

IBM Cognos Virtual View Manager

Accelerate decision making to improve financial performance

Overview

Flexible data sourcing

Change in the business world is never-ending and information is vital to managing that change and maintaining success. A wide range of data needs to be delivered to a large community of business users with diverse needs. The data need to be the right type, and delivered to the right place at the right time.

It is also crucial that IT have the flexibility to leverage a number of sourcing strategies and to evolve over time. As a core component of IBM Cognos® 8 BI, IBM Cognos Virtual View Manager satisfies the requirement to provide immediate access to data that may be sitting in multiple silos, without adding the overhead of physically building a data warehouse or data mart. IBM Cognos Virtual View Manager provides high performance federated access allowing data from disparate sources to be combined and simplified and then delivered through views which provide relevance and meaning to the end users by combining data in to a single view.

Technical Specifications

IBM Cognos Virtual View Manager is a core component of the IBM Cognos 8 platform, and provides you with the following distinct capabilities:

- The ability to deliver real-time access to data that may exist in a number of different source systems. This is called data federation.
- Pre-build views to simply querying packaged application data from SAP R/3, Siebel and Salesforce.com.
- The ability to cache to memory, disk or database with flexible management allowing the load to be reduced on source systems.

Multi-source flexibility

- High performance federated access to combine data from a wide range of data sources including relational, JDBC compliant sources, XML, LDAP and Web services access.
- Simplified single views of data from multiple sources.
- Combine current and historic data as a single source.
- Pre-built views to simplify querying packaged application data.

Features and Benefits

Access application data

IBM Cognos Virtual View Manager includes data adapters that unlock information from SAP R/3, Siebel applications and Salesforce.com. Through IBM Cognos Virtual View Manager and the adapters the application data is exposed at the business layer as standard relational tables. This enables direct query and even updates of complex applications directly.

Easy accessibility

Using the IBM Cognos Virtual View Manager studio a set of sources are defined and virtual views created. These virtual views access the data in place and do not physically move the data. Once the views have been created, they are published. This makes the data available to access just like any other SQL-based data source and is easily consumed by all IBM Cognos 8 BI capabilities. The BI user does not need to care how the data is being accessed and from where.

IBM Cognos Virtual View Manager

Using the federation capabilities in IBM Cognos Virtual View Manager, the modeler provides amplified, single views of data from multiple sources and combines all related data into easy to query views. The advantages and benefits of federation include being able to provide an integrated view of multiple sources of data on the fly.

Additionally, IBM Cognos Virtual View Manager removes data silos, provides relevance and meaning to the business users by combing information from multiple sources in to a single view and combining operational and historic data into a single view; all with reduced time to deployment.

Cache to gain performance

IBM Cognos Virtual View Manager can be configured to cache data from queries and underlying sources. This enables the server to manage performance and frequently-accessed data sources to minimize the impact on operational systems and to support Quality of Service (QoS) across the architecture. Also, this lets the system administrator create source-load policies for accessing operational data stores (ODS) or other long lead-time sources.

Feature Overview

Other advantages of IBM Cognos Virtual View Manager include:

- A data services layer allowing reuse of data in many new applications.
- The ability to quickly and easily develop needed data services or relational views with IBM Cognos Virtual View Manager's comprehensive data services solution.
- Simplified SOA migration. IBM Cognos Virtual View Manager is a practical data services solution that supports phased adoption across both traditional and SOA architectures.

A solid data foundation for your BI project is critical. Without it, delivering effective BI and performance management solutions become harder, limiting the value of the investment. The IBM Cognos 8 platform also allows data sourcing approaches to be mixed and matched, and provides IT with the flexibility to change approach as the business requirements change, or as new data is required by the business.

About IBM Cognos BI and Performance Management:

IBM Cognos Business Intelligence (BI) and performance management solutions deliver world-leading enterprise planning, consolidation and BI software, support and services to help companies plan, understand and manage financial and operational performance. IBM Cognos solutions bring together technology, analytical applications, best practices, and a broad network of partners to give customers an open, adaptive and complete performance solution. Over 23,000 customers in more than 135 countries around the world choose IBM Cognos solutions.

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