SAP NetWeaver 7.0 (2004s)

Glossary for Business Intelligence

March 2006

ActiveX Data Objects

A logical object model for programmatically accessing a variety of data sources through OLE DB interfaces.

ADO, provided by Microsoft, is the foundation for Microsoft's ADO MD extension, upon which the BI ODBO Connector is based.

ActiveX Data Objects Multidimensional

A logical object model provided by Microsoft that facilitates easy access to multidimensional data by extending ADO with objects specific to multidimensional data, such as cubes and cellsets.

Like ADO, ADO MD uses an underlying OLE DB provider to gain access to data. The BI ODBO Connector uses ADO MD to support connectivity to OLAP data sources.

after-import method

Method that is used in connection with the transport of an object into a different system. The after-import method is called in the target system after the object has been imported. The after-import method is object specific and, therefore, you have to rewrite it for every object type.

You might typically use the after-import method to activate the imported object, in order to integrate it in a new context in the target system.

aggregate

Stores the dataset of an InfoCube redundantly and persistently in a summarized form on the database.

When building an aggregate from the characteristics and navigation attributes from an InfoCube, you can group the data according to different aggregation levels. Remaining characteristics that are not used in the aggregate are summarized.

New data is loaded into an aggregate using logical data packages (requests). You differentiate between filling and rolling up with regard to loading data.

Aggregates enable you to access InfoCube data quickly for reporting. Thus, aggregates help to improve performance.

aggregation level

Virtual InfoProvider in BI system.

Aggregation levels are used in planning as InfoProviders, allowing you to plan data manually or make changes to data using planning functions.

An aggregation level contains a set of characteristics and key figures from a real-time InfoCube. The InfoCube characteristics that are not contained in the aggregation level are aggregated. Selections can be specified for the characteristics in an aggregation level.

analysis

Web item that allows you to display data in a table with analytical functions.

analysis authorizations

Authorizations for displaying authorization-relevant characteristics and navigation attributes for data in the query.

analysis grid

Design item that displays the results of a query, and in which you can navigate and perform OLAP functions.

The analysis grid corresponds to the analysis Web item in Web applications.

analysis mode

BEx Analyzer mode in which you analyze and plan with selected InfoProvider data by navigating interactively within queries.

analysis process

Calculation of data transformations on mass data within an analytical application.

An analysis process enables you to:
- read and combine data in the BI system from different data sources
- switch transformations sequentially
- preview calculated data at a specific process position
- save the calculation results.

Analysis Process Designer

Tool used to model an analysis process.

The analysis process designer provides a graphical interface to model analysis processes. An analysis process is built using nodes and data flow arrows.

The nodes stand for data sources, transformations and data targets. The dataflow arrows model the sequence in which the data is read and transformed.

analysis toolbar

BEx Analyzer toolbar that contains the functions active in analysis mode.

and process

Combined process of the process chain maintenance.

When you use an and-process in the process chain maintenance, the application process is started only when all events in the previous process, on which this process is waiting, have been triggered.

application process

A process that is automated in the process chain maintenance.

Example:

A data loading process or an attribute change run.

attribute

InfoObjects that are logically assigned or subordinated to a characteristic and that cannot be selected in a query.

Example:

For a cost center, you could assign the attributes 'Cost

- 'Cost Center Manager' (characteristic as attribute)
- 'Size of Cost Center in Square Meters' (key figure as attribute).

axis tuple

Combination of different values on an axis.

Tuples for elements (members) of an axis dimension are used when defining MDX queries.

BEx Analyzer

Analytical, reporting, and design tool in the Business Explorer that is embedded in Microsoft Excel. In the BEx Analyzer, you can analyze and plan with selected InfoProvider data by navigating within queries created in the BEx Query Designer. You can also design the interface for your queries by embedding design items (controls) into your Excel workbook, thus turning the workbook into a query application.

BEx Broadcaster

Tool for precalculating and distributing queries, query views, Web templates, reports and workbooks.

With the BEx Broadcaster you can create precalculated documents and on-line links and distribute them using various channels (for example, distribute by e-mail, send to the printer, or publish them to the portal).

BEx Information Broadcasting

Function that allows you to make Business Intelligence information available to a broad spectrum of users.

Information is distributed either by e-mail to the printer or the portal. The portal serves as the central point of entry and allows you to use Knowledge Management and collaboration functions when working with BI content.

BEx Mobile Intelligence

The process of using Web applications for mobile devices that have an online connection to a BI system.

BEx Portfolio

KM navigation iView that contains the layout "broadcasting". This is tailored to the specific needs of users who use Business Intelligence content in the Enterprise Portal.

The BEx Portfolio links to a generally accessible KM folder under /documents.

BEx Query Designer

Tool for defining queries that are based on a selection of characteristics and key figures (InfoObjects) or on reusable InfoProvider structures. In the BEx Query Designer, you can parameterize queries by defining variables for characteristic values, hierarchies, hierarchy nodes, texts or formulas. You can specify the selection of InfoObjects more precisely by:

- Restricting characteristics and key figures by characteristic values, characteristic value intervals and hierarchy nodes
- Defining calculated and restricted key figures for reuse
- Defining structures for reuse
- Defining exceptions
- Defining conditions
- Defining exception cells

You can use all queries that you define in the BEx Query Designer for OLAP reporting, and also for flat reporting.

BEx Web

Component of the Business Explorer which consists of the following elements:

- Web Application Design
- BEx Web Application Designer
- Web Design API
- BEx Web Applications
- BEx Web Analyzer
- Enterprise Reporting
- BEx Report Designer

BEx Web Analyzer

Independent BEx Web Application for data analysis. The BEx Web Analyzer can be called using a URL or as an iView in the Enterprise Portal.

BEx Web Application

A Web-based application of Business Explorer for data analysis, reporting, and analytical applications on the Web.

You can format and display your data differently in the BEx Web Application Designer with a series of Web items (for example, tables, filters, charts, maps, and documents). In this way you can individually set Web applications like BI Cockpits and access them by using the intranet or by using an enterprise portal.

BEx Web Application Designer

Desktop application for creating Websites with BI contents.

With the BEx Web Application Designer you can create an HTML page that contains BI-specific contents such as different tables, charts, or maps. This HTML page, also called Web template, serves as the basis for Web applications with complex interactions like BI Cockpits. You can save the Web templates and access them by using the Web browser or the portal.

BI accelerator

Innovative technology to enable quick access to any data in the InfoCube with minimal effort.

The BI accelerator is especially useful for sophisticated scenarios with unpredictable request types, high data volumes and high request frequency.

The architecture of the BI accelerators (see BI accelerator index) especially speeds up data loading of downstream processes such as hierarchy-/attribute changes runs and rollups.

BI accelerator box
Preconfigured hardware that is installed on the BI accelerator software.

BI accelerator delta index
Delta index that can be created for each BI accelerator index
If there is a delta index, the system does not write to the main index during each indexing process (except for the initial filling/indexing); it is also not optimized. Instead the system writes to a second index that has the same structure as the main index, but which is usually smaller. The smaller this delta index is, the quicker the subsequent optimizing process works and thus the whole process of rolling up the data or adaptation after a hierarchy or attribute change run.

BI accelerator engine

Part of the analytics engine that manages the HPA index.

The BI accelerator engine allows data from the BI accelerator index to be read, data to be inserted and changed.

BI accelerator index

Object that includes all data for an InfoCube.

A BI accelerator index comprises a record of standard indexes that are linked with foreign key relationships and form a type of star schema.

