

ORCID

The Data Warehousing Solution – add to your intuition

- * *Enhanced reporting capabilities*
- * *Alleviates processing burden*
- * *Use with any report writing utility*
- * *Simplified data structures*
- * *Automated overnight procedures*

In an increasingly data rich world, the big challenge is how to use that data effectively to gain measurable benefits for your organisation. Data driven decision making is no longer a nice to have, it is an essential component in today's strategic business decision making process. The ability to draw out value from structured data is an integral part of modern business success stories.

CSfD recognises that companies may want to promote their own strategy to manage their business intelligence (BI) requirements and have therefore developed a straightforward data warehouse tool, ORCID, to help manage those needs. Providing an extremely flexible data repository, ORCID is suitable for use with all the leading BI vendors, such as Business Objects and Cognos.

Why have a Data Warehouse?

There are two main reasons why a CSfD customer may consider installing a data warehouse system - firstly, to alleviate the processing burden on their main application server and secondly, to enhance their reporting capabilities. Data warehouses form a sound basis for a decision support system. Online transaction processing (OLTP) systems such as KDS typically have complex structures, contain large amounts of data, and support large numbers of concurrent users who are actively adding and modifying data. Whilst such systems provide the ideal infrastructure with which to support day to day operations, and represent the ever-changing state of an organisation, they do not save its history. In addition, constantly changing data can interfere with the consistency of analytical information, and system performance can become slow or unpredictable when responding to complex analytical queries. On the other hand, queries summarizing large volumes of data can adversely affect the ability of the system to respond to its everyday online transactions. Moreover,

system users may not have the technical expertise to be able to easily create ad hoc queries against the complex data structure. By organising data for analysis purposes, the ORCID data warehousing solution has been specifically designed to address these issues.

How does ORCID work?

Transforming data from the live system into a simplified structure, the ORCID solution is based on proven data warehouse design using 'dimensional modelling'. Individual models address discrete business processes such as sales, and are organised into structures that reflect how users typically want to query data. For example, "*What were the sales of food items in the northwest region in the third quarter of 2008?*" summarises information from three dimensions - product, geography and time. Automated procedures extract the day's transactions, cleanse the data, import it to an appropriate database using ODBC techniques, load it to the data warehouse using stored procedures and, finally, validate it for discrepancies. To minimize impact, this all takes place overnight. ORCID has been designed to bolt on to any report writing utility requested, including Business Intelligence tools such as Business Objects. With Business Objects, response times are further enhanced by including pre-aggregated tables into the structure.

Key Features

- * *Combines data from heterogeneous sources into a single homogeneous structure.*
- * *Organises data in simplified structures for efficiency of analytical queries rather than for transaction processing.*
- * *Contains transformed data that is valid, consistent, consolidated, formatted for analysis, stable, and represents business history.*
- * *Is updated periodically with additional data rather than frequent transactions.*
- * *Provides a database organised for OLAP (online analytical processing) rather than OLTP.*

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