

# Metadata discovery supporting Information Management Strategy

## 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.

## The Data to Information challenge

“Data is the new oil” – a phrase often used to emphasise the importance of using data effectively to optimise business performance.

This may be in the form of enabling better decision making through Data Warehouse, Big Data, Business Intelligence or Analytics projects. It may be to improve the customer experience through implementing a Single View of the Customer project or increase efficiencies through Master Data initiatives for products, suppliers or employees.

It might also be to support cost reduction or process optimisation programmes which involve better integration of systems, reducing the number of applications through rationalisation or consolidation. It can also refer to Data Governance or Quality programmes aimed at ensuring compliance with regulations.

Also understanding enterprise data is a crucial element in being able to fully map the Information Technology landscape as defined by Enterprise Architecture projects.

One of the characteristics of all these projects and others is that at some point in the development plan a detailed understanding of the data structures and data models of enterprise applications involved is required in context to enable information to be delivered. In effect what they are asking is “where’s the data?”

This issue is often overlooked until it is seen to be on the critical path, at which time the project teams have to rely on scarce application specialists, external consultants, often incomplete documentation or the resort to using tools that are not designed with this ‘discovery’ task in mind.

## “Where’s the data?”

Answering this question can often take a huge amount of time and resource. So why is this so difficult?

Firstly the data required is often in complex, packaged applications from vendors such as SAP, Oracle, Salesforce and others. Their customised data models are deliberately opaque and can be very large and unwieldy, (e.g. SAP has over 90,000 tables before customisation).

As a result only application specialists have been able to provide the answers. They are often a scarce resource and may not understand the context for the data, leading to rework being required and if business requirements change, then the process starts over.

Documentation is often outdated, unable to reflect what is needed or simply not available.

Tools from Application or Information Management vendors provide only partial solutions which are largely ineffective without knowledge of the system or specialist assistance. They do not deliver the application metadata in a format which can be easily and quickly searched, analysed and understood by data architects and analysts.

## 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 easily 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 shared and reused across projects, departments and business areas.

## 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  
Technical Support  
Product Training  
Product Updates

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