BI accelerator optimizer

Part of a BI accelerator engine.

The BI accelerator optimizer determines the best execution of read access to a BI accelerator index.

BI accelerator server

Installation of a BI accelerator engine.

BI Content

Predefined role and task-related information models that can be modified to enterprise-specific requirements.

BI Content makes the supply of information available to those roles in an enterprise that require this information to complete their tasks.

BI Content consists of roles, workbooks, queries, InfoProviders, InfoObjects, InfoSources, transformation rules and extractors for SAP systems and any additional applications that have been selected.

BI Document Repository Manager

Tool in the Knowledge Management of SAP NetWeaver Portal.

The BI Document Repository Manager regulates read and write access to documents that are stored in the BI system.

BI Java Connector

One of a set of four JCA (J2EE Connector Architecture)-compliant resource adapters that allow you to connect applications built with the BI Java SDK to heterogeneous data sources:

- BI JDBC Connector (for relational JDBC-compliant data sources)
- BI ODBO Connector (for ODBO-compliant OLAP data sources)
- BI SAP Query Connector (a component of the SAP NetWeaver Application Server)
- BI XMLA Connector (for OLAP data sources such as SAP BW 3.x)

You can also use the Connectors to make external data sources available in BI systems, via UD Connect.

In the SDK, the term connector is synonymous with resource adapter.

BI JDBC Connector

A resource adapter for the Business Intelligence domain based on Sun's Java Database Connectivity (JDBC), which is the standard Java API for Relational Database Management Systems (RDBMS). The BI JDBC Connector may be deployed into the SAP NetWeaver Application Server, and allows you to connect applications built with the BI Java SDK to over 170 JDBC drivers, supporting data sources such as Teradata, Oracle, Microsoft SQL Server, Microsoft Access, DB2, Microsoft Excel, and text files such as CSV.

You can also use the BI JDBC Connector to make these data sources available in BI systems via UD Connect.

The JDBC Connector implements the BI Java SDK's IBIRelational interface.

BI Metadata Repository Manager

Tool in the Knowledge Management of SAP NetWeaver Portal.

The BI Metadata Repository Manager regulates read and write access to metadata (InfoCubes, queries, Web templates, workbooks, etc.) and the documentation on this metadata in BI system. The BI Metadata Repository Manager also allows access to online links generated using BEx Information Broadcasting.

BI ODBO Connector

A resource adapter for the Business Intelligence domain based on Microsoft's OLE DB for OLAP (ODBO), which is the established industry-standard OLAP API for the Windows platform. The BI ODBO Connector may be deployed into the SAP NetWeaver Application Server, and allows you to connect applications built with the BI Java SDK to ODBO-compliant OLAP data sources such as Microsoft Analysis Services, SAS, and Microsoft PivotTable Services.

You can also use the BI ODBO Connector to make these data sources available in BI systems via UD Connect.

The ODBO Connector implements the BI Java SDK's IBIOlap interface.

BI SAP Query Connector

A resource adapter for the Business Intelligence domain based on SAP Query, which is a component of the SAP NetWeaver Application Server that allows you to create custom reports without any ABAP programming knowledge. The BI SAP Query Connector uses SAP Query to allow applications created with the BI Java SDK to access data from these SAP operational applications.

You can also use the BI SAP Query Connector to make these data sources available in BI systems via UD Connect.

The SAP Query Connector implements the BI Java SDK's IBIRelational interface.

BI XMLA Connector

A resource adapter for the Business Intelligence domain based on Microsoft's XMLA (XML for Analysis), which facilitates Web services-based, platform-independent access to OLAP providers. The BI XMLA Connector may be deployed into the SAP NetWeaver Web Application Server, and enables the exchange of analytical data between a client application and a data provider working over the Web, using a SOAP-based XML communication API.

The BI XMLA Connector allows you to connect applications built with the BI Java SDK to data sources such as Microsoft Analysis Services, Hyperion, MicroStrategy, MIS, and BW 3.x.

You can also use the BI XMLA Connector to make these data sources available in BI systems via UD Connect.

The BI XMLA Connector implements the BI Java SDK's IBIOlap interface.

broadcast setting

Collection of parameters that distribute a BI object (query, query view, Web application, report or workbook) through various channels (by e-mail, to a printer, to the portal).

A broadcast setting can be identified uniquely by its technical name. You can execute the broadcast setting immediately or schedule it for a particular time. You can also schedule the broadcast setting to be executed when changes are made to the data in the underlying InfoProvider.

broadcasting framework

Technical infrastructure for BEx Information Broadcasting.

broadcasting wizard

Assistant that supports you by giving step by step instructions on how to precalculate and distribute queries, query views, Web templates, reports or workbooks.

With the broadcasting wizard you are able to create precalculated documents and online links and either distribute them by e-mail, send them to the printer or publish them to the portal. You can also jump to the BEx Broadcaster in order to define further settings.

bursting

Distribution type that is part of Information Broadcasting that enables BI objects (queries, query views, Web templates or reports) to be broadcast as precalculated documents or online links by e-mail to receivers determined based on master data.

Business Explorer

SAP NetWeaver BI suite that provides flexible reporting and analysis tools for strategic analysis and to support the decision-making process in companies.

Business Intelligence

- Business Intelligence includes all informational, technical instruments for analyzing all knowledge available in a company.
- Access, analysis and provision of business data for users in the company.

Business Intelligence Cockpit

A Web-based control panel with Business Intelligence content that gives the management of a company an overview of all the relevant business data.

You use the Business Explorer Web Application Designer to generate individual BI cockpits that display relevant data in tables, charts, or on maps. You can also add information to the business data in the form of documents, graphics, or hyperlinks.

BI cockpits have the following options:

- You can collect data from different data sources and display it in various ways (tables, charts, maps and so on)

- You can use structured (BI content) and unstructured (documents and so on) information to complement one other
- Personalized initial screen: Parameters are filled with user-specific values (for example, values regarding cost center or region) automatically
- Role-specific variants: Different BI cockpits for different roles

You can get a quick overview of business information in much the same way that you scan the front page of a newspaper. To access more detailed information, you can use user-friendly navigation elements such as hyperlinks, dropdown boxes, or pushbuttons.

You can save BI cockpits as iViews. These are completely integrated into an Enterprise Portal.

Business Intelligence Java Software Development Kit

A Java software development kit with which you can build analytical applications that access, manipulate, and display both multidimensional (Online Analytical Processing, or OLAP) and tabular (relational) data. The BI Java SDK consists of:

- Java APIs for accessing, manipulating, and displaying data from diverse data sources
- Documentation
- Examples

Business Planning and Simulation

Components of the BI system that provide flexible tools for creating planning applications in companies. The main elements are:

- OLAP-based multidimensional data modeling
- Planning functions
- User interfaces for all employee roles
- Management of the planning process
- Retraction of plan data to operational systems

button

Design item with which you can configure and execute a customized command against query results.

button group

Web item that allows you to display buttons with defined commands from the Web Design API.

characteristic

Type of InfoObject.

An evaluation group such as company code, product, customer group, fiscal year, period, or region.

Characteristics provide classification possibilities for the dataset. An InfoCube generally contains only a partial quantity of the characteristic values from the master data table at a time. The master data includes the permitted values for a characteristic, also called characteristic values. Characteristic values are discrete names.

The characteristic "Region" has the following specifications, for example:

- North
- Central
- South

chart

Web item that retrieves data from a data provider of type query view to create a diagram for a Web application.

