard with a clean design, intuitive interactions, and visual analytics.

1.1. Motivation

Unlike traditional risk reporting methods that are predominantly based on static spreadsheets, siloed systems, and manual procedures, such pose glaring limitations. These include late tipping of insights, late data comprehension, late stakeholder engagement [5,6]. At the same time, lack of interactivity and real-time responsiveness defines such approaches, both of which are practical tools in managing emerging risks in dynamic settings.

The strategic gaps being created have generated a compelling need for intuitive real-time analytics solutions that develop visibility for risk exposures while the decision makers are empowered. Tools like QlikView and Tableau, by way of interactive dashboards and integration of real-time data, propose alternatives to the rigidity of conventional reporting systems [4,6].

Objective and Scope

The primary aim of this review is to explore and evaluate advanced data visualization platforms (QlikView and Tableau) as tools for making risk analytics and reporting more effective. This study seeks to assess how these tools perform in relation to each other technically; how user-friendly they are; integration features offered by each; and practice applications in various risk settings. The paper compares academic literature, vendor documentation, and case studies from the real world as a premise toward giving a clear indication on how these tools might be used for better risk decision-making and efficiency in reporting.

The scope of the review will be limited to the use of QlikView and Tableau at the enterprise level in risk management, covering various types of risks and organizational setups.

2. Methodology

The present study follows a qualitative review methodology, referring largely to existing literature, industry case studies, and comparative analyses between tools. Sources were drawn from peer-reviewed journals, white papers from BI vendors, and analyst report, as well as from actual implementation studies [7][8]. The tools were picked for analysis based on the fact that QlikView and Tableau stood highest in enterprise adoption, strongest in terms of data visualization, and most proven in the area of risk analytics [9]. The evaluation criteria include design of user interfaces, efficiency in data handling, real-time aspects, customization, scalability, and support for risk-specific applications [10].

2.1. The role of data visualization in risk analytics

Data visualization has become integral to this endeavor in transforming raw data into clear and actionable insights, thereby enabling timely and effective decision-making [11]. This section will discuss the definition and scope of risk analytics, explain the rationale behind the need for visualization in risk reporting, and describe the essential features that visualization tools must have in order to be in line with the demand of modern risk management.

2.2. Risk Analytics: Definition and Scope

Risk analytics is the systematic process of data-gathering, data-analysis, and interpretation of all types of risks faced by an organization, with the purpose of identifying possible threats, assessing their implications, and thus assisting in countermeasures against risks [12]. It uses the means of statistical analysis, predictive modeling, and data visualization to achieve a holistic view of risk exposure and to manage said risks before occurrence rather than after. Bringing in data from internal operations, market trends, and an array of external incidents, risk analytics can help to sharpen decision-making as well as ensure fulfilling certain compliance requirements. The risk analytics spectrum covers numerous categories, depending on the array of struggles confronted by an organization. According to a 2023 report by Deloitte [13], operational risks account for about 35% of risk incidents worldwide, followed by financial risks at 30%, strategic risks at 20%, and compliance risks at 15% worldwide. Table 1 presents a summary of the main categories of risk traditionally analyzed within companies.

Table 1 Types of Risks in Enterprise Risk Analytics

Type of risk	Description	Examples
Operational Risk	Risks from internal processes, systems, or human errors.	System failures, fraud, supply chain disruption
Financial Risk	Risks affecting financial health and capital adequacy.	Market fluctuations, credit defaults, liquidity shortages
Strategic Risk	Risks impacting long-term goals and competitive position.	Regulatory changes, market shifts, technological disruption
Compliance Risk	Risks related to non-compliance with laws and regulations.	Legal penalties, fines, reputational damage

As we see in Table 1, operational risks mostly pertain to the failure of internal processes and systems, while financial risks deal with changes in market and credit; strategic risks relate to the interest of the long-term goals of the organization, and compliance risks are judged in relation to the compliance of laws and regulations.

