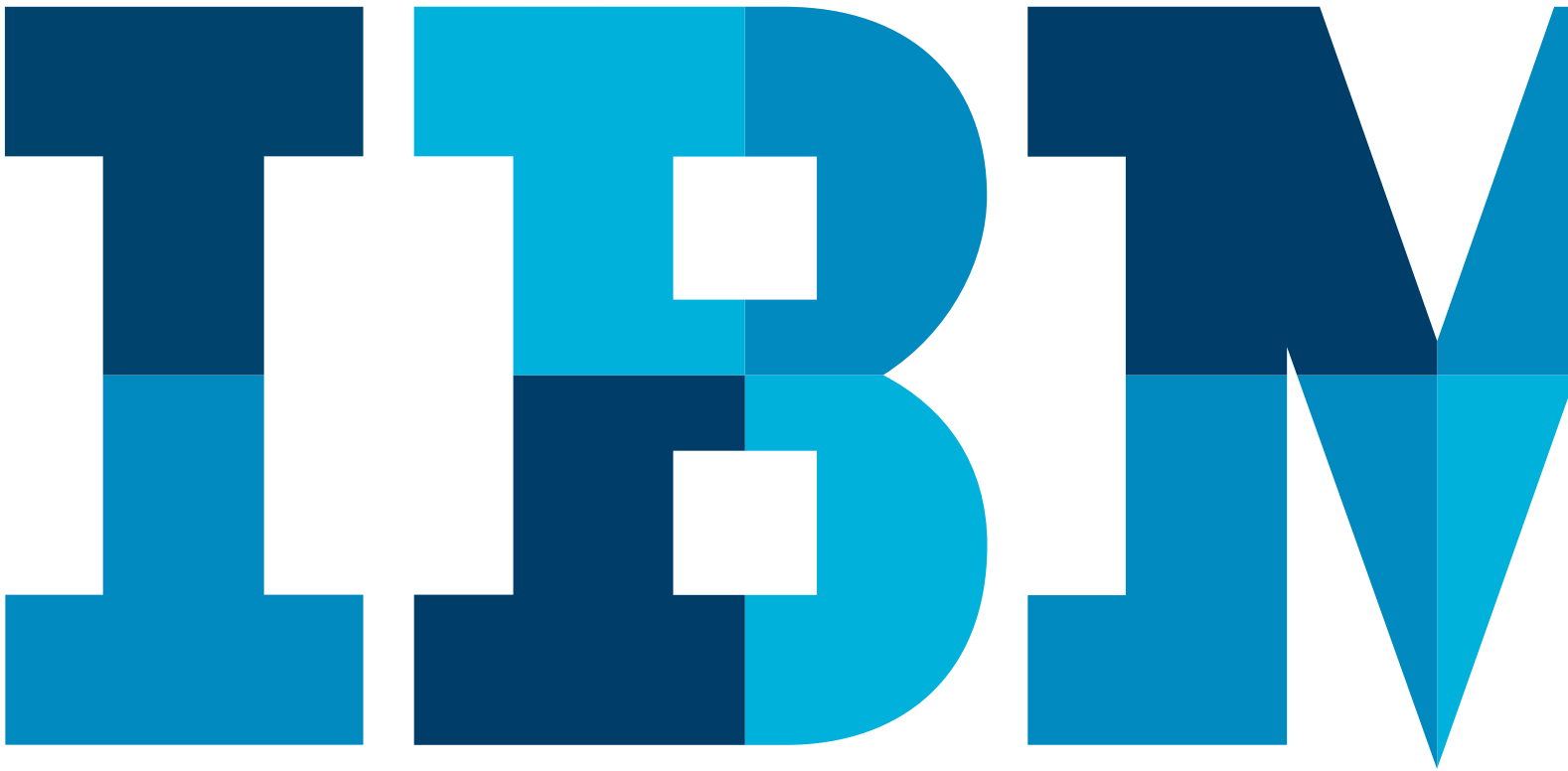
IBM InfoSphere Data Explorer



IBM

Business benefits

Increase visibility and customer responsiveness

Our information-driven economy gives the phrase "knowledge is power" a new meaning. With accurate information at their fingertips, empowered employees can think and act simultaneously – quickly identifying issues and making informed decisions that enhance the customer experience and change the face of business. They gain business acumen, customer insight, better decision-making capabilities and a competitive edge.

Gain greater leverage from existing investments

By extracting value out of legacy systems, eliminating redundancy and leveraging existing investments, InfoSphere Data Explorer can immediately impact an organization's bottom line. With its agile navigation, collaboration techniques and search comment capabilities, InfoSphere Data Explorer enables transparency in research and development, fosters innovation and reduces time to market. Through the employment of InfoSphere Data Explorer, elimination of redundant systems has given one large global manufacturer as much as $500K a year savings.