You can choose from a range of display options for the diagram. You can also navigate within interactive charts and analyze the displayed data.

checkbox group

BEx Web Application Designer Web item or BEx Analyzer design item that that provides characteristic values for filtering in a group of checkboxes.

You have multiple selection options for filter values in this Web item or design item.

check set

Group of checks in BI Accelerator

classic InfoSet

View of a data set that can be evaluated using the InfoSet query.

A classic InfoSet determines the table or table fields to which the InfoSet query can relate.

The classic InfoSet in BI corresponds to the InfoSet, already familiar from the Application Server as an element of a SAP query. Classic InfoSets were referred to as InfoSets prior to BW release 3.0. As of BW 3.0 InfoSet refers to the new BI InfoProvider.

collation process

Allows you to gather together several chains into a single chain in process chain maintenance screens. This means that you no longer have to schedule application processes individually.

The process chains maintenance screens contain the following collation processes:

- AND-process (last): The application process starts when all the events for the preceding processes have been triggered successfully.
- OR-process (each): The application process starts each time an event in a preceding process is triggered successfully.
- EXOR-process (first): The application process starts when the first event in one of the preceding processes is triggered successfully.

command processor

Part of each of the BI Java SDK's query APIs, interfaces that make it easier to use the underlying query models by hiding the complexity of these models. With the command processors, you can create and manipulate complex queries with simple commands. You can think of the individual methods of the command processors in terms of macros that consist of several method calls manipulating the structures of queries.

The BI Java SDK provides two command processors:

- OLAP Command Processor, for manipulating OLAP queries
- Relational Command Processor, for manipulating relational queries

Common Client Interface

An API defined by Sun's JCA specification that is common across heterogeneous EISs. It is designed to be "toolable" -- that is, it leverages the Java Beans architecture so that development tools can incorporate the CCI into their architecture.

Note that the BI Java Connectors implement only the connection interfaces defined by the CCI. The CCI's interaction interfaces, data interfaces, and metadata interfaces, however, are not implemented by the BI Java SDK. BI-specific client APIs that are tailored for OLAP interactions are provided by the BI Java Connectors.

common warehouse metamodel

Common Warehouse Metamodel

A standard that is recognized by the Object Management Group (OMG) and that describes the exchange of metadata in the following areas:

- Data Warehousing
- Business Intelligence
- Knowledge Management
- Portal Technology

CWM uses

- UML to model metadata
- MOF to access metadata
- XMI to exchange metadata

You can find the current CWM specification on the OMG homepage.

condenser

A program that compresses the contents of an InfoCube fact table.

Connector Gateway

An SAP Enterprise Portal service that provides instances of connections to Portal components.

container

Web item that enables combining any content to be displayed or non-visible content.

container layout

Web item that enables the arrangement of Web items in rows and columns.

control query

A help query that you execute before you execute queries in the Web template. You use the result of this query to parameterize the Web template.

Crystal Enterprise

Server component that is required to publish formatted reports created with the Crystal Reports Designer on the basis of SAP NetWeaver BI data.

Formatted reports that are stored on the Crystal Enterprise server can be called from there and displayed on the Web.

Content and user administration is carried out as part of the integration using the BI server.

Crystal Report

BI object type.

Report definition for a formatted report that has been created using the Crystal Reports Designer on the basis of a BI query. The report definition is saved in the SAP NetWeaver BI system and published to the Crystal Enterprise server.

data manager

Part of the analytic engine that controls read access to all InfoProviders.

InfoProviders are accessed either using an SQL access to the database of the BI system or by accessing alternative sources, such as the database of another operative system, using RFC or HTTP, for example.

Change operations are also provided for InfoProviders that are stored persistently in the database of the BI system, for example, writing in or deleting data from InfoCubes and DataStore objects. These functions are part of warehouse management.

data mart interface

Enables the update of data from one InfoProvider to another InfoProvider

The data mart interface allows the user to update data within a BI system (Myself system) and also between several other systems. If several BI systems are used, the system delivering the data is called the source BI and the system that is receiving data is called the target BI. The individual systems in this type of setup are called data marts.

data provider

Object that delivers data for one or more Web items at runtime.

There are two types of data providers:

- Query view

  This type of data provider usually returns data for Web items or design items that display the result of a query or query view, such as a table or a chart, for example.

- Filter

  This type of data provider usually returns data for Web items or design items that allow you to filter data, such as a dropdown box or checkbox group, for example.

You define data providers in the BEx Analyzer or in the BEx Web Application Designer and link them to the interface elements of the BI application to be created.

At the runtime of the BI application, you can change the defined situation at start of the data provider, using commands.

data provider - information

Web item that can be used for generating the result data or navigational state of a data provider in XML format.

The Web item is not visualized in the Web application.

data request

Denotes:

- The request that is sent to the source system by the scheduler
- The quantity of data and information that results in BI and in the source system due to this request
- The load procedure.

Data Warehousing Workbench

Tool for controlling, monitoring and maintaining all processes involved in data procurement and processing within the BI system.

DataSource

Object that makes data for a business unit available to BI.

A DataSource contains a number of logically-related fields that are arranged in a flat structure and contain data to be transferred into BI.

DataStore object

Object that stores consolidated and cleaned-up transaction data on the document level (basic level).

A DataStore object describes a consolidated dataset from one or more InfoSources. This dataset can be evaluated using a BEx query.

A DataStore object consists of a key (for example, document number or position) and data fields that, as key figures, can also contain character fields (for example, customer). You can use a delta update to update data from a DataStore object into InfoCubes or other DataStore objects in the same system or in a different system.

In contrast to multi-dimensional data stores for InfoCubes, data in DataStore objects is stored in transparent, flat database tables.

DB connect

Enables connections to different relational database management systems and the transfer of data from tables or views from these database management systems into the BI system.

delta process

Extractor property. It specifies how the data is to be transferred. As a DataSource attribute, it specifies how the DataSource data is to be forwarded to the data target. The user can determine, for example, with which data targets a DataSource is compatible, how the data is to be updated, and how serialization is to take place.

delta queue

Data store in a BI source system.

The data records are either written automatically into the delta queue by an updating process in the source system or are extracted by means of a function module after a data request from BI.

The data is transferred to BI when the scheduler requests delta.

design item

An object that retrieves data from a data provider and presents it in a BEx Analyzer worksheet as part of a query application. Design items correspond to Web items in Web applications.

Examples:

analysis grid, navigation pane, list of filters, button, dropdown box, checkbox group, radio button group, list of conditions, list of exceptions, text, messages

design mode

BEx Analyzer mode in which you design the interface for your query applications.

design toolbar

BEx Analyzer toolbar that contains the functions active in design mode.

device recognition

Recognition by the server of mobile devices for device-specific adjustment for displaying Web applications. Using device recognition, the system decides whether a Web application or a mobile application (WAP or PDA report) is to be sent back to the client.

dimension

A grouping of those evaluation groups (characteristics) that belong together under a common superordinate term.

With the definition of an InfoCube, characteristics are grouped together into dimensions in order to store them in a star schema table (dimension table).

dropdown box

Web Item from the BEx Web Application Designer or Design Item from thBEx Analyzers that puts characteristic values in a BI application into a dropdown box for filtering.

In the Web Application Designer, in addition to characteristic values for filtering, other content can be defined for the entries in the dropdown box:

- Selection of Query Views
- Fixed options list defined by the user

dynamic section

Organization of information in a report in the form of a table with a fixed number of columns, and a variable, runtime-dependent number of rows.

elementary test

Part of a test that can not be split further into sub-tests. An elementary test checks related logical objects for consistency.

enterprise reporting

Reporting component of the Business Explorer(BEx).