2.3. Need for Visualization in Risk Reporting

Risk data are often voluminous, complex, and dynamic, which in fact makes it difficult for decision-makers to quickly pry out relevant wisdom. A visualization, thus, taps into the brain's inherent capacity to intuitively process visual information, which forms approximately 90 percent of all data received and is thus processed up to 60,000 times faster than text. This phenomenon permits the quick grasping of patterns, the detection of anomalies, and the tracing of trends [14]. In rapidly evolving environments, static reports lag behind swiftly changing parameters like market volatility or cybersecurity threats. In contrast, interactive real-time dashboards have provided risk managers with the capability to continuously track key indicators and issue quick responses to arising risks [15]. Doing so markedly diminishes the downtime between the identification of a threat and subsequent response, thereby fostering proactive risk governance to lessen potential losses (see Figure 3).

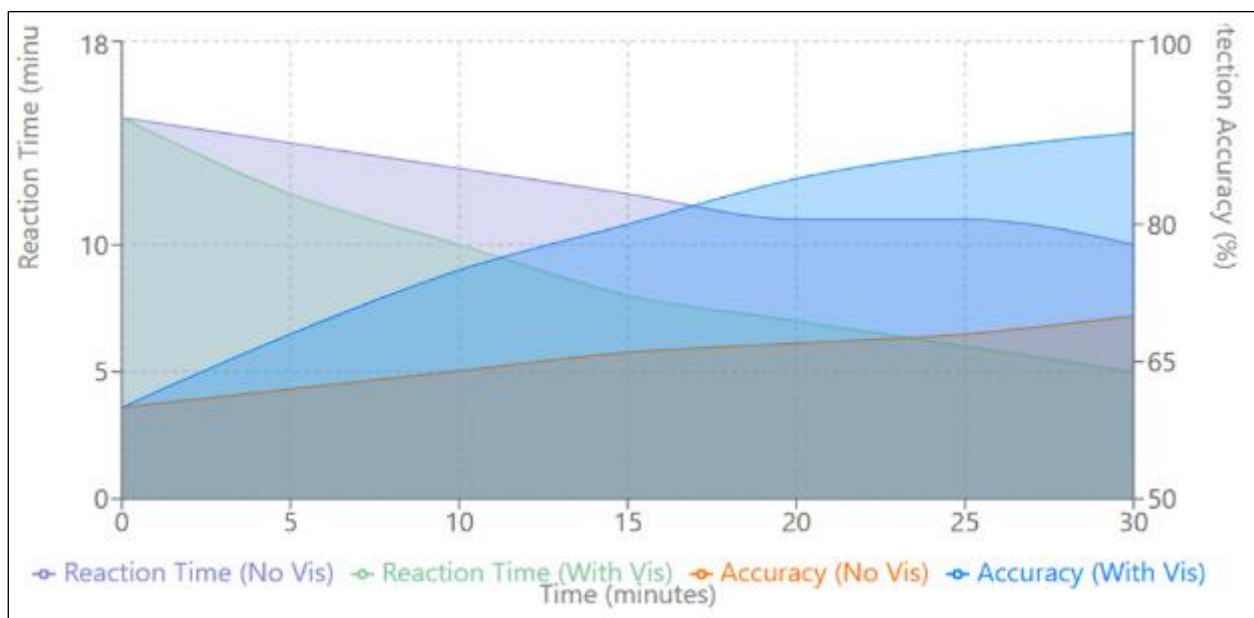


Figure 3 Impact of real-time visualization on reaction time and risk detection accuracy over a 30-minute monitoring period

As shown in Figure 3, the installation of real-time visualization dashboards can do wonders for risk management. Within 30 minutes, the reaction time to address an emerging risk is cut down by two-thirds from 15 minutes to about 5 minutes. In parallel, the accuracy of risk detection jumps from 60% to 90%, proving that visualization tools indeed can assist in fast and reliable identification of potential threats. These improvements underscore the critical role that interactive and

dynamic visualizations play in enabling faster, more informed decision-making, ultimately strengthening an organization's capacity for proactive risk governance and minimizing potential losses.