Improve efficiency and knowledge discovery

InfoSphere Data Explorer facilitates collaboration and can instantly become an invaluable business resource by securely unifying disparate data across multiple silos with a single access point. Organizations that utilize InfoSphere Data Explorer strategically leverage and transform their information into real-time content that is customized to each user, based on his or her roles and needs. InfoSphere Data Explorer can improve productivity by saving time and money; its use has resulted in a cost savings of 10 percent in new hire training for one of the largest Pharmaceutical companies in the U.S.

Improve compliance and reduce risk

Monitoring information governance policies and ensuring that they are being followed becomes easier with InfoSphere Data Explorer. It also allows compliance officers to quickly identify and track personal identifiable information and make compliance audits less labor intensive. A large global manufacturer cited up to 25 percent fewer FTEs supporting compliance related activities by utilizing InfoSphere Data Explorer.

By optimizing the use of their information, organizations increase top-line revenue, decrease operational costs, enhance processes and reduce risk. But without context, timely access, assimilation and targets, these values are diminished. InfoSphere Data Explorer focuses on optimizing and unleashing the true business value of all information, creating a living pool of knowledge and business intelligence. InfoSphere Data Explorer harnesses and optimizes information regardless of application and source – driving innovation, real-time decisions and actionable insight. In this brochure, discover how InfoSphere Data Explorer is helping to drive innovation, real-time decisions and actionable insight.

InfoSphere Data Explorer – Harnessing the power of information

IBM InfoSphere Data Explorer harnesses and optimizes information regardless of application and source – driving innovation, real-time decisions and actionable insight. InfoSphere Data Explorer solutions improve return on all types of information, including structured data in databases and data warehouses, unstructured content such as documents and web pages, and semi-structured information such as XML. By optimizing the use of their information, organizations increase top-line revenue, decrease operational costs, enhance processes and reduce risk. IBM can assist your organization in identifying and defining information-oriented challenges, as well as forecasting return on investment attainable through better information access.

In this brochure, discover how the InfoSphere Data Explorer helps organizations achieve information optimization through information connectivity, creating contextual intelligence and enabling organizational capabilities.

Three ways to leverage InfoSphere Data Explorer in your enterprise

Enterprise Information Navigation and Discovery

InfoSphere Data Explorer provides an enterprise-wide solution for secure, federated search, navigation and discovery and search across all of an organization's information assets. With InfoSphere Data Explorer deployed enterprise-wide, organizations can break down the barriers created by information silos and ensure that employees will have access to the information they need without the inefficiency of separately accessing each application.

360 Degree Information Applications

InfoSphere Data Explorer provides a platform for creating applications that provide a complete, 360-degree view of any subject to support specific activities such as customer support, sales enablement, supply chain optimization and risk management. These targeted applications can transform information-intensive activities and deliver solid, measurable ROI through more efficient operations, improved employee engagement, revenue attainment and improved customer loyalty.

Big Data Optimization

InfoSphere Data Explorer is an ideal "on ramp" for big data projects, enabling discovery and navigation of data stored in enterprise applications, as well data stored in IBM InfoSphere Big Insights or processed through IBM InfoSphere Streams. Use InfoSphere Data Explorer to locate and understand the valuable information stored in enterprise applications as a first step in your big data initiatives, then gain the full value of big data analytics over time with powerful navigation and visualization capabilities.

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Information connectivity

Broad IO connectivity

InfoSphere Data Explorer can find, extract and deliver content regardless of format or where it resides. Administrators have access to a library of pre-built connectors and a universal connect framework to enable indexing from common data repositories (e.g., file shares, databases, email systems, content management and collaboration systems, customer relationship management applications, email archives and other archival solutions). In addition, content from third-party feeds, subscriptions and other search engines can be added via federation.

Security

The key to strong connectivity is aligning access across a variety of different data silos – securely. InfoSphere Data Explorer has the ability to mirror pre-existing security frameworks and makes use of industry-standard authentication and authorization processes already in place. This decreases the complexity of the implementation and the need for synchronization, and it ensures that users only access the information that they are authorized to see. InfoSphere Data Explorer supports the widest variety of search security models available in the market in order to ensure a secure solution – without degrading application performance.

Real-time content delivery

InfoSphere Data Explorer gives users consistent, real-time access to new informational materials as they are created. For example, users often want on-demand access as soon as a document is uploaded to a system, when a user tag is added to a document or when a new blog entry is published. With Data Explorer, users can create personal alerts to notify him or her with updates to relevant information or when new content is available. Alerts can also be set to notify an entire group of users whenever new content relevant to their roles is created and available.

Operational capabilities

Expertise location

Often the most valuable resource on a topic is not a document but rather a person. InfoSphere Data Explorer can help users quickly identify experts within their organization on a given topic. Experts can be identified based on the information that they have authored, biographical profile, contact details or the tags that they have created for sharing information. Expertise location helps global organizations maximize the value of their internal knowledge to improve business processes.