Enterprise Reporting provides functions and tools that you can use to create reports (formatted reports) that are optimized for presentation and printing. It comprises the following functions and tools:

- BEx Report Designer
- Web Item Report
- PDF generation

Design for reports using master data, DataStore objects and multidimensional InfoProviders.

Formatted reporting includes freedom in formatting reports (such as fonts, font sizes, colors, graphics, styles) and enables pixel-exact arrangement of the report elements (not fixed to a tabular schema). Focus on form-based reports and print output. No analytical functions: interaction options are part of the design process for the report.

equivalence unit

The equivalence unit serves as a consistent basis for quantities that (in contrast to key figures, which are based on different units of measure) enables the comparison and summation of the consumption numbers for different products.

event

Signal to the background processing system that a certain status has been reached in the SAP system. The background processing system then starts all processes that were waiting for this event.

exception

A deviation from a defined threshold value.

Exceptions are defined in the Query Designer and can be evaluated either online (in BEx Web Applications, BEx Mobile Applications, or in the BEx Analyzer), or in the background, using the Reporting Agent.

Exceptions are defined by setting the threshold values or intervals, which are given a priority (bad, critical, good), and by determining the areas of the query for which the exception is valid. In the evaluation, the areas of the query lying above or below the threshold are marked in different colors. Up to nine shades of the red, yellow, and green traffic light colors are used here.

exception reporting

Highlighting of deviating and critical objects for a query.

Deviations from defined threshold values (exceptions) are highlighted in a different color or annotated with symbols so that unusual deviations from the expected results can be seen at a glance.

exor-process

Collation process in process chain maintenance.

When you use an exor-process in the process chain maintenance, the application process starts when the first event of the previous processes has been triggered successfully.

external system

SAP-external data source for a BI system that uses staging BAPIs to transfer data and metadata.

extraction monitor

Tool that monitors the extraction and transfer process into BI.

fact table

Table in the center of an InfoCube star schema.

The data part contains all key figures of the InfoCube and the key is formed by links to the entries of the dimensions of the InfoCube.

fill

An aggregate is filled when data is loaded to it for the first time after activation. The active aggregate, filled with data is then used in reporting and can have data added to it in a roll up.

filter

Object that describes the multidimensional segment of data from a dataset.

In reporting, analysis and planning, filters are used to restrict data to a specific business area, specific product groups, specific time spans, etc. By segmenting the dataset, users or user groups can get restricted access to the data that is relevant to them or that only specific data areas are visible within an application scenario.

Filters can be saved so that they can be used in other contexts again.

filter pane

Web item that allows you to display and select characteristic values for filtering.

filter view

Runtime object for the navigational state of a filter.

foreign key relationship

The relationship that exists between particular fields of a table A, and the key fields of a table B, where all the foreign key values that occur in A correspond to the primary key values in B.

The analysis and repair environment in the BI system checks this as the criteria for referential integrity.

generation template

Template, from which a program is generated.

A generation template is used when the desired program can not be generically written and must be suitably written for each special situation anew.

group

Web item that enables visual grouping of content in Web applications.

group level

Drilldown level in a report.

The number of group levels in a report depends on the number of dimensions in the rows.

hierarchical filter selection

Web item that generates a hierarchical filter selection from the hierarchy or structure of a characteristic. The hierarchy nodes are displayed in a tree that you can expand or collapse.

You can set hierarchy nodes (including the hierarchy leaves) as filters.

hierarchy

The organization of the characteristic values of a characteristic into a tree structure.

Example: A hierarchy for cost centers that are combined in cost center groups.

In reporting, hierarchies for characteristics can be set in the following ways:

- As presentation hierarchies for a characteristic, if it is to be displayed as a hierarchy

- As a way of selecting particular characteristic values if a characteristic is to be restricted to a hierarchy or a hierarchy node

Hierarchies can be loaded into the BI system or created in the BI system for hierarchy basic characteristics. They can be used across different InfoProviders.

hierarchy attribute

Attribute that describes the properties of an entire hierarchy (for example, level table type: specifies the form that a level table takes).

IBIOlap

An interface provided by the BI Java SDK and implemented by all OLAP connectors which serves as an entry point to interfaces that support access to multidimensional metadata and queries.

IBIRelational

An interface provided by the BI Java SDK and implemented by all relational connectors which serves as a point of entry to a set of interfaces that provide access to relational metadata and queries.

impact analysis

Group of methods that assess the effect of changes made to any dependent objects when an object is checked and activated.

The impact analysis ensures that the objects are consistent.

Examples:
- A navigation attribute is deleted from a characteristic. When the characteristic is activated, all the InfoCubes that use this characteristic are set to inactive. The InfoCubes have to be reactivated (without the navigation attribute) to make them consistent.
- In other cases, dependent objects are adjusted immediately if this is not possible without manual changes.

INative

An optional interface defined in the Portal Connection Framework API which can be implemented by a connector. INative enables you to access the connected EIS via an API that is tailored specifically for that underlying EIS. The interface returned depends on the connected EIS.

InfoArea

Element for grouping meta-objects in the BI System.

Each InfoProvider is assigned to an InfoArea. The resulting hierarchy is displayed in the Data Warehousing Workbench.

In addition to their properties as InfoProviders, InfoObjects can also be assigned to different InfoAreas.

InfoCube

Type of InfoProvider.

An InfoCube describes a self-contained dataset (from the reporting view), for example, for a business-oriented area. This dataset can be evaluated with the BEx query.

An InfoCube is a set of relational tables that are created in accordance with the star schema: a large fact table in the center, with several dimension tables surrounding it.

info field

Web item that enables display of information on the data provider, user or filter values.

InfoObject

Business evaluation objects (for example, customers or sales) are called InfoObjects in BI.

InfoObjects are subdivided into characteristics, key figures, units, time characteristics, and technical characteristics (such as request numbers).

InfoPackage

This describes which data in a DataSource should be requested from a source system. The data can be precisely selected using selection parameters (for example, only controlling area 001 in period 10.1997).

An InfoPackage can request the following types of data:

- Transaction data
- Attributes for master data
- Hierarchies for master data
- Master data texts

InfoProvider

Superordinate term for BI objects into which data can be loaded or which represent a view of the data. As a rule, you can report on this data using BEx queries.

There are two types of InfoProviders. One type includes objects that contain physical data such as InfoCubes, DataStore objects and InfoObjects (characteristics with attributes or texts). The other type includes objects that are not physical data stores, such as InfoSets, VirtualProviders and MultiProviders.

Information Consumer Pattern

A user interface pattern developed for end users without special knowledge of SAP NetWeaver Business Intelligence to simplify analysis of displayed data.

InfoSet

InfoProvider: A semantic view of DataStore objects, InfoObjects (characteristics with master data) and InfoCubes that allows you to create reports on these objects, particularly on the joins between these objects.

Unlike the classic InfoSet, this view of data is BI-specific. In the InfoSet builder, InfoSets are created and changed. InfoSets allow you to use the query designer to define reports.

InfoSet Builder

Tool for creating and changing InfoSets using BI objects (InfoObjects with master data, InfoCubes and DataStore objects).

InfoSource

Structure that consists of InfoObjects and is used as a non-persistent store to connect two transformations.

InfoSpoke

Object for the export of data within the open hub service.

