

OLAP (Online Analytical Processing)

Short for Online Analytical Processing, a category of software tools that provides analysis of [data](#) stored in a [database](#). [OLAP](#) tools enable users to analyze different dimensions of multidimensional data. For example, it provides time series and trend analysis views. [OLAP](#) often is used in data mining.

The chief component of [OLAP](#) is the [OLAP](#) server, which sits between a client and a database management system ([DBMS](#)). The [OLAP](#) server understands how data is organized in the database and has special functions for analyzing the data. There are [OLAP](#) servers available for nearly all the major database systems.

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Last update: **2023/08/17 18:08**

