IBM Information Integrator joins the IBM WebSphere brand

Overview

The IBM DB2® Information Integration product portfolio is joining the WebSphere® brand as IBM WebSphere Information Integrator to capitalize on key business and technology synergies.

The WebSphere brand is positioned as integration and infrastructure software to maximize business flexibility and responsiveness. Integration and openness are attributes that complement the IBM Information Integration portfolio and its role in providing organizations real-time, integrated access to disparate and distributed information. The enterprise search, federation, transformation, data placement (including replication and caching), and event publishing capabilities within the IBM Information Integration portfolio enable a variety of joint solutions with WebSphere Portal and WebSphere Business Integration technologies. For example:

- **WebSphere Information Integrator + WebSphere Portal**: Extensive, standards-based, integrated access to distributed content and data sources from within WebSphere Portal applications
- **WebSphere Information Integrator + WebSphere Business Integration**: Powerful complementary business solutions that combine disparate information sources, applications, and business processes
- **WebSphere Information Integrator + WebSphere MQ Workflow**: Rich workflow applications integrated with and driven by disparate and diverse information sources

As a result of joining the WebSphere brand, the following product names for the distributed platform have changed:

- IBM DB2 Information Integrator is now IBM WebSphere Information Integrator (5724-C74). The packaged offerings are:
  - IBM WebSphere Information Integrator Event Publisher Edition
  - IBM WebSphere Information Integrator Replication Edition
  - IBM WebSphere Information Integrator Standard Edition
  - IBM WebSphere Information Integrator Advanced Edition
  - IBM WebSphere Information Integrator Advanced Edition Unlimited
  - IBM WebSphere Information Integrator Developer Edition

IBM DB2 Information Integrator OmniFind Edition does not change its name. However, it is superseded by IBM WebSphere Information Integrator OmniFind Edition (5724-L31). For more information on the added value of IBM WebSphere Information Integrator OmniFind Edition, refer to Programming Announcement letter ZP05-0156 dated January 11, 2005.

- **IBM WebSphere Information Integrator Content Edition** (5724-J31) is the new name of IBM DB2 Information Integrator Content Edition. The new names of its features and other product naming information will be covered in a later announcement.

Key Prerequisites

Refer to the Software requirements section for specific operating system support.

Planned availability date

March 1, 2005

At a Glance

IBM WebSphere Information Integrator V8.2 delivers rich new features and offerings that can:

- Find relevant corporate content with new enterprise search middleware
  - Subsecond response
  - Highly scalable
  - Easy administration
- Decrease time to market with enhanced federated access
  - Include SAP, PeopleSoft, and Siebel
  - Improve performance up to an order of magnitude
- Enable more automation
- Add value to your business integration environment
  - Publish data events from DB2 Universal Database®, IMS®, and VSAM
  - Initiate processes and facilitate business integration
- Unify diverse and distributed content assets
  - Search, browse, check in, check out, add, retrieve, update, annotate, and secure content stored in multiple disparate systems
- Support demanding business continuity, workload distribution, or business integration scenarios
  - High-volume, low-latency replication
  - Rich conflict detection and resolution options

Availability of programs with encryption algorithm in France is subject to French government approval.

Cryptography in this product is limited to password encryption, authentication or digital signature.
The IBM WebSphere Information Integrator V8.2 portfolio provides the foundation for a strategic information integration framework that can help you accelerate time to market for new applications, get more value and insight from existing assets, and control IT costs. This platform provides a range of information integration capabilities—enterprise search, data federation, data transformation, data placement (caching and replication), and data event publishing—designed to meet a diverse range of data integration requirements for business intelligence and business integration.

Whether building a corporate intranet, augmenting a warehouse with real-time data, building a unified view of customers or products, or managing data consistency, distribution, or synchronization across applications, WebSphere Information Integrator can add value to most integration projects. Utilized as a core infrastructure component, it has the ability to continue enhancing integration requirements across the corporation.