Defined in the InfoSpoke are the following:

- from which open hub data source the data is extracted,
- in which extraction mode the data is delivered,
- and into which open hub destination the data is delivered.

input-ready cell

Certain cells of an input-ready query in BI Integrated Planning.
A cell is input ready when the plan data for it can be entered manually. Whether a cell is input ready depends on the drilldown for the query and on whether it is allowed according to the characteristic relationships and data slices.

input-ready query

A query that is defined for an InfoProvider of type aggregation level is input ready and can be used for manual planning in BI Integrated Planning.

Java Metadata Interface

An extensible metadata service for the Java platform that provides a common Java programming model for accessing metadata. JMI defines a Java mapping for the Meta Object Facility (MOF) specification from the Object Management Group (OMG). The BI Java SDK uses JMI mapping to render its query and metadata models into Java APIs.

For more information, see http://jcp.org/jsr/detail/40.jsp.

Java Metadata Interface Service

Any system that provides a JMI-compliant API to access its public metadata. The BI Java Connectors expose metadata of the underlying EIS via JMI services.

key figure

Values or quantities.

In addition to the key figures saved on the database, you have the option of defining derived (calculated) key figures in the query definition in the Business Explorer. Such key figures are calculated using a formula from the key figures of the InfoCube.

Examples of key figures include the following: Sales revenue, fixed costs, sales quantity, or number of employees.

Examples of derived key figures include the following: Sales revenue per employee, variance as a percentage, or contribution margin.

link

Web item that enables display of a hyperlink with a defined Web API command.

list box

Web item that provides characteristic values for filtering in a list field.
Multiple selection of filter values is allowed in this Web item.

list of conditions

Web item that lists the available conditions and their respective status (active/not active/can be used/not used) for a query view in a Web application.

list of documents

Web item that displays context-sensitive documents on transaction data used in the Web application, in the form of a list.

It is also possible to create new documents in the Web application itself.

list of exceptions

Web item that lists the available exceptions and their status (active/not active) for a query view in a Web application.

list of filters

Design item that lists all currently active filters.

map

Web item containing all the information needed to display a geographical map in a Web application.

map layer

Object of the map Web item that contains all the information about a particular layer of a map.

You use this information to determine the various display formats (color shading, bar charts, pie charts) and their settings for the map layer.

master data ID

Internal key of type INT4 that you use for master data for master data-bearing characteristics, especially for hierarchy nodes and for characteristic names.

Master data IDs (SIDs) and characteristic values are stored in master data tables (SID tables).

Information about time-independent or time-dependent master data, which is stored in a P table or a Q table, is saved again in an X or Y table, using SIDs instead of characteristic values.

master Web item

Template for a Web item.

The master Web item determines the type of the Web item (for example, table, filter, chart, map, and so on) and includes default values for the parameters of each Web item. The various master Web items are available in various groups in the BEx Web Application Designer. You choose a master Web item from this list, assign a DataProvider to the Web item, and process the parameters. Thus, you create your own Web item, which you add to your Web template or store as a reusable Web item. Reusable Web items ca also assume the character of master Web items and server as a template for additional Web items.

master Web template

A Web template that is copied and used as a template for a new Web template.

MDX

Multidimensional Expressions

Query language for queries about data that is saved in multidimensional cubes.

menu bar

Web item that enables display of a menu bar in order to send commands to a Web item or DataProvider.

messages

BEx Web Application Designer Web item or BEx Analyzer design item that allows you to display system messages, information, warnings and errors.

metadata

Data about data.

Metadata describes data models. According to the MOF (Meta Object Facility) standard for the OMG (Object Management Group) there are the following layers:

- M3 Meta-meta-meta data = meta-meta model
- M2 Meta-meta-data = meta-model
- M1 Meta-data = model
- M0 Data

metadata API

A set of interfaces provided by the BI Java SDK which expose the metadata of a given data source. The SDK includes two metadata APIs, both generated via JMI from their respective metadata models:

- OLAP Metadata API, for exposing metadata in an OLAP data source
- Relational Metadata API, for exposing metadata in a relational data source

metadata model

An abstract language for expressing metadata. The BI Java SDK leverages CWM metadata models (metamodels), and the following two CWM packages in particular:

- org.omg.cwm.analysis.olap --> basis of the SDK's OLAP Metadata Model, for expressing the metadata of a multidimensional data source
- org.omg.cwm.resource.relational --> basis of the SDK's Relational Metadata Model, for expressing the metadata of a relational data s ource

The SDK's metadata models also rely upon reference classes from CWM's Foundation and Objectmodel layers.

Metadata Repository

Provides central access to information about metadata objects in the BI system:

- Active objects in the system (activated objects)
- SAP delivery objects in the system (Business Content)

The metadata repository provides the following functions:

- Metadata search
- HTML page exports
- Graphical object display

Further functions for metadata:

- Exchange metadata between different systems (transport connection)
- Create documents for metadata objects and select them to be displayed as on-line documentation (document management)

Metamodel Repository

SAP-specific implementation of a repository for metadata models and metadata.

The Metamodel Repository is named after the metamodel layer (the meta- metadata layer or M2 layer) of the MOF specification of the Object Management Group (OMG). This is because the main focus of SAP-specific implementation rests on this layer.

Metamodel Repository Designer

Graphical user interface for the Metamodel Repository. It is a plug-in for the Eclipse Java development environment.

mobile application

Web application on a mobile device with an online connection to a BI system.

MOF

Meta-Object Facility

- One of the OMG-recognized (Object Management Group) standards which

    o determines guidelines for the definition of metadata models and provides
    o programming tools for saving and accessing metadata in repositories.
    The MOF standard is integrated in XMI.
    You can find the current MOF specifications of on the OMG homepage.

- A metadata service which abides by the MOF specifications.

multi-dimensional clustering

Clustering method in which data records are sorted according to one or more dimensions and saved in the database in this form.

multidimensional data

Data in dimensional models suitable for business analytics. In the BI Java SDK, we use the term "multidimensional data" synonymously with "OLAP data."

MultiProvider

Type of InfoProvider that combines data from several InfoProviders and makes it available for reporting.

The MultiProvider itself contains no data; its data comes exclusively from the InfoProviders on which it is based (collated using a union operation). You can assemble a MultiProvider from different combinations of InfoProviders.

MultiProviders, like InfoProviders, are objects or views that are relevant for reporting.

my portfolio

KM navigation iView that contains the "broadcasting" layout. This is tailored to the specific needs of users who use Business Intelligence content in the Enterprise Portal.

The "my portfolio" iView links to the user-specific KM folder in which users store their personal documents.

Myself system

System that is connected to itself for data extraction by using the data mart interface.

Thus, the user can update data from one InfoProvider to other InfoProviders.

navigation

Analysis of the InfoProvider data by displaying different views on the data of a query or a Web application.

With the aid of the various navigational functions, such as:

- 'Fix as Filter Value'

- 'Insert Drilldown According to'

you can generate different views of the data (query views) that are presented in the results area of the query or Web application. Changing views is considered to be navigation.

navigation attribute

Attributes that you can select in the query.

navigation pane

Web item that allows you to display the navigation status of a data provider.

node

Objects that create a hierarchy.

A node can have subnodes. We differentiate between two types of nodes:

- Postable nodes
- Unpostable nodes

node attribute

Attribute that every node in the hierarchy possesses (for example, the date fields DATETO and DATEFROM, if the hierarchy structure is time-dependent).

Object Linking and Embedding Database

A set of Component Object Model (COM) interfaces from Microsoft that provide applications with uniform access to data stored in diverse information sources. OLE DB also provides the ability to implement additional database services.

