



METASUITE



Product folder

METASUITE version 8.1.1

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Overview

METASUITE is the most powerful software solution that enables organizations to gain access to the information that is hidden in the large amounts of operational data that reside in their business applications.

A key element in today's decision making, information about a business' customers, suppliers and competitors needs to be available to the right people in the right format at the right moment. Current solutions that access, move, integrate and forward the huge volumes of transaction data that decision support requires, are often limited in their capabilities. Many business users are finding these solutions to be inadequate either in content, accessibility, usability, and performance or in their ability to bring together data from many disparate systems.

Based on standard technologies, METASUITE was specifically designed to perform even the largest and most complex data retrieval, data conversion, and data integration jobs.

METASUITE offers:

- One solution for handling all data integration functions.
- Native database support.
- Support to move data from any source to any target.
- Support to move data from simple to highly complex data structures.
- Multi-Platform support.
- Superior processing performance.
- Simplified maintenance, as routine changes require only minor adjustments.
- A short learning curve.
- Scalability.
- Reporting and audit facilities.

Key benefits

- Integration of information from anywhere in the enterprise.
- A uniform format of information, i.e. a single version of the truth.
- Timely access to vital information.
- Distribution of knowledge throughout the enterprise.
- Flexibility to support the changing need of information.
- Easy access to information about the data stored in a warehouse, both for end-users and database professionals.

Data extraction and transformation done better

When organizations need to access, move, integrate and forward very large volumes of data, they are looking for solutions to perform these tasks in a fast, easy and reliable way. Ideally, they would like to have just one single solution to cover:

- Data Conversions.
- Data Migrations.
- Creating and maintaining Data Warehouses / Data Marts.
- Creating and maintaining Operational Data Stores.

METASUITE is that single solution, as it contains the functionality to:

- Migrate very large volumes of data from operational systems to any target platform or to a data warehouse, data mart or ODS.
- Convert and transform the data prior to storage in a database.
- Build, run and maintain the routines to process these large data volumes

With METASUITE any data integration routine can be rapidly deployed to supply a quick response to ever changing information needs. Next to offering a low cost of ownership, METASUITE also frees overburdened mainframes from analysis tasks, and helps to promote the use of third party analysis and reporting tools.

Single-pass architecture for superior processing performance

METASUITE provides a unique, single-pass processing architecture for maximum efficiency and superior performance of data extraction and data migration, rather than having to process source data multiple times for various selection criteria. This single-pass architecture allows a single program to:

- Process multiple sources within the same single process.
- Process multiple records within a source.
- Create multiple targets, leading to:
 - Reduction of the time required for extraction, so that the batch window can be shrunk even when data volumes increase.
 - Reduction of CPU usage leading to a reduction of operating costs.
 - Simplification of the scheduling process, because less programs need to be scheduled and managed.

Main architecture

METASUITE has been designed to take full advantage of the potential of operating systems and databases to provide users with a maximum return on their investment and to minimize their Total Cost of Ownership (TCO).

METASUITE's main architecture consists of:

MetaStore Manager (to maintain data descriptions)

MetaStore Manager guides you through the process of building a data descriptions dictionary, which can be obtained in four ways:

- By creating data definitions manually for different source types. Dictionary Files, Records and Fields can be defined for standard Files, Adabas File Groups, Datacom File Groups, IMS PCB, SQL Table Groups, IDMS Sub Schemas, Supra Databases, XML files etc...
- By collecting or capturing files directly from the database via an ODBC connection or from a specific file describing the record structures in one of the supported languages or formats. This can be done from Cobol Copy Books, PL/I Include Books, IDMS punches, SAP DMI, DB2 DDL, etc.
- During the collection process, MetaStore also generates the required load and unload scripts for various RDBMS types.
- By exporting and importing data definitions from other METASUITE repositories.
- By investigating data (CSV files, XML files) using the parsing tool.

MetaMap (to define the dataflow)

The transformation of operational data into a format that fits the target environment is achieved via the MetaMap application of METASUITE. MetaMap enables users to quickly and easily create data integration mappings. Those mappings can be simple or highly complex. A Mapping Wizard and a Structured Editor guides users through the creation of the mapping rules, which define the cleaning, filtering, transformation, and consolidation processes. Generating the MetaMap model will lead to a COBOL source code and a run script, which is operating system and COBOL vendor specific. The modification of the business map and technical rules, and the subsequent code generation is performed in the background. The complete run-time process can be customized to ensure performance optimization and to deal with specific conditions not taken care of in the rules. All process steps can be fully automated to reduce the development time and increase ease of use.