**IBM WebSphere Information Integrator Packaging**

To provide flexible options for purchasing WebSphere Information Integrator, the product is offered in multiple editions for the Linux, UNIX, and Windows platforms plus additional offerings on the IBM @server zSeries® platform. WebSphere Information Integrator V8.2 for Linux, UNIX, and Windows platforms includes restricted use licenses for IBM DB2 Universal Database Enterprise Server Edition V8.2 and IBM WebSphere MQ unless otherwise noted and are offered as follows:

- **WebSphere Information Integrator Event Publisher Edition** captures DB2 UDB for Linux, UNIX, or Windows database events or changes, formats them into XML messages, and publishes them to WebSphere MQ.

- **WebSphere Information Integrator Replication Edition** provides the capabilities of WebSphere Information Integrator Event Publisher Edition plus those of a replication server. Customers can replicate data among mixed relational data sources or focus on high-throughput queue replication for DB2 UDB sources and targets. Both SQL-based and queue-based replication architectures are included.

- **WebSphere Information Integrator Standard Edition** provides the capabilities of WebSphere Information Integrator Replication Edition plus those of a federated data server, including powerful cost-based query optimization, and integrated caching.

- **WebSphere Information Integrator Advanced Edition** provides the capabilities of WebSphere Information Integrator Standard Edition plus an unrestricted license for DB2 Universal Database Enterprise Server Edition V8.2. This adds the power and versatility of using the local DB2 UDB as a database server.

- **WebSphere Information Integrator Advanced Edition Unlimited** provides all the function of WebSphere Information Integrator Advanced Edition and includes entitlement for an unlimited number of data connections.

- **WebSphere Information Integrator Content Edition** provides unified access to diverse unstructured content sources and workflow systems through a common API. WebSphere Information Integrator Content Edition also provides a set of rich federation services such as federated search, metadata mapping, subscription event services, and virtual views of distributed content. It does not include IBM DB2 Universal Database Enterprise Server Edition V8.2 or IBM WebSphere MQ. It includes a restricted use license of WebSphere Application Server.

- **WebSphere Information Integrator OmniFind Edition** provides enterprise search middleware. It includes a restricted use copy of WebSphere Information Integrator Content Edition to enable searching across broader content repositories. It also includes a restricted use license for WebSphere Information Integrator Standard Edition and WebSphere Application Server Network Deployment. It does not include IBM WebSphere MQ.¹

- **WebSphere Information Integrator Developer Edition** offers a low-cost package for a single application developer to design, build, or prototype composite applications that integrate distinct data and content sources for search, federation, replication, and event publishing.

¹ Note that DB2 Information Integrator OmniFind Edition does not change its name. However, it is superseded by IBM WebSphere Information Integrator OmniFind Edition. DB2 Information Integrator OmniFind Edition does not include a restricted use license for WebSphere Information Integrator Content Edition.

The following WebSphere Information Integrator V8.2 offerings for z/OS were announced in Marketing Announcement letter ZA05-0117 dated March 01, 2005:

- **WebSphere Information Integrator Event Publisher for DB2 Universal Database for z/OS** captures DB2 UDB for z/OS database events, formats them into XML messages, and publishes them to WebSphere MQ.

- **WebSphere Information Integrator Classic Event Publisher for IMS** captures IMS database events, formats them into XML messages, and publishes them to WebSphere MQ.

- **WebSphere Information Integrator Classic Event Publisher for VSAM** captures VSAM events, formats them into XML messages, and publishes them to WebSphere MQ.

- **WebSphere Information Integrator Classic Event Publisher for CA-IDMS** captures CA-IDMS events, formats them into XML messages, and publishes them to WebSphere MQ.

- **WebSphere Information Integrator Replication for z/OS** provides change capture and apply capabilities for DB2 UDB for z/OS, leveraging both the SQL and queue replication architectures, depending on user needs. Plus it encompasses the function of WebSphere Information Integrator Event Publisher for DB2 Universal Database for z/OS.