2.4. Key Features of Visualization for Risk

An effective risk analytics visualization, put simply, must incorporate beyond just simple charting solutions-features that allow for exploration and profundity, as well as foresight. Interactivity here refers to filtering data, changing or customizing views, or even drilling down to some focal points of interest. The drilling-down capability is particularly crucial when tracing aggregated risk indicators back to the underlying data points or even detouring from root cause. Predictive dashboards build in forecast models and risk simulations that work to give exposure to the future, and scenario-analysis functions let users play around with assumptions or external shocks that impact current risk profiles. A detailed analysis of these capabilities is given in Table 2, which mentions their descriptions and benefits in risk analytics.

Table 2 Key Visualization Features and Their Benefits for Risk Analytics

Feature	Description	Benefits
Interactivity	User-driven filtering, selection, and dynamic updates.	Enables customized insights and faster anomaly detection
Drill-Down Capability	Ability to navigate from summary dashboards to granular data.	Facilitates root cause analysis and detailed investigation
Predictive Dashboards	Incorporates models forecasting risk trends and probabilities.	Supports proactive risk management and contingency planning
Scenario Analysis	Tools for “what-if” modeling and impact simulation.	Enhances stress testing and strategic decision-making

3. Overview of visualization tools: QlikView and Tableau

Data visualization tools are essential for transforming raw data into actionable insights through interactive dashboards and reports. Among many tools available, QlikView and Tableau stand out as industry leaders, each offering unique architectures and features that cater to different user needs. This section explores the architecture and key features of both platforms, highlighting their strengths and limitations, followed by a comparative analysis to help understand their suitability in various scenarios.

3.1. QlikView

The proprietary Associative In-memory Data Engine behind QlikView focuses on data discovery and analysis. In its core operation, the data is loaded and compressed into RAM, so there are no long interruptions in query responses. This architecture, therefore, supports an associative model in which the user can select any data point and instantly view all data related to that selection and all the data unrelated to it throughout the dataset, therefore, facilitating free-form exploration [16].