MetaTrace (to keep track of data use)

METASUITE's web-based metadata browser MetaTrace will detect any application that is affected by a particular change, and it monitors data usage and changes. MetaTrace also provides the features for interrogating the used metadata into the different MetaMap applications, transformation rules and owners.

The metadata approach

One of the main challenges in transforming and converting data is managing changes in the operational data environment. This is why METASUITE first defines and stores metadata for the data sources and targets.

METASUITE can also handle multiple versions of the same data definition. Changes in the metadata can be captured in the metadata repository, which can contain the definitions of all technical, editing and validation information related to the changes. This metadata is then used to generate the data transformation routines. METASUITE is the only data integration solution that allows you to perform these tasks over and over again. As a result, METASUITE's metadata always reflects the actual data in the operational environment.

Special features

Filtering and transforming

METASUITE allows you to only select the data you need. It provides powerful options for filtering data, in order to minimize the data volume to be transferred to the target relational database. For instance legacy data types are transformed to standard RDBMS formats.

Hiding legacy system complexity

METASUITE collects, consolidates and centralizes data, through its intuitive graphical user interface, from a wide variety of systems using native COBOL generation. It generates COBOL applications and the corresponding custom run scripts for all data systems. Using METASUITE requires no knowledge of the legacy system whatsoever. The METASUITE graphical user interface handles the translation of business requirements to complex coding. Users have all the advantages of COBOL, (e.g. performance, multi-database, multi-system), without having to understand and use it. As a result, resources can be managed more efficiently.

Test Data Management

MetaSuite not only allows you to create subsets of data sets by using powerful sampling techniques, you can also make sure that the public and company privacy rules are respected. MetaSuite comes with predefined obfuscation functions and allows you to define your own obfuscation functions. MetaSuite can also be used for data value discovery and data statistics

By using MetaSuite for generating test data, you'll be sure that:

- You can create representative data subsets by applying the appropriate sampling function,
- You respect privacy regulations and internal governance rules and
- You generate consistent obfuscated data sets that respect relations between.

User friendliness

METASUITE is equipped with an easy-to-use graphical user interface that features:

- A visual development environment.
- Source and target wizards.
- Building of mapping rules through point-and-click.
- Distributed development and deployment.

Data extraction projects typically are repetitive, and maintenance can be difficult and timeconsuming, because coding needs to be modified for each change. With METASUITE, development of routines is easy, as is their maintenance. A considerable part of the changes consists of metadata alterations, which are handled in a simple way thanks to METASUITE's metadata approach.

Full documentation

As applications generated with METASUITE are self-explanatory, the creation of programmer documentation is simplified. The availability of metadata to business users will help them to better understand the data they are analyzing.

Data quality control

METASUITE allows for highly qualitative data integration generation and maintenance. Every data processing event comes with a comprehensive audit log, which includes the number of records handled, records in error, elapsed time, etc. Additionally, METASUITE can be used to define a range of audit reports, including a Duplicates Report and a Statistical Summary Report.

Connectivity

METASUITE supports a variety of operating systems, including z/OS, BS2000, DOS VSE, VMS, UNIX, OS/400, Linux, and Windows. In order to optimize the extraction process, METASUITE supports native database features that use database indexes and navigation process options. Supported sources include:

- IMS
- IDMS
- DATACOM/DB
- ADABAS
- VSAM, QSAM
- Sequential files
- Delimited files
- XML
- Any RDBMS including DB2, ORACLE, TERADATA, INFORMIX, SYBASE

METASUITE delivers the required target data along with RDBMS specific load scripts, to process all these data files.

Open system

Due to the openness of METASUITE, organizations can leverage existing system schedulers, security mechanisms and file transport systems to ease operations. Also, through its openness, METASUITE seamlessly connects to almost all commercially available data mining, OLAP and end-user reporting solutions.

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IKAN Solutions N.V.
Schaliënhoevedreef 20 A
2800 Mechelen
Tel +32 (0)15 44 50 40

IKAN