- **WebSphere Information Integrator Classic Federation for z/OS** provides a federated data server across diverse legacy databases resident on a single z/OS instance. Federated access is provided across DB2 UDB, IMS, VSAM, Software-AG Adabas, Computer Associates CA-Datacom, and CA-IDMS databases.

**Product features**

WebSphere Information Integration V8.2 capabilities include

- **A Content Federation Platform — Delivered in WebSphere Information Integrator Content Edition**

WebSphere Information Integrator V8.2 introduces a content federation platform that delivers full bidirectional access to underlying content and workflow systems, including the unique capabilities of the underlying repository. Out-of-the-box connectors to most commercial content repositories quickly unify a broad
range of content sources and workflow systems without the cost, complexity, and risk of custom programming efforts. It also includes a toolkit that enables the development, configuration, and deployment of content connectors to additional commercial and proprietary repositories. Sample connectors are provided for accessing file systems. Out-of-the-box connectors to content repositories and workflow systems include:

- IBM DB2 Content Manager
- IBM DB2 Content Manager OnDemand
- IBM WebSphere MQ Workflow
- IBM Lotus Notes®
- FileNet
- EMC (Documentum)
- Microsoft
- Hummingbird
- Interwoven
- Open Text
- Stellent

WebSphere Information Integrator Content Edition also provides value-added functions that span disparate content repositories:

- Map metadata for creating a common schema across different content systems.
- Organize and view related content from multiple content repositories and view work tasks from multiple workflow systems to support a specific business user’s task such as claims processing, loan origination, intelligence investigations, or any other content-centric work process.
- Search across multiple repositories using property-based and full-text keyword-based queries and receive an aggregated result set.
- Create custom event handlers and other rules-based behaviors that span multiple content and workflow repositories. For example, a single event log can be set up for centralized auditing in support of various compliance initiatives, or synchronization rules can be set up to migrate content as it is modified.
- Sign on once using an LDAP, Active Directory, or natively with WebSphere Information Integrator Content Edition, which provides the ability to store and encrypt the login credentials to multiple underlying repositories for seamless authentication.
- Enable organizations to code to a single interface with a uniform Java™ and Web Services API.
- Be productive faster, using an out-of-the-box, configurable Web client for knowledge workers that offers a completely unified user experience, federated search and browsing, and exposes all the content management functions of the underlying repositories. Web users can also take advantage of other features, including single sign-on, content views, subscription services, and viewing support.


WebSphere Information Integrator V8.2 introduces enterprise search middleware for powering intranets, extranets, and corporate portals. It introduces high-quality, scalable, secure, free-form textual search that finds relevant corporate information for employees, business partners, and customers.

- Delivers relevant search results with subsecond response from enterprise content, not just from Web sites, but from wherever your business data lives, including, but not limited to, intranets, extranets, corporate public Web sites, relational database systems, file systems, and content repositories. It includes state-of-the-art relevancy algorithms for corporate content. Sources include HTTP/HTTPS; news groups (NNTP); file systems; Domino™ databases; Microsoft Exchange public folders; DB2 Content Manager; Documentum; FileNet; DB2 UDB for Linux, UNIX, Windows, and z/OS; Informix™; Oracle databases; plus additional connectors can be built to other data sources.

- Scales to millions of documents and thousands of users.
- Fits easily into enterprise Java applications with appropriate security to protect confidential information from disclosure.
- Eases administration so that enterprise search applications can be up and running quickly. Analysis features are transparent, minimizing administrator tasks required to get high-quality search results.

- Provides migration for the IBM WebSphere Portal install base, providing highly relevant results across broader content reach, scalability to millions of documents, and the framework for richer text analytics. WebSphere Portal customers will have seamless transition to the new enterprise search while leveraging defined taxonomies for navigation and categorization, migrating rules for rule-based classification, and reproducing the same user experience provided to these customers via the WebSphere Portal Search Center.

