

Oracle Warehouse Builder: Product Roadmap

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INTRODUCTION

Oracle Warehouse Builder (OWB) is Oracle's flagship ETL solution for Oracle database customers, deployed at thousands of sites worldwide. Despite its name, OWB has also been designed for, and is widely used for, purposes beyond ETL, such as generic data object modeling, complex transformations with heterogeneous sources, bulk data integration, and metadata management.

With the release of Oracle Warehouse Builder 10g Release 2 in May, 2006, Oracle has broadened OWB's capabilities to include sophisticated Data Quality functionality by introducing Data Profiling, Data Rules, Data Correction and Data Auditing.

Oracle Warehouse Builder is optimized to support the Oracle Database as its primary target database. However, as Oracle broadens its portfolio of Enterprise Applications, the requirements of Oracle Warehouse Builder are broadening as well especially to include heterogeneous database support. Native support for heterogeneous targets will be in the next release of OWB.

In light of the recent acquisition of Sunopsis by Oracle, this paper is intended to briefly articulate the objectives and strategy for Oracle Warehouse Builder, to give both prospective and existing customers and partners an understanding of our direction.

ORACLE WAREHOUSE BUILDER'S OBJECTIVES

OWB is focusing on the following objectives for upcoming releases:

- Extend OWB's Leadership in the ETL Market
- Enable Oracle Fusion Applications
- Provide Complete Native Heterogeneous Support
- Support Service-Oriented Architectures

Extend OWB's Leadership in the ETL Market

OWB will continue to enhance its advanced ETL, data quality and metadata management capabilities to address this key market segment and provide best-of-breed functionality. Oracle plans to add functionality in several areas to make building a data warehouse easier and faster, including features such as Cube Orphan Management, Automatic Cube Definition, Quick Mapper, Automated Index Maintenance, leveraging Data Mining models for data enrichment, and Table Function design.

Often closely linked with ETL is Business Intelligence. Currently Oracle Warehouse Builder automatically creates and manages metadata for Oracle BI Discoverer and BI Beans applications. In future releases, Oracle Warehouse Builder will also create and manage metadata for leading Business Intelligence offerings, including Oracle BI Enterprise Edition.

Enable Oracle Fusion Applications

Oracle Warehouse Builder will deliver new features and enhancements to support Oracle's next generation of applications, "Fusion". OWB will be leveraged by multiple components of Fusion, including Fusion's BI Applications, Fusion's application migration capabilities and Fusion's patching and upgrade facilities.

The OWB features built to support Fusion span multiple market segments in terms of functionality and are designed specifically for Fusion's demanding requirements: supporting hundreds of developers, and hundreds of thousands of data objects in schemas. While OWB is capable of handling these volumes today, features are being added to enhance developer productivity and experience, enabling them to quickly build, organize and maintain large, complex data and process flows.

In addition, OWB plans to deliver new ERP/CRM connectors to facilitate easy developer access to new Applications.

OWB's usage within Oracle's next-generation Fusion applications translates into robust ETL and Developer Productivity features that will benefit all OWB customers.

Provide Complete Native Heterogeneous Support

Oracle Warehouse Builder today supports all major heterogeneous sources. OWB 10g Release 2 also provides the ability to target non-Oracle databases while utilizing an Oracle database as the transformation engine.

Future releases of Oracle Warehouse Builder will support non-Oracle targets, in which the full ETL process (including transformations) occurs natively within non-Oracle databases and J2EE containers. Since both Oracle Warehouse Builder and Sunopsis share the same basic architecture of “ELT” (extract-load-transform), Oracle Warehouse Builder intends to leverage and incorporate technology from the Sunopsis acquisition to enable heterogeneous support. Combining this technology into Oracle Warehouse Builder will result in an enterprise ready class-leading technology for both Oracle and non-Oracle environments, and will support all database platforms required by Oracle’s Applications products.

Support Service-Oriented Architectures

In supporting service-oriented architectures, Oracle Warehouse Builder will deliver ‘hot-pluggable’ capabilities that can be implemented in any standards-based J2EE/SOA environment. This support will allow OWB to smoothly interoperate with all of the integration technologies offered by Oracle, as well as technologies offered by other vendors. Enhanced Web Services functionality, and data/ESB connectivity mechanisms will underpin and augment what is already available today to make this a reality. Oracle intends to allow SOA applications fine-grained access to OWB’s functionality. OWB would expose functionality ranging from synchronously cleansing and enriching a name and address, all the way to asynchronously executing a complex process flow from a BPEL engine to load gigabytes of data into a warehouse.

CONCLUSION

Oracle Warehouse Builder is, and will continue to be, Oracle’s flagship ETL tool for the Oracle Database. By pursuing the above four objectives, Oracle plans to expand OWB’s user base by providing best-of-breed technology honed by the demanding requirements of Oracle’s own applications, and by delivering that functionality on all database platforms within a service-oriented architecture. Coming off of Oracle Warehouse Builder’s most feature-rich release ever with 10g Release 2, OWB will continue to broaden and extend its industry-leading capabilities.

Safe Harbor Statement

The above is for informational purposes and may not be incorporated into a contract. It is not a commitment to deliver any material, code, or functionality, and should not be relied upon in making purchasing decision. The development, release, and timing of any features or functionality described remains at the sole discretion of Oracle.



Oracle Warehouse Builder – Statement of Direction
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