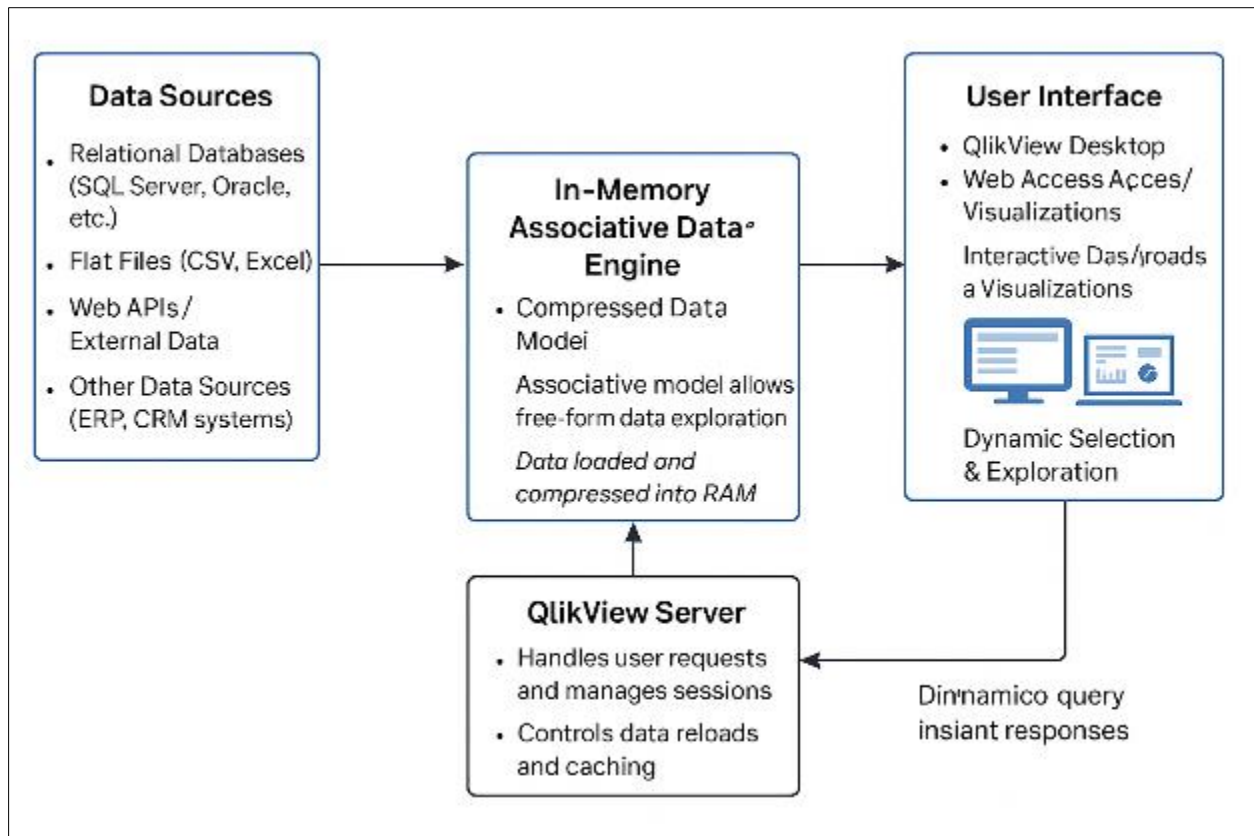


Figure 4 QlikView Architecture

In Figure 4, the data flows through several sources into QlikView's ETL and scripting layer, where the data undergoes transformation and is loaded into the in-memory engine. Users interact with the engine through dashboards that instantly update as a result of the associative data model.

3.1.1. Key Features

- **In-Memory Processing:** Enables data to be loaded directly into RAM, thereby allowing fast analysis.
- **Associative Data Model:** Supports natural navigation and discovery over linked datasets.
- **Data Compression:** Allows handling of large datasets efficiently within memory constraints.
- **Self-Service BI:** Allows users to create and edit reports with minimal technical knowledge.
- **Scripting Layer:** Allows for sophisticated data transformations as well as the implementation of business logic.
- **Interactive Dashboards:** Enables real-time data exploration and responsive visualization.

3.2. Tableau

Tableau's architecture is, therefore, somewhat hybrid, permitting either live connections to a data source or in-memory extracts through its Hyper Engine. This gives the design so much flexibility wherein a user may query any data set directly from its source in real time or may work with a slick data extract highly tuned for fast analytics. Its interface allows much drag-and-drop action, giving great ease in the creation of rich visualizations and dashboards [17].