- Incorporates the Unstructured Information Management Architecture (UIMA) designed to help clients get the most out of their content assets. UIMA provides a Java-based framework for composing analytical applications from plug-in technologies. Building a marketplace around UIMA should:
  - Deliver greater choice to clients in user interaction and content analysis plug-in technologies
  - Accelerate delivery of customized analytical solutions.
  - Enable companies to more fully leverage their content assets

A Federated Data Server — Delivered in WebSphere Information Integration Standard, Advanced, Advanced Unlimited, and Developer Editions

- Administrators configure data source access and define integrated views across diverse and distributed data.
  - The DB2 Control Center provides the administration environment for DBAs.
  - Administrators use integrated graphical tools to configure access to source data, representing that data as logical tables in the federated data server.
  - Configuration is simplified by discovery-oriented, wizard-driven functions that help the administrator find relevant data sources and metadata. XML schema can be automatically mapped into relational schema.
  - Integrated views can be composed across these sources using standard SQL view definitions and expressions.
  - Definitions can be easily captured and deployed on other servers, facilitating migration from test to production or for cloning multiple integration hubs.
Data sources include the following:

- Relational databases: DB2, Informix Dynamic Server, Informix Extended Parallel Server, Microsoft SQL Server, Oracle, Sybase SQL Server, Sybase Adaptive Server Enterprises, Teradata, and Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) sources.
- Mainframe databases: VSAM, IMS, Software AG Adabas, Computer Associates, CA-Datacom, and CA-IDMS via separate purchase of WebSphere Information Integrator Classic Federation for z/OS.
- Packaged applications: SAP, PeopleSoft, and Siebel via separate purchase of WebSphere Business Integration Adapters.
- Other structured data:
  - WebSphere MQ message queues
  - Web services, now including more complex XML results such as those providing access to legacy applications, content repositories, or other data integration tools
  - Microsoft Excel spreadsheets
  - Table structured flat files
  - XML documents
  - Data sources accessible via OLE DB
- Content sources:
  - Documentum Enterprise Content Management System
  - Data sources accessible by IBM Lotus® Extended Search, which include Lotus Notes, Lotus Domino.doc, Lotus Discovery Server, Lotus QuickPlace™, Lotus Sametime®, DB2 Content Manager, IBM WebSphere Portal Search Engine, Microsoft Index Server, Microsoft Site Server, Microsoft Exchange, LDAP Directories, and 18 Web search engines (Yahoo!, Lycos, Excite, HotBot, Google, Alta Vista, ABCNews.com, AOL.com Search, Business Wire, CNN, Canada.com, EuroSeek, FAST Search, GoTo.com, NBCi, PR Newswire WebCrawler, and Yahoo News).
- Life Sciences sources: Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes (KEGG) and data sources accessible by Entrez, BLAST, HMMER (including new support for HMMPSEARCH tool), and BioRS.
- C++ and Java developer toolkits are provided to add access to other sources.

Applications can query integrated views across diverse, distributed data sources as if they were a single database.

- The query is expressed using standard SQL statements.
- Text search semantics can be used within the SQL query via the included copy of DB2 Net Search Extender. A fast, versatile, and intelligent full-text search capability is provided across relational data sources, including data sources that either do not support native text search or do not provide a broad range of text search capability. Numerous search operations are supported (such as Boolean, wildcard, free-text, fuzzy search, proximity search for words within the same sentence or paragraph, or search within XML documents). The query can produce standard SQL answer sets or XML documents. XML documents can be:
  - Generated from the federated source data to facilitate interchange
  - Automatically validated against DTDs or XML schemas
- SQL expressions can be used to transform the data for business analysis or data exchange. XML documents can be transformed using XSL for flexible presentation. Any Web service can be converted into a function call and used as a transformation. For example, a Web service that provides currency conversion can be used inline within the SQL expression.
- Results can be made available to the rest of the organization by publishing them to a WebSphere MQ message queue using built-in functions.
- WebSphere Information Integrator V8.2 now provides Unicode support at the integration engine. This means that it is now possible to integrate data sources that use different code pages; for example, an ODBC source using a Japanese code page and Microsoft SQL Server database using an English code page, without data loss.