Personalization

InfoSphere Data Explorer can be configured to deliver a role-based solution that enables users or groups to view information tailored to their specific business needs. Through information optimization, it is possible for customer service representatives to see a different set of information than marketing in order to support their core interests. Individual users can also set up alerts – hereby automating how they are notified of new information created related to themselves.

Intuitive end-user experience

Too often in an organization, a new application is under-utilized due to the complexity of the user interface. InfoSphere Data Explorer provides an intuitive user interface that requires little or no training for users to use and gain immediate value.

Tabbed Search (1) allows users to search within all sources or an individual source. Alerts (2) are set-up to notify users when information pertinent to them changes. Expertise Location (3) gives users the ability to quickly identify topical experts. Users' Ratings (4) helps all users to determine the relevance of information. Users can Tag Results (5) with information using pre-defined tags or free text. Saved Results (6) let users bookmark information to re-use at a later time. Clustering (7) search results allows users to discover themes within the content. Structured Navigation (8) lets users navigate results by metadata. Graphical Navigation (9) displays content through graphical interpretations. Query Expansion (10) suggests related information to review.

Contextual intelligence

Collaboration

A key benefit of information optimization is that end users can share and receive knowledge across the organization. With InfoSphere Data Explorer, end-users can vote on whether or not the information that they have found is relevant and rate results using a numerical scale. Users can also tag search results with keywords, save information into personal or shared virtual folders and add their own knowledge or ideas about information to share with the masses to use and discover.

SharePoint optimization

The InfoSphere Data Explorer SharePoint Web Parts plug directly into the SharePoint system to provide enhanced search, discovery, and collaboration capabilities. InfoSphere Data Explorer optimizes SharePoint deployments by unifying disparate departmental implementations, enabling collaboration and knowledge-sharing among teams. It also increases visibility into information – not only the information managed within SharePoint, but all information throughout the whole organization – empowering and delivering insight to SharePoint users across the enterprise.

Structured and unstructured

Information can be divided between structured information (e.g., financial records, customer data and sales statistics) and unstructured information (e.g., design documents, market intelligence information and customer case reports). Often users access the content separately. The barrier between these data sources, however, is artificial and based on a technical limitation. InfoSphere Data Explorer erases the barrier and provides users with a comprehensive view of all information, delivering contextual intelligence, actionable insights, and true information optimization.

Navigation

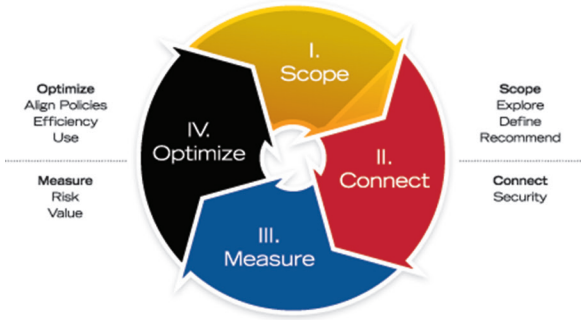
Information that is delivered to the end-user through InfoSphere Data Explorer is organized visually to give users the big picture for a faster, more thorough exploration of information. Simple yet powerful controls like the ability to navigate by topical categories created on the fly (i.e., clustering), by metadata or facets, by data repository, by entity and by numerical graphs put users in command of their own information access experience. In one quick glance, users can see the entire data set organized for easy drill-down and navigation that zeroes in on what they are looking for and helps weed out irrelevant information.

Relevancy

InfoSphere Data Explorer offers a way for organizations to maximize user satisfaction by modifying the relevancy of the information that is displayed. Although information is available in real time, date of creation may not be the most relevant way to show information. Administrators can configure their solution to display their information by a number of parameters to include word proximity, synonyms, source, link analysis, freshness and more. InfoSphere Data Explorer also offers a multitude of additional relevancy controls to fine-tune this critical element of the user experience.

Information Optimization

Today's organizations are fueled by information. Research shows that information creation within an enterprise grows faster than 65 percent a year. Today's organizations are challenged to make the right information available to the right people. IBM can help meet these challenges by providing enterprises with information optimization solutions that help maximize the business value of their information. Unlike traditional information management products, InfoSphere Data Explorer is designed to help end-users find and take advantage of all appropriate and available information – regardless of source, location or type. The InfoSphere Data Explorer technology is delivered with a focus on end-user satisfaction and application control through easy-to-use interfaces, flexible security management and a modern architecture that enables quick deployment. Data Explorer is available as standalone search, discovery and navigation solution or as an embedded component within partner applications and solutions.

