SAFYR®

Metadata discovery supporting Data Warehouse development

DISCOVER

Rapid, automated extraction of metadata from your Enterprise Applications including SAP, Oracle, Salesforce and others as implemented.

SCOPE

Use Safyr to search for and easily isolate the tables, relationships, fields and components in your Enterprise systems in the context of your data projects.

DELIVER

Faster and more accurate project delivery by improving Source Data analysis productivity by up to 90%

Export results to modelling, integration, metadata management and other tools.

Data Warehouse development and the hidden challenge

Many Data Warehouse, Business Intelligence and Analytics projects fail to deliver on time, overspend or have their scope reduced to enable them to produce something of value within an acceptable timescale. Some analysts estimate that over 50% of data warehouse initiatives suffer is this way. There are several reasons that can account for the delays.

Determining the needs of the business for data on which to base decisions may take longer than expected due to lack of clarity (e.g. there may be conflicting definitions of business terms), differing opinions and resource constraints.

Evolving business imperatives may mean that reporting requirements change during development which results in further analysis and design of the data warehouse schema and delays in delivery.

The complexity of the reporting, dashboarding or exception trigger mechanisms may have been underestimated and therefore require additional work.

The quality of the source data may leave much to be desired and without a consistent and reliable source of data, BI projects are both more difficult to implement and the resolution of reporting anomalies becomes near impossible. This may give rise to additional data cleansing or filtering work being required.

The Data Warehouse, ETL/ELT or Business Intelligence tools selected may need additional configuration to cope with unexpected user demands, data types or heavy data throughput.

The hidden challenge which is often not thought about until it becomes critical is Source Data Discovery. This is especially pertinent when the project involves complex packaged applications.

Source data discovery

Answering the simple question **"Where's the data?"** in the context of the project can be a significant challenge. **Why?**

Often the data required is in large, complex and customised packaged applications from vendors such as SAP, Oracle and even Salesforce. Their data models are deliberately opaque, large and unwieldy, (e.g. a SAP ERP has in excess of 90,000 tables before customisation) which make it impossible for data analysts to navigate.

This means that analysts have relied on application specialists for the location of the data, who might need to redo it if they did not understand the context of the requirement or if business requirements change.

Documentation is often outdated, unable to reflect what is needed or simply not available.

Tools from application package, DWH, ETL and BI vendors do not deliver the application metadata (the tables, columns etc. which contain the data required) in a format which can be searched and located by data architects and analysts without them knowing what they are looking for, or without specialist assistance.

Safyr will help you find it

Safyr is the only product which provides a viable, automated solution to the Source Data Discovery challenge.

It is unique in its ability to extract metadata from packaged applications, including all customisations, and to then make that available in a format that is understood and accessible by users who may not be application specialists.

It's capacity to capture both logical and physical information about tables and display that in model format in its own diagrammer tool or in other products can aid communications between IT and the business.

For the first time an organisation can now have a single source of application metadata which can be used for Data Warehouse projects, then shared and reused across projects, departments and business areas.

SiLWOOD

Silwood Technology Limited

SAFYR®

Safyr

Safyr: Single source of trusted packaged application metadata

For over 10 years, Safyr has been trusted by organisations worldwide to ensure that their data analysts, architects and modellers have access to accurate, up to date packaged application metadata to support their Information Management projects and initiatives.

Safyr finds and makes accessible the metadata in enterprise systems, as implemented, from SAP (inc. BW), Oracle, Salesforce and others within a matter of a few hours from connection. No specialist knowledge of the systems is needed.

Customers using Safyr have experienced productivity gains of 90% when compared to traditional manual or semi-automated methods for finding the data needed in large, complex and customised packaged applications.

Removing the dependence on application specialists or costly external consultants has freed the data workers, those staff who are charged with understanding, integrating, managing and exploiting the enterprise data ecosystem, and allowed them to be able to find exactly what they need for their projects quickly and easily.

By using Safyr to make accurate metadata available and usable so quickly, project teams avoid the bottleneck usually associated with data discovery and integration, and be confident that they are delivering the right data for the business user.

> *"If you are a large enterprise and you use any of the relevant SAP or Oracle applications then you will almost certainly have data marts and warehouses, integration issues, master data management, archival or data migration projects—to take just a few examples—that would benefit from the use of Safyr."*
>
> Philip Howard, Bloor Research

How does it work?

Safyr connects to the Data Dictionary tables of the target packaged application and retrieves the relevant metadata they contain.

This includes logical and physical names together with all descriptions and other details, where available, for all Tables and Fields. All customisations or extensions are included in the extraction process.

This information is stored in a Safyr Repository and the product creates all the relationships between the tables and an Application Hierarchy from the information it retrieves.

The user then has access to a broad range of search, filtering and analysis functions which make it easy to locate the small group of tables being searched for. Searches can be performed globally, as text strings in any object or in the context of a transaction, programme or view. Further filtering can be applied using for example only tables with data.

Results are stored in Subject Areas which can be used as a basis for further analysis, for comparison, visualisation or export to other tools and technologies.

Predefined data driven Subject Areas

For some applications (SAP, JD Edwards, Oracle eBusiness Suite and Siebel), Silwood provide predefined Subject Areas for popular business functions. These work with the application as implemented and so any customisations made to the tables will be reflected when visualised or exported.

APPLICATIONS

SAP

SAP BW

SAP on HANA

Oracle eBusiness Suite

JD Edwards

Siebel

PeopleSoft

Salesforce

'ETL for METADATA'

For applications not included above Safyr can be configured to map their metadata into its own metamodel. Please contact Silwood to discuss your particular packaged systems.

PRE-CONFIGURED CONTENT

Business contextual metadata content is provided for a number of packages including SAP, JD Edwards and others.

EXPORT RESULTS

Results of Safyr analysis can be exported to modelling, metadata management, integration and master data management tools.

SERVICES AVAILABLE

Consulting

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