Object Management Group

An open membership, not-for-profit consortium that produces and maintains computer industry specifications for interoperable enterprise applications.

For more information, see http://www.omg.org/.

OLAP Command Processor

Part of the BI Java SDK's OLAP Query API, an interface that makes it easier to use the API by hiding the complexity of the underlying OLAP Query Model. With this interface, you can create and manipulate complex multidimensional queries with simple commands.

OLAP data provider

A component that provides data in multidimensional views and metadata compatible with the BI Java SDK's OLAP Metadata Model.

OLAP Metadata API

A set of interfaces provided by the BI Java SDK for accessing the metadata of an OLAP data source. Generated via JMI from the SDK's OLAP Metadata Model.

OLAP Metadata Model

A model provided by the BI Java SDK that exposes business data in a multidimensional format which specifically supports data analysis. Based on the Common Warehouse Metamodel OLAP package.

OLAP Query API

A set of interfaces provided by the BI Java SDK that let you define queries against an OLAP server. The API is generated via JMI from the OLAP Query Model, based on metadata provided by the OLAP Metadata Model, and includes the simplified OLAP Command Processor.

OLAP Query Model

An abstraction layer, or model, in the BI Java SDK designed for formulating OLAP queries independently of data source-specific query APIs. The model is based on the CWM-compliant metadata provided by the OLAP Metadata Model.

OLAP reporting

Reporting based on multidimensional data sources (InfoProvider).

OLAP reporting allows you to analyze several dimensions at the same time (for example, time, place, or product). The aim of OLAP reporting is to analyze key figures, such as for an analysis of the sales figures for a certain product in a particular time period. The business questions that you have about this product in this period are formulated in a query. The query includes the key figures and characteristics that contain the data that is necessary for analyzing or answering your questions. The data is displayed in a cross-classified table and is the starting point for a more detailed analysis to answer a number of different questions.

A range of interaction options, such as sorting, filtering, swapping characteristics, recalculating values and so on, allows you to navigate flexibly through the data during the runtime.

In the BI system you can analyze the data in the following areas of the Business Explorer:

- In the BEx Analyzer
- In BEx Web applications
- In the BEx Web Analyzer

OLAP Table Model

A companion to the BI Java SDK's ResultSet API that facilitates the rendering of a multidimensional dataset into a two-dimensional matrix.

OLAP trace

Record of system activities in a log.

online analytical processing

Software technology that enables the analysis of large sets of data by providing quick, consistent, interactive access to various views of the data.

The data is staged in multidimensional views that should mirror the structures of the company under analysis from the point of view of the user.

open hub data source

Object that delivers data to the open hub service.

The BI objects InfoCube, DataStore object, MultiProvider and InfoObject (attribute or text) can be used as open hub data sources.

open hub destination

An object within the open hub service that contains all information about a target system for data in an InfoProvider.

open hub service

Service that enables you to share data from a SAP BI system with non-SAP data marts, analytical applications and other applications.

The open hub service ensures controlled distribution and the consistency of data across several systems.

Operational Data Store

A data administration layer that saves data in flat, transparent tables.

This layer can make data available in real time and enables operational reporting.

or process

Collation process of the process chain maintenance.

When you use an or-process in the process chain maintenance, the application process starts each time an event in a previous process is triggered.

P table

Master data table for time-independent master data.

This table contains the following fields:
- The characteristic with the master data itself.
- The characteristic compounded to this characteristic ("super-ordinate characteristic")
- All time-dependent attributes
- CHANGED (D: Delete record, I: Insert record, Blank space: No changes; changes evaluated only after activation)
- OBJEVERS (A: Active version, M: Modified and therefore, not active version)

These fields form the key.

PDA application

Web application on a PDA device with Pocket IE.

Persistent Staging Area

Transparent database table in which request data is stored in the form of the transfer structure. A PSA is created per DataSource and source system. It represents an initial store in BI, in which the requested data is saved unchanged from the source system.

planning function

Planning functions are used in the context of BI Integrated Planning to create and edit data, supported by the system.

A planning function describes how the transaction data of a particular aggregation level is to be changed. The name of the aggregation level, the planning function type, how the characteristics are used and the parameter values are specified for this purpose.

planning function type

Planning function types are processes that can be parameterized in order to make changes in the context of BI Integrated Planning. The system provides a number of predefined planning function types (such as copy, delete, repost, revaluate, distribution using reference data or by key, unit conversion, currency translation or FOX formulas). You can also implement your own planning function types.
You can define parameters for a planning function type which control how the system processes the planning function type (the conversion factor or currency translation type, for example). These parameters are applied when you use the planning function type on a concrete aggregation level. Each individual usage is referred to as a planning function and is saved as an individual object.

planning sequence

Group of planning functions or input templates that are processed sequentially, in the order determined by the grouping.

Within BI integrated planning, a planning sequence allows you to save planning functions in a sorted order. You can execute them as a group as part of a process chain or in individual steps for test purposes.

Portal Connection Framework

Part of the SAP NetWeaver Portal, provides a set of APIs which extend the standard JCA interfaces and are used to build Portal-compliant connectors. The BI Java Connectors are compliant with the Portal Connection Framework.

position

Smallest organizational business unit, and, at the same time, requirement planning-, planning-, control-, and also usually regional unit of an enterprise, for which a particular task area is

permanently transferred for independent task-execution within the framework of the entire organization, or of its subsystems.

primary source system

Source system from which recently created or changed objects need to be transported into another target source system.

A primary source system is, within the framework of a system landscape consisting of OLTP and BI systems, an OLTP development system. The respective target source system is the OLTP system that is connected to the BI target system.

In order to be able to transport objects that are specific to the source system (for example, transfer structures), the logical system names must be specified for the source systems before and after the transport in a mapping table in the BI target system.

process

Process with a definite beginning and end within or outside of an SAP system.

process chain

Sequence of processes that are scheduled in the background to wait for a particular event. Some of these processes trigger an additional event, which in turn can start other processes.

process instance

Value of the process:

The process instance contains the most important information that the process or the follow-on processes provide, for example, the name of the request during the loading process. The instance is determined by the process itself during the runtime. The logs for the process are stored under the process instance.

process type

Type of process, for example, a loading process.

The process type decides, among other things, which tasks the process has, and which properties the process has in the maintenance.

process variant

Name of the process.

A process can have various variants. For example, in a loading process the name of the InfoPackage tells you the variants of the process. A variant is defined by the user when he or she schedules the process.

property pane

Web item that enables display and change of properties of a Web item.

pruning

Subsequent extended reduction of a decision tree down to the essentials. Everything that can be removed without having a significant negative effect on the accuracy of the result is moved.

Q table

Master data table for time-dependent master data. The Q table has the same fields as the P table.

query

Combination of characteristics and key figures (InfoObjects) that allow you to analyze the data in an InfoProvider.

A query corresponds to one InfoProvider, although you can define any number of queries for each InfoProvider.

You define a query in the BEx Query Designer by selecting InfoObjects or reusable query elements (structures, for example) for an InfoProvider. You can model the view of the InfoProvider data by allocating filters, rows, columns, and free characteristics.

You can use queries as the basis for generating data providers in BI applications, or open them and execute them for analysis purposes in a standard view in the BEx Web Analyzer or BEx Analyzer.

query API

Sets of interfaces provided by the BI Java SDK for creating queries against data sources. They are generated via JMI from the SDK's query models, providing methods to create and execute complex OLAP or relational queries based on the metadata in the SDK's CWM-based metadata models.