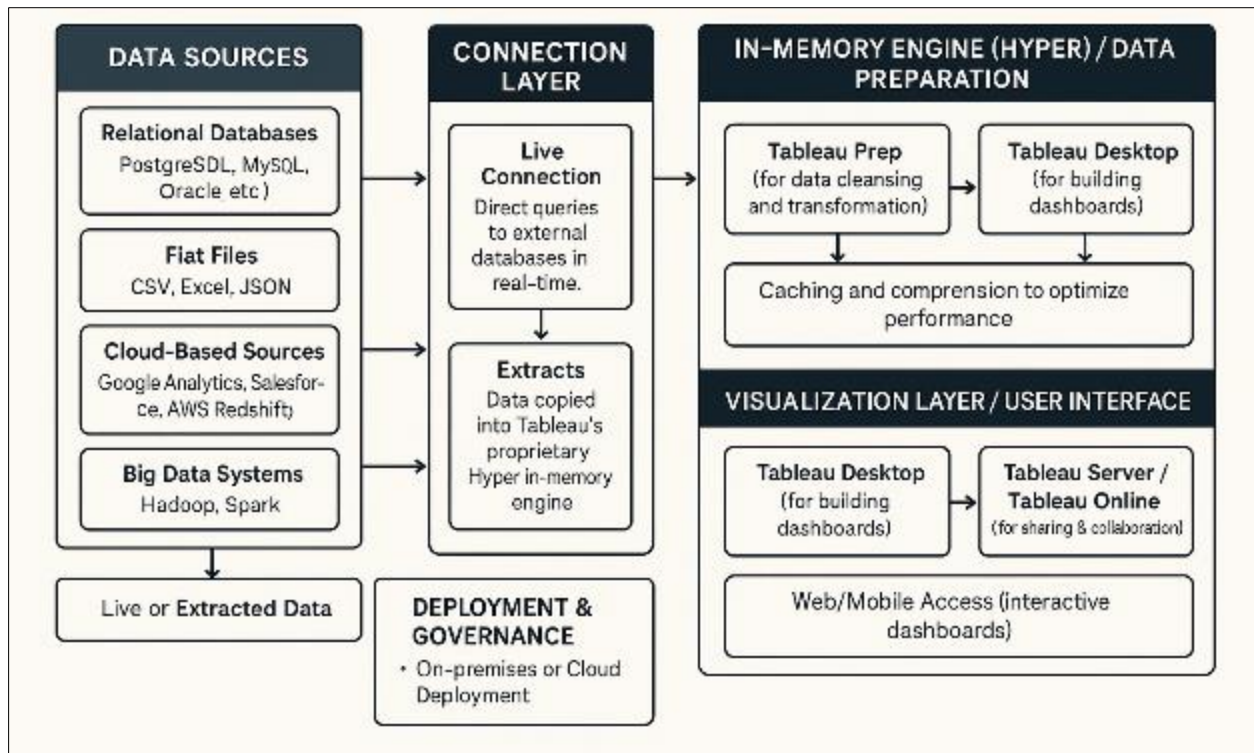


Figure 5 Tableau Architecture

Figure 5 displays that Tableau can pull records live from databases or cloud services or that it could opt to use an optimized extract store in Hyper, while providing the user the uninterrupted experience of creating and interacting with data visualizations.

3.2.1. Key Features

- **Drag-and-Drop Interface:** Creates complex visualizations easily with no coding required.
- **Real-time Dashboarding:** Live connections are supported so that insights on the latest data are always available.
- **Rich Visualization Library:** Provides large varieties of charts and customization options.
- **Data Blending:** Enable seamless blending of data coming from different sources.
- **Collaboration and Sharing:** Facilitates sharing through Tableau Server and Tableau Online.
- **Advanced Analytics:** Includes forecasting, clustering, and statistical functions.

3.3. Comparative Overview

QlikView and Tableau are both data visualization tools that provide highly professional visualization features yet having distinctly different architecture and approach that cater to users' preferences and organizational needs. With its associative in-memory engine and flexible scripting technique, QlikView tends to be the best-suited platform for complex data models and deep data exploration [18]. Tableau and its drag-and-drop ease gave real-time connection; thus, Tableau is useful for its broad user base and rapid dashboard development.

Table 3 Table sums up the differences that occur between the two when discussed along critical parameters upon which organizations base their selection for a better fit into their technical environment and business needs.

Parameter	Qlikview	Tableau
Ease of Use	Moderate – requires scripting knowledge for advanced customization	High – user-friendly drag-and-drop interface
Architecture	Proprietary in-memory associative engine with ETL scripting	Hybrid architecture with live connections and in-memory Hyper extracts
Integration	Supports multiple data sources but needs scripting for ETL	Extensive native connectors and live query support
Customization	High – scripting enables complex data modeling and transformations	Moderate – customization primarily through UI
Speed	Very fast due to in-memory processing	Fast with extracts; live queries can impact speed
Real-Time Data Support	Limited – batch refreshes typical	Strong – supports live connections and near real-time updates
Visualization	Functional but less modern look and feel	Highly polished, interactive, and aesthetically rich visualizations
User Community and Support	Smaller, specialized community	Large, active community with extensive resources
Cost	Generally lower for licensing but can require more IT involvement	Higher licensing costs but easier to adopt

4. Evaluation of QlikView and Tableau for risk reporting

The realm of risk reporting demands tools that visualize and analyze complex data streams with utmost efficiency, security, accuracy, and governance, delivering almost instantaneous insights from huge amounts of data coursing through the intricacies of multiple sources. QlikView and Tableau are hence considered the business intelligence tools of choice in the risk management domain [19]. This section evaluates both tools with respect to reporting efficiency; data handling, and integrations; security and governance; visualization customization and usability; and scalability. The focus of the evaluation is on how these features aid risk analysts in creating custom and scheduled reports from multi-source data that are updated in real-time, enforce user permissions, maintain data lineage, provide rich interactivity, and scale to enterprise volumes (refer table 4).

