Manage Change Effectively in Enterprise Data Integration Environments

Metadata Manager is a key feature of Informatica® PowerCenter® Advanced Edition. It collects metadata from a data integration environment and provides a visual map of the data flows within that environment. Metadata Manager—along with Business Glossary, another key feature of PowerCenter Advanced Edition—provides the visibility and control needed to manage change, reduce errors caused by change, and ensure data integrity.

Metadata Manager shows how data objects will be impacted by a proposed change before it is implemented. By providing full visibility into the potential impact of data changes, Metadata Manager helps your IT organization obtain more accurate cost estimates and accelerate delivery time. With Metadata Manager, your IT organization can deliver trusted data to key business initiatives quickly.

Increase Insight into Complex Data Relationships

Metadata Manager gathers technical metadata from a wide variety of sources, including mainframes, applications, databases, data modeling tools, business intelligence tools, and extract-transform-load (ETL) tools. Metadata is stored in a central repository that is shared with Business Glossary. This technical metadata can be linked to business metadata created in Business Glossary to add meaning and context to data assets.

Metadata Manager automatically creates a graphical view of data as it flows through the data integration environment. This view is what gives developers the visibility and control to understand and manage data integration environments.

Strengthen Cross-Functional Alignment to Improve Business Agility

With Metadata Manager, all parts of the organization can collaborate faster and easier to keep data accurate, consistent, and available when and where needed.

Data architects use Metadata Manager’s integration metadata catalog to browse and search for metadata definitions, define new custom models, extend existing metadata, and maintain common interface definitions for data sources, warehouses, business intelligence, and other applications that enterprise data integration projects use. Metadata Manager gives them the global visibility needed to manage the environment.

Data integration developers use Metadata Manager to perform detailed impact analysis when changes are made to metadata used in mappings, sessions, workflows, sources, and targets. Comprehensive impact analysis capabilities enable developers to quickly identify which design artifacts are affected and need to be modified accordingly.
End-to-End Data Lineage

Metadata Manager’s intuitive, dynamic visual map shows all the data flows and dependencies in the data integration environment—across all systems, processes, and business glossaries, from source to target. This end-to-end data lineage helps your IT organization understand what the data means, where it came from, where it is going, and how it has been transformed.

Your IT organization can interactively trace, navigate, search, highlight, drill down, and view the business or technical context of objects from a system to a field level within a data lineage diagram. You can launch and view multiple lineage diagrams concurrently to conduct complex analysis.

Comprehensive Impact Analysis

With Metadata Manager, your IT organization can view all impacts of proposed changes to the data integration environment before they are implemented. Your IT organization can analyze detailed dependencies between data assets and determine where they are used in your environment.

When you select any data object within the graphical data lineage diagram, Metadata Manager reports all upstream and downstream objects impacted by a change to that data object. You can isolate the impact of changes to downstream data sources, mappings, transformations, application tables, and report fields.

Data Integration Metadata Catalog

A shared data integration metadata catalog stores all business and technical metadata. Metadata is captured from a wide variety of sources and stored in a single catalog. You can search and browse the catalog and easily extend the metadata with custom attributes that add new information and documentation to data objects for greater understanding. IT artifacts can be augmented with rich business context. Metadata can be annotated with business descriptions and business rules, linking supporting documents and business requirements.

Metadata Manager helps IT developers, data stewards, business analysts, and data architects collaborate to define and maintain a common taxonomy of metadata definitions, along with their business names. Favorites, saved search conditions, personalized metadata assets, and customized views can be easily shared among team members. Relevant catalog items can be found quickly by using a simple keyword-based search or by searching complex conditions and detailed attributes to narrow results.

Key Features

Metadata Manager’s intuitive, dynamic visual map shows all the data flows and dependencies in the data integration environment.
Metadata Connectors

Metadata Manager automatically connects to a broad variety of data sources (e.g., enterprise applications; mainframe, flat, and relational files; and PowerCenter data integration, data modeling, and business intelligence tools) and aggregates their metadata into a single, understandable view.

With prebuilt connectivity to a wide variety of data sources, Metadata Manager accelerates metadata extraction and linkage. The connectors automatically collect the technical metadata from the target systems and Metadata Manager then creates a visual map of the data flows from this information.

Using a simple metamodel editor, your IT organization can create custom metamodels quickly. It’s easy to define new classes, hierarchies, and associations and extend existing metadata with custom attributes to address new enterprise requirements.

Integrated Audit Trail

Metadata Manager provides key components to support the audit process:

- **Source-to-target data lineage** that enables auditors to prove where numbers came from and how they were derived.
- **Change tracking** to keep a log of who changed what and when.
- **Advanced search-by-date capability** to perform such complex searches as “show me the data assets that have been modified since [x date].”

Built-In Business-IT Collaboration Tools

Metadata Manager provides built-in collaboration tools:

- **Built-in messaging** so that Metadata Manager and Business Glossary users can message each other directly or by email.
- **Annotation of objects** to enhance communication among business users and IT.
- **Page view context** so that a URL of every page view in Business Glossary and Metadata Manager can be included in any message or annotation to provide immediate and rich context to a discussion.
- **Change notification** to alert interested parties of changes to data objects.

Metadata Manager helps IT developers, data stewards, business analysts, and data architects collaborate to define and maintain a common taxonomy of metadata definitions, along with their business names.

When a data object is selected within the graphical data lineage diagram, Metadata Manager reports all upstream and downstream objects impacted by a change to that data object.
Key Benefits

Improve Data Integration Change Management

Metadata Manager enhances the management of data integration changes and reduces the errors caused by change. By providing enterprise-wide visibility into data definitions, lineage, and relationships, Metadata Manager builds confidence in the data used to make critical business decisions.

Metadata Manager’s comprehensive impact analysis capabilities let IT developers readily assess which data assets may be affected by a potential change, resulting in more accurate cost impact estimates. These features help IT organizations collaborate easily with the business to assess the accuracy and consistency of data.

Increase IT Productivity

Metadata Manager boosts your IT team’s productivity. IT can deliver projects more quickly. Trusted data can be delivered quickly to the enterprise for such initiatives as data warehousing, master data management (MDM), business intelligence (BI), and data governance. Metadata Manager reduces the time it takes to resolve issues between business and IT, including data-related questions, definitions, and their associated business definitions. Specifically, Metadata Manager provides:

- **Collaboration tools** to speed up the interactions and enhance understanding between the business and IT, resulting in faster project delivery and fewer iterations
- **Data lineage** to enhance the understanding of data, accelerating the project scoping process
- **Impact analysis** to increase visibility into cross-dependencies, resulting in faster scoping of changes
- **Linking technical metadata with business definitions** for a greater understanding of business context, accelerating the project scoping process
- **Built-in advanced search capability and filters** to enable people to find the relevant data assets they need quickly, boosting productivity

Ensure Regulatory Compliance

Knowing how all data integration metadata is defined—and where and how it’s used throughout the enterprise—helps your IT organization avoid errors and conduct accurate data discovery and audit reporting. It provides a complete audit trail of data flows and transformations.

With Metadata Manager, your IT organization can help your company reduce the cost and the amount of time it takes to support regulatory compliance. By supporting audit and monitoring activities for data governance and stewardship, it reduces the risks of noncompliance.

ABOUT INFORMATICA

Informatica Corporation (NASDAQ: INFA) is the world’s number one independent provider of data integration software. Organizations around the world rely on Informatica for maximizing return on data to drive their top business imperatives. Worldwide, over 4,630 enterprises depend on Informatica to fully leverage their information assets residing on-premise, in the Cloud and across social networks.