The SDK provides two query APIs:

- OLAP Query API, for defining queries against an OLAP server
- Relational Query API, for defining queries upon relational data sources

query model

An object-oriented abstraction layer, or model, in the BI Java SDK upon which to formulate queries on a variety of resources without being tied to a specific protocol or query language, such as MDX or SQL. The query models are the basis of their respective query APIs.

Two query models are provided by the SDK:

- OLAP Query Model
- Relational Query Model

radio button group

BEx Web Application Designer Web item or BEx Analyzer design item that allows you to filter characteristic values using a group of selection buttons.

Relational Command Processor

Part of the BI Java SDK's Relational Query API, an interface that makes it easier to use the API by hiding the complexity of the underlying Relational Query Model. With this interface, you can create and manipulate complex relational queries with simple commands.

relational data

Data stored in tables, and hence often also referred to as tabular data.

relational data provider

A component that provides data in relational, or tabular, views and metadata compatible with the BI Java SDK's Relational Metadata Model.

Relational Metadata API

A set of interfaces provided by the BI Java SDK for accessing the metadata of a relational data source. Generated via JMI from the SDK's Relational Metadata Model.

Relational Metadata Model

A model provided by the BI Java SDK that describes data accessible through a relational interface such as JDBC. Based on the Common Warehouse Metamodel Relational Package.

Relational Query API

A set of interfaces provided by the BI Java SDK that let you define queries against a relational data source. The API is generated via JMI from the Relational Query Model, based on metadata provided by the Relational Metadata Model, and includes the simplified Relational Command Processor.

Relational Query Model

An abstraction layer, or model, in the BI Java SDK designed for formulating relational queries independently of data source-specific query APIs. The model is based on the CWM Expressions package and the CWM-compliant metadata provided by the Relational Metadata Model.

remodeling

Changes to an InfoProvider that already contains data.

remodeling rule

A group of operations performed when remodeling InfoProviders.

report

- Web item that enables the display of formatted reports (Reports).
- Type of BI application.

Report Designer

Reporting tool for the BI Suite and desktop application for creating reports that are optimized for presentation and printing.

The Report Designer generates group levels and row patterns for the initial report view.

resource adapter

A system-level software driver component defined by the JCA specification and used to connect to an EIS. The BI Java SDK and UD Connect use resource adapters called BI Java Connectors.

resource adapter archive

Complete resource adapter modules, which as defined by the JCA specification consist of the required Java classes, documentation, native libraries, and deployment descriptors necessary to distribute a given resource adapter (connector). The BI Java Connectors are distributed in RAR files.

resource adapter module

A complete resource adapter which as specified by the JCA is represented physically by a RAR file.

ResultSet API

A set of interfaces that provide applications created with the BI Java SDK with access to the results of a query. The ResultSet API provides access to a relational result set from a relational data source, and an OLAP result set from an OLAP data source.

reusable structure

Part of a query that is saved so that it can be used again in an InfoCube.

Reusable structures enable you to use parts of a query definition again in other queries. These structures are freely definable reports consisting of combinations of characteristics and basic key figures (for example, calculated or restricted key figures from the InfoCube). A structure can be a plan/actual comparison or a contribution margin scheme, for example.

ROLAP

A store for multidimensional data in a relational database in tables that are organized in a star schema.

The opposite of ROLAP is MOLAP.

role

Combination of similar positions.

Example: The role "Purchasing Manager" covers the responsibility for orders in the framework of providing basic material, goods and business methods. The task area of the Purchasing Manager

entails optimizing the relationship between price and value. Included in the task area of the Purchasing Manager are managing the order process, determining purchasing policies, and procurement market research (process tasks). The Purchasing Manager also plays the role of a superior, that is, he/she supervises the efficiency of the order process, controls the cost center data and is responsible for personnel administration in his/her area (administrative activity functions).

roll up

Loads data packages (requests) for an InfoCube that are not yet available into all aggregates of the InfoCube. After it has been rolled up, the new data is used in queries.

row pattern

Format template for a row in a report.

A row pattern is used with rows that are semantically identical (for example, the header rows of a group level) so that the relevant data from the data provider is inserted in all of them simultaneously.

SAP BI Connector

Connector that gives you direct access to services needed for the SAP BI specific integration. This comprises services for design time as well as runtime, e.g. object access, including history and favorites, metadata access and data access.

SAP exit

Processing type for variables that are delivered Business Content. Used for variables that are processed by automatic replacement using a predefined replacement path (SAP exit).

scheduler

You use the scheduler to determine which data (transaction data, master data, texts, or hierarchies) is to be requested from which InfoSource, DataSource and source system at which point in time.

scheduling package

Logical collection of several reporting agent settings for background

processing.

selection object

Object that refers to the multi-dimensional section of data from a dataset.

In addition to filter properties, a selection object contains a number of characteristics whose properties have specific settings. The property settings for a characteristic determine the format in which values are output when characteristic values are requested. The characteristic properties have the following settings:

- Display type and attributes (with which formats)

- Mode and sort order
- Hierarchy type
- Type of settings for hierarchy node types

A selection object also contains methods for further processing filters such as, for example, triggering filters according to characteristic value sets and checking whether characteristic values are contained in filters.

Variables can be used in a selection object to parameterize the model and variants can be saved and called for these variables. You are also able to access documents about the master- and metadata.

selection type

Describes the level of detail to which the data in an InfoCubes is summarized in an aggregate.

Every component of an aggregate (characteristics and navigation attributes) has to be assigned to a selection type. You have the following options:

- All characteristic values ("*"): Data is grouped on the basis of all the values of the characteristic or navigation attribute.
- Hierarchy level ("H"): Data is grouped by the nodes belonging to a level of a hierarchy.
- Fixed value ("F"): Data is filtered using a single value.

service

Parameterized service type.

service API

Technology package in SAP source systems of BI that facilitates a high level of integration for data transfer from the source systems to BI.

The service API makes it possible to;

- make SAP application extractors available as the basis for data transfer from source systems into BI
- perform generic data extraction
- utilize delta processes
- access data in the source system directly from BI (VirtualProviders support)

single document

Web item that displays single documents on master data that have been created in the Data Warehousing Workbench or in master data maintenance, in the Web application.

SOAP

Simple Object Access Protocol.

You can find the current SOAP specification on the World Wide Web Consortium homepage (W3C).

source object element

Component of the UD Connect source object, for example, a field in a table.

source system

System that is available to BI for data extraction and transfer purposes.

staging

A process that prepares (stages) data in a Data Warehouse.

standard Web template

Web template that is used as the default template for the Web display of particular BEx functions.

In the Business Explorer the following standard Web templates are available:

- Standard Web template for ad-hoc analysis
- Standard Web template for broadcasting
- Standard Web template for query precalculation
- Standard Web template for reports
- Standard Web template for report precalculation

You can determine a user-defined Web template as the standard Web template for a particular function in SAP Reference IMG.

start process

Defines the start of a process chain.

static section

Organization of information in a report in the form of a table where the number of cells in the columns and rows is fixed (comparable to a Microsoft Excel workbook).

A static section can also be used without data connection.

stored query view

Modified view of the data in a query or an external InfoProvider.

You can define one or more query views for a query. You define a query view by saving the current status of a data provider in a BI application.

surrogate index

Special BI index of the key fields of a fact table.

The surrogate index is created on a fact table instead of the primary index. In contrast to the primary index, the surrogate index has no UNIQUE restriction.

t-logo object

Logical transport object combining several table entries to be transported together.