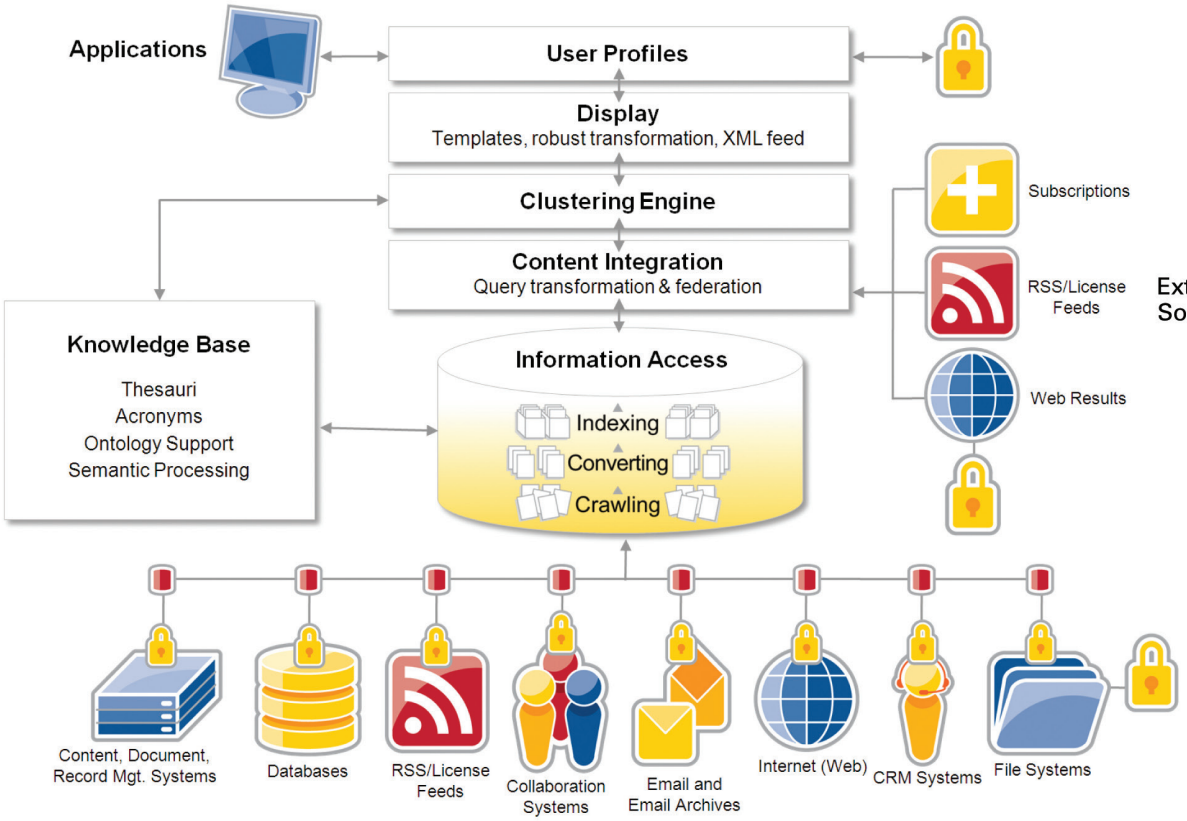


InfoSphere Data Explorer architecture

The key to a successful information optimization solution is a rich platform that can automate the optimization process while being quickly deployed and configured to meet each individual organization's need. InfoSphere Data Explorer is built on a modern architecture and takes advantage of XML and XSL standards. By using a web-based interface, administrators can perform complex configurations through a simple point-and-click administrative interface. Configuration can also be done through an extensible set of REST/SOAP APIs. Through web services and SOA protocols, Data Explorer can easily pull data from existing applications, creating a universal gateway to securely access information among disparate systems within an organization.

InfoSphere Data Explorer provides a variety of templates that simplify solution configuration and deployment. These include pre-built connectors, canned reports, display templates and more. For each 'out-of-the' box feature, Data Explorer provides an easily adaptable template to create custom configurations. This gives the administrator the power to configure features and functionality tailored to their own information environment.

InfoSphere Data Explorer is configured to scale broadly across your organization and support redundancy and reliability. Data Explorer can support 99.99 percent up time and ensure high performance across a distributed environment. In addition, Data Explorer supports the ability to handle terabytes of information with minimal infrastructure costs compared to other solutions on the market.



InfoSphere Data Explorer architecture

System requirements

Supported Hardware: 64-bit (AMD64 or Intel 64) x86 system with a 2 GHz or better processor. A minimum of 4 GB of memory is recommended for servers.
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Supported Operating Systems: Operating Systems such as a Linux distribution running a 2.6.x or later kernel.
Red Hat Enterprise Linux 5.3 and later x86-64.
Microsoft Windows Server 2003,2008 and 2012 x86-64 systems.

Supported Web Servers: Apache, Apache Tomcat, or Microsoft IIS.

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