The federated server uses cost-based distributed query optimization to select the most efficient access paths for higher query performance. It leverages intelligence about optimizing access to the data sources provided by the data source wrapper, database statistics, and optionally by the administrator. Whether extending your enterprise warehouse with remote data, building a cross-enterprise view of your financials or your customers’, or serving up information through corporate portals, WebSphere Information Integrator V8.2 is able to provide relevant and significant performance boosts to typical usage scenarios.

WebSphere Information Integrator exploits parallel architectures typical in DB2 UDB warehouse implementations; thus analyses combining remote data with your DB2 UDB warehouse can be distributed across multiple processors to speed results. Based on IBM internal testing, in an environment that included several, large partitioned DB2 UDB tables and relatively small remote tables, WebSphere Information Integrator V8.2 executed a set of complex federated join queries nearly 10 times faster than WebSphere Information Integrator V8.1.

Note: Performance improvements are highly workload-dependent, and individual users may experience anything from no improvement at all to order-of-magnitude-plus improvements.
- Applications can also insert, update, or delete rows
- Applications can access the federated server via
- Application developers can use familiar tools, limited to single-phase commit. Most updates to data
from federated relational databases. Initially, this is
processes.
- The federated server is designed to be transparent to
businesses, or application development projects. XML artifacts are
for Eclipse.
- Businesses can replicate data between mixed
relational data sources. DB2, Informix Dynamic
Server, Microsoft SQL Server, Oracle, Sybase SQL
Server, and Sybase Adaptive Server Enterprises are
supported as replication sources and targets. Informix
Extended Parallel Server and Teradata are supported as
replication targets. For heterogeneous database
environments, WebSphere Information Integrator uses
an SQL-based replication architecture that provides
flexibility in managing scheduling, transformation, and
distribution topologies efficiently and effectively for
populating warehouses or marts, maintaining data
consistency between disparate applications, or
efficiently managing distribution and consolidation
scenarios, among headquarter and branch or retail
configurations.
- The SQL-based replication server supports
distribution (moving data from one database to
many) and consolidation (moving data from many
databases to one) scenarios.
- Data can be filtered either horizontally or vertically
so that only the data you are interested in is
replicated.
- Transformation can be applied inline with the data
movement via standard SQL expressions or stored
procedure execution.
- Data movement can be automated on a specific
schedule, at designated intervals, continuously, or
event-driven.
- Data movement can be managed table-at-a-time,
such as for warehouse loading, during batch
windows, or with transaction consistency for data
that is never offline.
- The DB2 Database Partitioning Feature is
supported; replication automatically merges the
logs from partitioned databases to ensure data
consistency.
- For DB2 UDB based applications, WebSphere
Information Integrator V8.2 introduces a new
queue-based replication architecture for low-latency,
high-throughput replication with managed conflict
detection and resolution to support business
continuity, workload distribution, and application
integration scenarios.
- Committed changes are published to WebSphere
MQ message queues. A sophisticated apply engine
determines transaction dependencies and replays
transactions on target systems to maximize
parallelism and minimize latency.
A rich set of conflict detection and resolution algorithms are available to allow backup systems to do productive work so that application workload can be distributed across multiple servers. Both "value-based" and "version-based" algorithms are provided.

Data can be filtered so that only the data of interest is replicated.

Stored procedures can be invoked by the application engine on a row basis in order to facilitate transformations for application integration scenarios.

Automatic and high-performance load options are integrated, allowing data to be loaded at the same time data is being replicated.

- Administrators can easily and proactively manage replication workloads.
- Administrators use a wizard-driven GUI, command line processor, and script-driven processes to configure the variety of topologies, latency, and consistency characteristics for both SQL-based and queue-based architectures.
- Many changes can be made without having to stop or restart the replication process.
- Integrated monitoring and reconciliation tools are provided to help administrators proactively maintain the health of the environment.