Table 4 QlikView vs. Tableau for Risk Reporting

Evaluation criteria	Qlikview	Tableau
Reporting Efficiency		
Custom reports	Highly flexible with strong scripting capabilities to tailor reports specifically for risk metrics.	User-friendly drag-and-drop report creation with good customization but less scripting depth.
Scheduled reporting	Robust scheduling with detailed control over report distribution.	Scheduling available but sometimes requires Tableau Server or third-party tools for advanced control.
Data Handling and Integration		
Multi-source data integration	Native support for a wide variety of sources with powerful ETL capabilities embedded.	Excellent connectivity to numerous data sources; seamless integration with cloud platforms.

Real-time updates	Supports near real-time data refresh with in-memory engine.	Real-time data support is strong, especially with Tableau Prep and live connections.
Security and Governance		
User roles and permissions	Granular control with centralized management, ideal for sensitive risk data.	Strong role-based access control, integrated with enterprise security frameworks.
Data lineage and auditability	Detailed data lineage tracking available via Qlik Governance tools.	Tableau provides metadata management and audit trails, but lineage is less granular than QlikView.
Visualization Customization and Usability		
Interactivity and user experience	Highly interactive dashboards with associative data exploration.	Intuitive, visually appealing dashboards with advanced interactivity and ease of use.
Scalability		
Handling enterprise-scale datasets	Designed for large, complex datasets; in-memory engine supports rapid querying.	Scales well with powerful backend engines; optimized for big data environments, especially with Tableau Server/Online.

Referring to Table 4, QlikView and Tableau both demonstrate strong functionality across the whole set of criteria for risk reporting implementation [20]. Whereas QlikView provides greater flexibility in creating custom reports and handling complex data integrations because of its powerful scripting and in-memory engine, Tableau is more suitable for an organization dealing with large- scale, enterprise-level risk data [21]. It can also enforce security at a granular level and allow data owners to maintain detailed data lineage for strong governance.

Contrarily, Tableau really shines in that second set of features-this enhanced user experience and visualization customization-make Tableau very approachable to risk analysts needing to dash off intuitive, interactive dashboards for immediate use [22]. Scheduling and governance are strongly supported yet sometimes partly dependent on an additional set of infrastructure, namely Tableau Server, for full-fledged use [23]. Tableau's ease of integration with cloud-based data sources and its ability to scale make it a perfect fit for fast-paced environments demanding real-time insights.

In general, the table depicts that in environments that need a firmer grip on data, extensive degree of customization, and tight governance, QlikView is the way to go, whereas Tableau is a more simple and beautifully designed desktop supporting agile risk analysis scaling powerfully. Therefore, the choice largely rests upon the needs and infrastructure of the risk management team [24].

5. Challenges and limitations

Most new technology adoptions face impediments on technical, organizational, data, and regulatory fronts. For example, integration complexity can lengthen project duration by 30%, whereas bottlenecks degrade system performance by 15-25% [25]. On the organizational front, from the skill set perspective, around 40% of companies are confronted with a meaningful skill gap, leading to resistance in attempting new tools [26]. Then comes the problem about data quality; about 60% of data-driven projects would fail due to poor quality input, summarized by the expression "garbage in, garbage out." Moreover, regulatory and compliance requirements encompassing data privacy laws or audit trail maintenance are getting more stringent, with a global average non-compliance fine of around \$3.9 million, demanding solid governance from the parties concerned [27, 28]. These challenges and their impacts are summarized in Table 5.

