Agile Dimensional Data Warehousing and ETL

timeXtender®

Caught in A Data Explosion?

How does your organization make sense of company data that is growing by leaps and bounds and is constantly changing? Does your organization have the right tool and the right methodology in place?

The tool you choose for the ETL (extract, transform, and load) and data warehousing process and the methodology you follow is critical to the success of your entire Business Intelligence project. The reliability of your reports and analysis is only as good as the data that is being used.

To Make The Most of Your Data...

- You need a centralized data warehouse that can handle all your data.
- You need a tool that can help extract, transform and load your data into the data warehouse regardless of the format of the data.
- You need a tool that makes it easy to implement changes to the ETL process and the data warehouse as requirements and information needs change.

timeXtender helps companies optimize their ETL and data warehouse solutions. timeXtender is a single, comprehensive application that simplifies the implementation of a SQL Server based ETL and data warehousing process, while complying with the dimensional modeling methodology.

Agility Is The Key to Success

Data warehouses are never static. There is a constant demand from the business for new, better and different information. Only an ETL and data warehousing solution that supports iterative implementation and deployment can meet these requirements promptly.

Iterations Are Short and Changes Are Fast

timeXtender takes an agile approach to data warehousing. This means that timeXtender supports short implementation iterations and easy changes. This is possible because the ETL and data warehousing process is designed in meta-data, and no complex custom SQL-statement writing is required.

There is one single metadata model where you design and maintain the entire project. As a result, data is extracted, transformed, and integrated faster, reports and analysis are always current, and your enterprise wide data warehouse therefore provides immediate value to end users.

The agile approach also ensures that as business users require new insights and information, the data warehouse solution can be easily adapted to meet these changing requirements. The support for short-term iterations also means that you can build the first prototype in only a few hours and turn it into a production ready solution in just a matter of days. This is faster than any other tool in the market.

ETL for All Data Sources

Are you finding it difficult to combine your data into a single report or analysis? Are your employees finding it difficult to gain access to the information they need – though the data exists somewhere in the system? An organization's data is stored in a variety of places such as ERP and CRM systems, spreadsheets, commercial databases and text files, and typically data is also stored in a number of different and incompatible formats. However, the reliability of reports and dashboards depends on access to all data sources.

Data Across Platforms and Formats

The ETL process must support the extraction and transformation of data from many different systems and files to provide a clear and accurate picture of the state of the business.

With timeXtender you can extract and consolidate data in a data warehouse regardless of where your data is stored and regardless of the format. During the ETL process, timeXtender handles data across platforms, including customized systems – and it doesn't require expensive and time consuming hand coding.

You can grab data from virtually any data source, cleanse the data, and thereby ensure that the final output in reports and dashboards is comprehensive and trustworthy. For some systems, such as Microsoft Dynamics and SAP R/3, timeXtender comes with specially designed adapters that make the connection to those systems fast and painless.

Dimensional Data Warehousing

timeXtender combines an agile approach with Dr. Ralph Kimball's dimensional modeling methodology. Dimensional data warehousing is a methodology for implementing high-performance data warehouses based on a dimensional model rather than an entity-relationship model.

Support for The Kimball Methodology

The timeXtender design environment guides you through the key steps of designing a data warehouse according to Kimball's best practice. timeXtender supports the Kimball methodology, and enables you to design the data warehouse in a meta-layer with special focus on designing star schemas and, if required, snowflake schemas.

In combination with SQL code generation, the result is a simplified and consistent design process that supports short and manageable implementation cycles. Where a traditional Kimball cycle often lasts 6 months, the same cycle lasts no more than 6 weeks when using timeXtender.

Built on A Proven Foundation

timeXtender is built on a proven foundation of Microsoft SQL Server technologies and provides a robust and stable base for your enterprise data warehouse. timeXtender utilizes and enhances the features of Microsoft SQL Server Integration Services (SSIS) and Microsoft SQL Server Analysis Services (SSAS).

Minimize the Dependency on Specialized Skills

You design the project in metadata and timeXtender then auto generates the SQL code. As a result, you achieve a unified development process and consistent code while you reduce the manual workload. So you gain all the advantages of Microsoft SQL Server, but without the dependency on extensive SSIS skills. This is essential in a market where these skills are hard to find and resources are scarce.

Key Features

Deployment across multiple environments

You can deploy solutions across multiple environments such as development, test, and production and it's possible to trace the different versions deployed on each environment. It is also possible to deploy multiple projects to the same SSAS database.

Easy Implementation of Slowly Changing Dimensions

The ability to track historically accurate values for dimension attributes is crucial. timeXtender supports easy implementation of slowly changing dimensions so that you can analyze how attributes have changed over time.

Fully documented data warehouse projects

All data warehouse projects in timeXtender are fully documented and there's complete version control. The documentation is valid for IT Audit under Sarbanes-Oxley. Fully documented projects are easy to transfer between colleagues or handover to customers. It ensures transparency in all phases of the project, and it's easier to locate any inconsistencies in design in a completely documented project.

Full load and incremental load

timeXtender's ETL software supports both full and incremental load to ensure the highest level of performance. Using incremental load you capture only the relevant source data changes that have happened since the last load. You decide which strategy you prefer.

OLAP cubes

Having built the data warehouse, you can use timeXtender to build OLAP cubes - or you can view reports, for example, in Microsoft Power Pivot or SharePoint. OLAP cubes in timeXtender are designed in the same environment as the data warehouse and require no hand coding.

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timeXtender® is a dynamic and innovative software house that develops the tool timeXtender®. The timeXtender tool is a single comprehensive software product that simplifies the implementation of a SQL Server® based ETL and data warehousing process, while complying with the dimensional modeling methodology. timeXtender has been named Microsoft ISV Partner of the Year in Denmark in both 2010 and 2008. Headquartered in Denmark with offices in the USA, Europe and Africa, timeXtender is an international, partner-driven company.

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