An Event Publisher — Delivered in WebSphere Information Integration Event Publisher, Replication, Standard, Advanced, Advanced Unlimited, and Developer Editions

WebSphere Information Integrator makes it easy to link data events with business processes. It captures database changes in DB2 UDB by reading the recovery log, formats the changes into XML messages, and publishes them to WebSphere MQ. Any application or service that integrates either with WebSphere MQ directly or supports Java Message Service (JMS) can asynchronously receive the data changes as they occur. For example, using the event publishing capability, WebSphere Business Integration can receive changes as they occur from a DB2 UDB database and automatically update an SAP application. Alternatively, a JMS-aware application or a service within any J2EE Server (for example, BEA WebLogic or WebSphere Application Server) could receive those same changes and perform additional processing or integration.

- Data can be formatted into either transaction messages or row messages depending upon application need.
- Database changes being published can be filtered such that only the data that the receiving application is interested in are published.
- Messages can be tailored to include only the changed data that the application requires.
- Easy-to-use wizards are provided for the definition of event publishing.

A local database server

With WebSphere Information Integrator Advanced Edition and Advanced Edition Unlimited, you are entitled to unrestricted use of the included DB2 Universal Database Enterprise Server Edition V8.2. Having a full-function, local database store available simplifies the creation of new integration-oriented applications, providing local storage for many purposes. For example, a local store provides a convenient location for analysis of federated information. It also provides the ability to store annotations related to views composed over multiple sources. In all these cases, the programming model is shared between WebSphere Information Integrator and DB2 Universal Database Enterprise Server Edition, providing a natural, highly productive environment for data storage. In addition, because the DB2 UDB ESE server is fully functional, it also supports the development of new applications and uses that have no integration component.

**Product Positioning**

In business intelligence, WebSphere Information Integrator:

- Adds value to existing data warehouses. In the era of on demand computing, timeliness and extensibility are emerging as requirements for decision support. Business users want to access real-time data, unstructured content, or remote data, seamlessly integrated with the historical information they have typically accessed through data warehouses and marts. WebSphere Information Integrator enables queries to transparently span data warehouses and marts, production systems, content stores, and the Web, augmenting the warehouse investment.

- Enables rapid prototyping. WebSphere Information Integrator helps organizations prototype, interactively refine requirements, and test new reports or data marts using federated views. This speeds project development and delivery. Once the value is proven, data mart implementations or warehouse extensions can be appropriately staged.

- Facilitates research and information sharing. A key challenge that businesses continue to face is finding the most relevant information necessary to make effective business decisions. Corporations generate myriad documents, specifications, reports, spreadsheets, and so on to describe business strategy, processes, applications, practices, and results, but individuals struggle to find the relevant ones. WebSphere Information Integrator powers corporate intranets providing high-quality enterprise search with subsecond response to help deliver the right information to the right people at the right time.

- Supports key regulatory and compliance initiatives. New government or industry regulations to protect consumers or improve soundness of financial institutions need the ability to quickly find, correlate, and compare diverse information. For example, a current loan application must be correlated and compared with both current activity (for example, other applications by the same consumer or same institution) and historical performance (for example, past loan performance by the same consumer or same institution). WebSphere Information Integrator vastly simplifies the task of finding, accessing, and correlating diverse sources.

- Facilitates cross-divisional reporting, typical of mergers and acquisitions. Mergers and acquisitions present significant integration challenges. New corporate entities must grapple with understanding their customers and business partners across multiple IT infrastructures while strategic plans are assessed and implemented. With the decentralization of computing in many large enterprises, an acquisition is not a prerequisite to disparate IT infrastructures.

WebSphere Information Integrator helps businesses find related (or redundant) applications, processes, or
• Delivers real-time information to data warehouses. WebSphere Information Integrator captures database changes from transaction databases and replicates them into operational data stores, data warehouses, or marts to facilitate real-time business intelligence. Alternatively, WebSphere Information Integrator event publishing functions can deliver changes to ETL tools or custom-built processes. Thus, businesses can utilize information that is far more current for tactical and operational decision making.