Table 5 Challenges and Limitations in Technology Implementation

Category	Challenges	Impact / facts
Technical Constraints	Integration complexity and Performance bottlenecks	Project timelines ↑ 30%; Efficiency ↓ 15-25%
Organizational Barriers	Skill gap and Resistance to new tools	40% of firms affected; Delayed adoption
Data Quality Issues	Garbage in, garbage out	60% of data projects fail due to poor input quality
Regulatory Compliance and	Data privacy and Audit trail requirements	Average fines \$3.9M; Mandatory for legal compliance

Source: Adapted from industry reports and research studies on technology adoption challenges.

6. Future trends and innovations

Emerging innovations such as AI-driven risk visualization, real-time dashboards, embedded analytics, and customizable developer ecosystems are set to transform how organizations identify, assess, and mitigate risks. As per a 2024 Gartner report, 72% of enterprises have invested in advanced analytics and AI tools to reduce risks in detection and response times [29]. Such trends accelerate risk insights and heighten accuracy while simultaneously embedding risk intelligence deeper into business processes to facilitate more proactive and better-informed decision-making processes.

6.1. AI-Powered Risk Visualization

It is still in early development, yet promising, with 35% of large enterprises piloting machine learning models that analyze risk patterns from both historical and real-time data [30]. Most implementations are split between specialized teams due to the complexities involved. Moving forward, such AI-driven applications will mature, giving predictive, scenario-based visualization capabilities to disciplines across the enterprise allowing risk management to move away from being reactive and toward anticipatory. AI will automate more than 50% of risk identification activities by 2027, greatly reducing manual effort and vastly improving the accuracy of those identifications [30].

6.2. Real-time Risk Dashboards

Real-time risk dashboards generated by streaming data and IoT devices are beginning to turn heads in the operationally-dependent industries. Today, about 40% of manufacturing and logistics companies use IoT sensors for real-time risk monitoring [31]. While many implementations face latency and other data integration issues, an increase in IoT connectivity coupled with edge computing will put the organizations into the unprecedented position of being able to monitor risk, in real time, down to the minutest detail. MarketsandMarkets expect the IoT in risk management market to grow from being a \$4.5 billion market in 2023 to more than \$12 billion by 2030. This particular feature will disrupt risk management through instantaneous detection and response, thus reducing incident response times by as much as 60% [32].

6.3. Embedded Analytics

Embedded analytics that put risk insights right into enterprise systems like ERP, CRM platforms, etc., are really growing in stature but are still rare in many organizations. Studies suggest that only 30% of organizations have fully embedded analytics inside their own operational workflows [33]. Currently, in some cases, analytics requires platform switching or relies on external tools for further analysis. Embedded analytics will grow into a seamless, deeply contextual presence with growth in annual adoption predicted at 45% through 2028 [33].

6.4. Customization through APIs and Extensions

The developer ecosystems around analytics platforms such as Qlik and Tableau are growing the capabilities by offering APIs and extension frameworks to develop certain risk analytics solutions. Now there is an estimated 60 percent of enterprise analytics users customizing dashboards through APIs [29 - 33]. The applications rely upon the technical know-how and to maintenance. As the ecosystem matures, however, customization will begin to get easier, more standardized, and opens up to enable a considerably wider user population able to rapidly adapt and extend risk analytics. Fueled by such customization capabilities, generic types of analytics software will cross \$35 billion by 2027, providing innovation, agility, and interaction through markets sharing the tools of common analytics geared toward specific needs in risk management.

7. Conclusion

The review aims to underscore the dramatic role played today by data visualization tools in risk analytics and reporting. Both platforms are high in configurations and indeed capable of turning complex risk data into pragmatic applications through intuitive interaction and real-time data integration. The analysis establishes visualization tools enhancing risk visibility, stakeholder engagement, and decision-making criteria-a few major weaknesses in conventional methods of risk reporting. For QlikView versus Tableau, the two tools claim their differential advantages. QlikView's associative engine and state-of-the-art in-memory processing make it flexible to accommodate complex data relationships, which is important in complex risk analysis. Tableau, meanwhile, with its simple-to-use GUI, long list of customizations, and huge user base, is highly accessible to all manner of users and allows for quick deployment. Both technologies provide scalable multi-source data integration required for enterprise risk management.

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