Example:

The T-Logo object "InfoObject" consists of the table entries of the InfoObject table, the characteristic table, the text table, and the attribute table.

tab pages

Web item that enables the arrangement of Web items in tab pages.

tabular reporting

Reporting based on one-dimensional tables, meaning the analysis is restricted to one dimension and its attributes. Unlike OLAP reporting, with flat reporting you can arrange the columns any way you like when you are designing a query in the tabular editor mode of the BEx query designer. For example, you can put a column for a characteristic between two columns for key figures. During the design of the query, you decide how you want the columns to be displayed. Once you have chosen a display type you are not able to change it. In flat reporting, the interactive options are restricted to filter, filter and drilldown according to, sort according to, and navigate on hierarchies. Navigation functions that alter the geometry of the flat list, meaning that they change the number and order of the columns, for example, swapping or adding a drilldown, are available with OLAP reporting but not with flat reporting.

temporal join

Join containing at least one time-dependent characteristic.

The time-dependency is evaluated when the results set is determined. A time interval is assigned to each record in the results set. The record is valid for the interval to which it is assigned (valid time-interval).

test

Check of internal information about BI objects for consistency.

Gives a repair option, if necessary. A test consists of several elementary tests. You can select the required elementary tests individually so that you do not have to conduct unnecessary testing.

test package

Sequence of elementary tests in the context of the analysis and repair environment for BI objects (RSRV).

A test package is created by selecting particular elementary tests; you can save a test package and schedule it to run later.

text

BEx Web Application Designer Web item, or BEx Analyzer design item that allows you to display text (free text, characteristic value descriptions, generic text elements) in a different design.

ticker

Web item that displays the content of a table as a ticker.

transfer structure

Structure in which data is transferred from the source system into BI.

It displays a selection of fields for an extract structure of the source system.

transformation

When data is loaded from one BI object to another BI object the data is run through a transformation.

A transformation converts the records in a data package from the format of the source structure into the format of the target structure. A transformation consists of at least one transformation rule.

UD Connect

Component of BI that, together with the SAP Web AS J2EE connectivity, allows you to access virtually all relational and multidimensional data sources.

UD Connect (Universal Data Connect) uses the BI Java Connectors as resource adapters for establishing connections to data sources. The data can either be loaded into BI, or accessed directly using a VirtualProvider.

UD Connect source

Instance that can be addressed as a data source of BI using BI Java Connectors.

UD Connect source object

Multidimensional or relational data store in the UD Connect source, for example, table or cube.

Unified Modeling Language

Unified Modeling Language

UML is the OMG-recognized (object management group) standard language for the semantic analysis of objects and for the design of object- oriented models with the help of graphic tools.

The UML standard is integrated in XMI.

You can find the current UML specifications on the OMG homepage.

variables

Parameters of a query that are created in the BEx Query Designer and are not actually filled with values (processed) until the query is inserted into a workbook.

They function as a place holder for characteristic values, hierarchies, hierarchy nodes, texts, and formula elements. They can be processed in different ways.

Variables in SAP NetWeaver BI are global variables, meaning that they are uniquely defined and are available for the definition of all queries.

VirtualProvider

InfoProvider for which the transaction data is not saved in the object itself, but which is read directly for reporting. The data is stored in the BI system or in other SAP systems or non-SAP systems. Only read access to the data is permitted with a VirtualProvider.

WAP application

Web application on a WAP device.

WAP device

Mobile phone with a WAP micro browser that displays WML content.

WAP gateway

Network component to connect the cellular phone network with the Internet.

WAP server

Server that provides WML contents. In BEx Mobile Intelligence, the BI server acts as a WAP server.

Web application object catalog

Web item with which information on Web template properties, details of data providers being used, and information on Web items used in Web templates can be generated in XML format.

The Web item is not visualized in the Web application.

Web item

An object that retrieves data from a data provider and presents it as HTML in a Web application.

Examples: Analysis, report, filter pane, navigation pane, map, chart and so on.

Web item paging

Mechanism for dividing Web items in a Web template onto several pages, which are linked by an automatically generated overview page.

Web template

Web item with which consistent sections of different Web templates can be managed centrally in one Web template.

Example:

You want to structure the header section of your Web application according to a certain pattern. Create a Web template with the company logo and heading and insert it into any other Web template using the the "Web template" Web item.

Web template

An HTML document that determines the structure of a Web application.

It contains placeholders for Web items, data providers, and commands.

WebDAV

World Wide Web Distributed Authoring and Versioning

An XML-based enhancement of the HTTP/1.1 protocol for asynchronous document management, which is the standard for accessing documents by using a Web browser application.

Documents that are on a Web server are called resources and are combined into collections.

WebDAV describes methods, headers, and content types in order to do the following:

- prevent resources from being overwritten during distributed editing
- manage metadata using resources (properties)
- create and manage collections

According to the WebDAV Standard Specification RFC (Request for Comments) 2518 (February 1999), the IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force) is developing additional, special WebDAV specifications (for example, DASL).

Wireless Application Protocol

Transfer protocol optimized for the compressed transfer of WML contents to the cellular phone network.

Wireless Bitmap

Black and white graphic format for WAP.

WML

Abbreviation of wireless markup language.

Internet-language standard for describing pages for mobile WAP devices.

workbook

A file containing several worksheets (an expression from Microsoft Excel terminology)

You insert one or more queries in the workbook in order to be able to display them in the Business Explorer Analyzer. You can save the workbook in your favorites or in your roles.

X table

Table for assigning the SID of the characteristic to the SID of the navigation attribute for the characteristic (for time-independent masterdata).

This table contains the following fields:

- The SID (master data ID) of the characteristic
- OBJEVERS (object version)
- The characteristic SID (master data ID)
- These two fields form the key.
- The value of the super-ordinate characteristic
- The value of the master data-bearing characteristic itself
- CHANGED
- SIDs for time-independent attributes

OBJEVERS and CHANGED also appear in the P table.

XML

Extensible Markup Language

XML is a developed subset of the Standard Generalized Markup Language (SGML) for applications in the World Wide Web.

XML documents consist of entities which include either analyzed (parsed) or not analyzed (unparsed) data. An analyzed entity includes text, which is a sequence of characters. There are the following types of characters:

- Character data
- Markup (start tags, end tags, tags for empty elements, entity references, character references, comments, limitations for CDTA sections, document type declarations, and processing instructions)

The current XML specification on the World Wide Web Consortium homepage (W3C).

Numerous standards for special tasks were and are being developed (for example, XLink, XPointer; XSL, XSLT; DOM) based on XML.

XML for analysis

A protocol specified by Microsoft for exchanging analytical data between client-applications and servers using HTTP and SOAP as a service on the Web.

XML for analysis is not restricted to any particular platform, application, or development language.

Using XML for Analysis in the BI system allows a third-party reporting tool that is connected to the BI system to communicate directly with the OLAP (Online Analytical Processing) processor.

XML metadata interchange

XML Metadata Interchange

XML-based standard format for exchanging metadata between UML-based modelling tools and MOF-based metadata repositories in distributed, heterogeneous development environments. The exchange takes place in the form of data streams or files.

XMI, together with UML and MOF, forms the core of the metadata repository architecture of OMG (object management group).

You can find the current XMI specifications on the OMG homepage.

Y table

Table for assigning the SID of the characteristic to the SID of the navigation attributes for the characteristic (for time-dependent master data).

The Y table has the same fields as the X table.