In business integration, WebSphere Information Integrator:

• Delivers enterprise-wide views of customers or products. Whether building a customer or product master or augmenting one with additional attributes, WebSphere Information Integrator helps you create and deliver holistic views of customers and products. For example, in most medium to large enterprises, customer data is distributed either by geography or by function or both, making it difficult to have consistent client interactions across channels or to take best advantage of client interactions. Use WebSphere Information Integrator data replication to consolidate a master file from distinct data sources. Use WebSphere Information Integrator data federation to access infrequently needed attributes stored separately to manage master file growth.

• Facilitates business performance management. Responding effectively to business events means having all the data at hand to make informed decisions. This means having access to not only the event data itself, but to other related real-time information as well. For example, analyzing the appropriate response to an out-of-stock situation for a high-priority customer might involve the customer order, on-hand inventory at various warehouses or stores, committed product to other customers, relative priority of ship-to customers, committed delivery dates, en route product from supply chain, and so on. And while real-time data is the basis for responding to process events, the events need to be understood in a larger context. The system should correlate and compare event data with planned targets and historical performance. WebSphere Information Integrator provides analytical software fast and integrated access to diverse sources, including databases, process monitors, applications, messages, spreadsheets, and data warehouses, all from a single SQL query, making analysis fast and easy.

• Simplifies and enriches portal deployment. Portals, by their nature, are windows into multiple application and data domains. WebSphere Information Integrator helps end users find relevant corporate content and helps developers deliver integrated views of diverse content for higher customer satisfaction and increased employee productivity. First, WebSphere Information Integrator enterprise search middleware can replace embedded portal search function with broader content access, more scalable implementations, and richer text analytics, resulting in better search results across more information than embedded portal search. Plus, WebSphere Portal clients can migrate their existing taxonomy and classification rules to WebSphere Information Integrator, making it the logical choice to upgrade existing implementations.

Second, portal developers are challenged with accessing and correlating a broader range of data sources, increasing application complexity to deliver correct results, and business pressures focused on time to value. WebSphere Information Integrator can enable developers to access and integrate diverse and distributed data more productively and efficiently, reducing hand-written code and development time by up to half. Plus, it fits with standard portal and application development infrastructures (for example, portlets) to maximize tools and skills reuse.

• Enables process transformation or system migration. WebSphere Information Integrator aids businesses to reuse existing assets while building new applications or migrating existing ones. Some businesses elect to build new business logic and user interfaces while keeping legacy database investments intact and in place. Others may opt to switch database platforms but need to transparently access the data in multiple databases while staging database migrations over time. In either case, WebSphere Information Integrator provides standards-based transparent access to the data stores.

• Manages data consistency, data distribution, or data consolidation across different applications. Whether providing for business continuity, distributing an application workload across multiple systems, or managing data consistency across headquarters, branch, or retail locations, WebSphere Information Integrator provides the power, flexibility, and speed to meet demanding replication workloads. For DB2 UDB-based applications, WebSphere Information Integrator provides low-latency, high-throughput replication with managed conflict detection and resolution so that backup systems can be productive and application workloads can be shared between, for example, geographically dispersed systems. For heterogeneous relational database environments, WebSphere Information Integrator provides tremendous flexibility in managing latency, transformation, and distribution topologies efficiently and effectively for meeting diverse data consistency requirements.

• Initiates business processes by publishing database events. WebSphere Information Integrator enables a data event to initiate a business process (for example, a change in an inventory value could be used to drive a product restocking workflow, or the addition of a new customer could initiate a welcome e-mail, credit verification, and accounting updates). This creates an application-independent, loosely coupled integration that is more adaptable to changing application environments.

For example, while multiple applications may impact the value of the inventory level, a single point of integration — the data items themselves — is driving the workflow. Changes to the applications that impact the inventory level can be made with no impact on the event-driven integration. Thus, businesses can realize faster time to market based on integration that is easier to maintain. Seamless interoperability with WebSphere MQ ensures guaranteed delivery and JMS-compatible integration.
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