IBM Metadata Workbench: Providing end-to-end visibility of metadata

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Highlights

- **Enables businesses to identify the source of specific data**

- **Provides the ability to see what happens to data as it moves through IBM Information Server into data warehouses and other systems**

- **Enables businesses to see relationships of one piece of data to other data**

- **Helps provide insight and enables businesses to better understand the meaning of the data**

- **Enables businesses to identify and assess the complete impact of system changes before the changes are made**

Connecting the dots—tracking data throughout the enterprise

The volume of data that organizations need to manage is often staggering. Analysts estimate that this volume will increase by up to 6½ times within the next three to five years. This information is frequently spread across many different systems, often redundantly, and represented in many different formats. As companies seek to gain a more comprehensive viewpoint of their information, they need a way to keep track of how these many different sources are related and how information is being pulled together and presented in reporting and analysis tools.

IBM® Information Server provides a complete platform for integrating and enriching information across disparate source systems. Using a metadata-driven integration process, IBM Information Server supports analysis and active sharing of metadata artifacts across a full range of integration activities and user roles. These artifacts include technical metadata about the various sources of information, business metadata that describes the business meaning and usage of information, and operational metadata that describes what happens within the integration process.

As a tool within IBM Information Server, IBM Metadata Workbench can help you manage, connect and track how these various types, sources and perspectives of metadata are related, including where data comes from and how it is derived. This is a key element to understanding and trusting the information. It also allows you to assess the impact that changes will have across the IT landscape—before the changes are actually made.

IBM Metadata Workbench helps trace data relationships

IBM Metadata Workbench provides visual Web-based exploration of information assets generated and used by IBM Information Server modules. It improves business trust in information and increases IT responsiveness by tracing and maintaining the relationship paths of information throughout an integration lifecycle. It visually depicts these relationships from the sources of information to the places where information is actually used—even across different tools and technologies.

IBM Metadata Workbench outlines the complete lineage of fields from applications, reports or data warehouses back to source systems, including what types of processing were performed on them along the way. It also visualizes the exact impact of any change to any information asset, which includes showing specific reports, databases or services that would be affected if a source column were changed. Figure 1 shows a graphical view of this model. The example in Figure 2 shows the impact—which jobs or reports will be affected—from making a change to one column of data. Figure 3 shows IBM Metadata Workbench data stewardship.
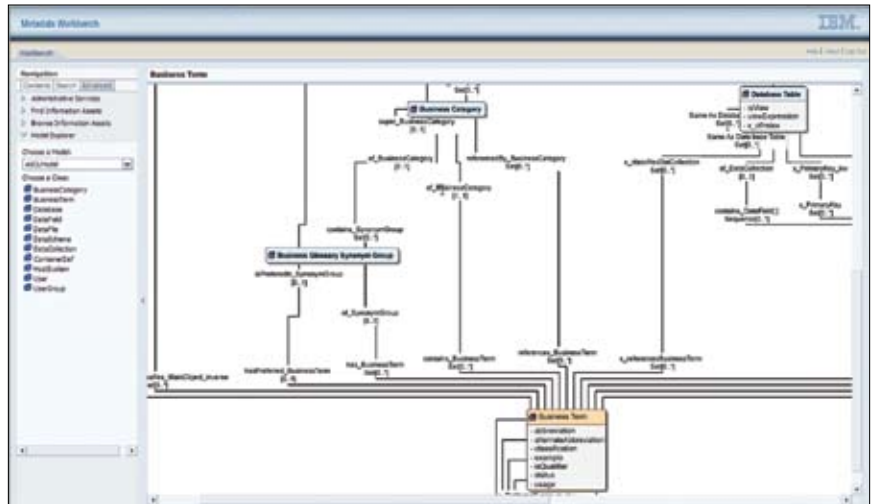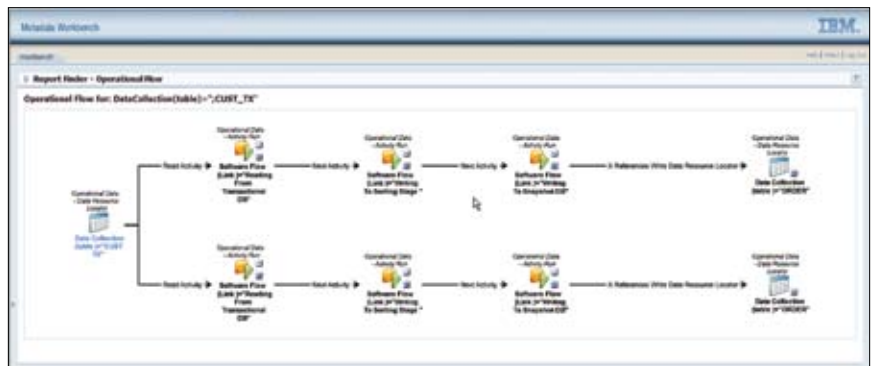

Figure 1. IBM Metadata Workbench model

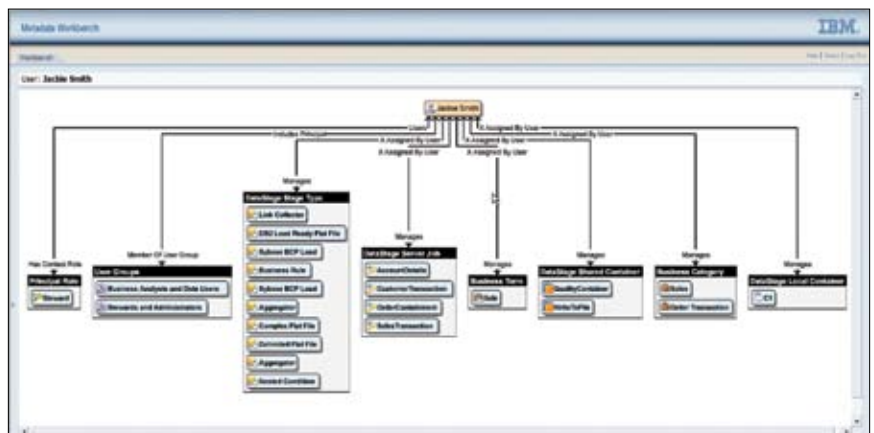Figure 2. IBM Metadata Workbench shows the impact on other jobs and reports when data is changed

Figure 3. IBM Metadata Workbench data stewardship

Features of IBM Metadata Workbench

Several features of IBM Metadata Workbench include:

- *Easy Web-based navigation of key information assets through visual tooling, simple and advanced search or ad hoc queries allows even complex environments to be understood quickly by business and IT users.*
- *Visual cross-tool impact analysis allows the complete impact of change to be understood before the change is made, even when the impact extends beyond a single tool.*
- *Visual cross-tool data lineage provides an understanding of the complete lineage path of information, including where data comes from, what it is related to and what happened to the data as it moved across applications, data warehouses and other tools and systems.*
- *Metadata stitching and reconciliation automatically creates metadata relationships across design and operational constructs and allows IT users to create new metadata relationships, where needed.*
- *Reporting on the linkage of business terms to IT assets helps ensure a better understanding and collaboration among teams.*

The business value of IBM Metadata Workbench

- *Affords a higher degree of trust in information by showing exactly where information comes from and what happens to it along the way*
- *Improves IT responsiveness by allowing IT personnel to see the complete impact of any change before making it*
- *Helps organizations comply with regulations that require information traceability and proof of pedigree, such as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and Basel II*
- *Improves the utility and manageability of IBM Information Server by providing metadata management tools for specific IT roles*

System requirements

IBM Metadata Workbench is an optional product module of IBM Information Server. It requires IBM WebSphere® Metadata Server to be installed on the system.

For the client, IBM Metadata Workbench requires that Microsoft® Internet Explorer Version 6.0 or higher be installed. For current, detailed hardware and software system requirements for IBM Information Server product modules, visit **ibm.com**/software/data/integration

IBM Information Server delivers trusted information

Organizations face an information challenge. Where is it? How do I get it when I need it in the form I need? What does it mean? What insight can I gain from it? Can I trust it? How do I control it? The challenges continue to grow if businesses cannot ensure that they have access to authoritative, consistent, timely and complete information.

IBM Information Server is a revolutionary software platform that helps you derive more value from the complex, heterogeneous information spread across your systems. It enables your organization to integrate disparate data and deliver trusted information wherever and whenever needed, in line and in context, to specific people, applications and processes. It helps business and IT personnel collaborate to understand the meaning, structure and content of any type of information across any sources. It provides breakthrough productivity and performance for cleansing, transforming and

moving this information consistently and securely throughout the enterprise so that it can be accessed and used in new ways to help drive innovation, increase operational efficiency and lower risk.

For more information

To learn more about IBM Information Server or information integration solutions from IBM, contact your IBM marketing representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit **ibm.com**/software/data/integration

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