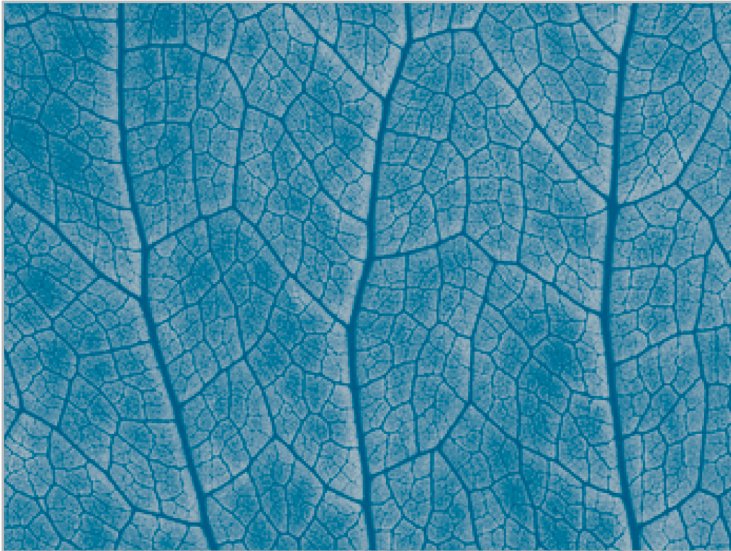


Data Warehouse



THE INTEGRATED, CLEAN AND CONSISTENT SOURCE OF BUSINESS INFORMATION

The term Data Warehouse covers the management of data as opposed to the term Business Intelligence that focus on the usage of data. The purpose of Data Warehousing is to provide integrated, consistent, structured, correct and timely data for any system or user that requires information.

Data is extracted from operational systems and integrated in the Data Warehouse environment in order to provide an enterprise wide perspective, one version of the truth.

DATA WAREHOUSE ARCHITECTURE

The Data Warehouse is a construct of logical topology components physically implemented using various types of soft-

ware products. These components, e.g. DSA, EDW, Data Marts and ETL, make up the topology which Business Intelligence solutions must build on to ensure reusability, flexibility and extendibility.

A Data Warehouse Architecture is a topology, a set of principles and also a strategy:

- The topology is constituted by the components of the architecture and their relationships and the requirements for these components, which can be directly related to the business needs.
- The principles are design principles that define common rules to apply

when developing and realizing the architecture components and their relations, such as data flow principles, key handling principles, and so on.

- The strategy is a plan describing how to and when to realize stages of the architecture.

"Well begun is half done"

Plato (427-347 BC)

Get a good starting point with a robust and flexible **Data Warehouse Architecture Design** that both supports the short term solution initiatives and ensures a long term foundation aligned with the business strategy

PLATON

The company was founded in Denmark in 1999 by a small group of consultants with a great belief in a growing need in the market for Data Warehousing solutions. It grew organically, and are today the largest independent consulting firm in the Nordic Region within Information Management.



DATA WAREHOUSE TECHNOLOGY

The physical implementation of a Data Warehouse Architecture requires different types of tools and technologies, e.g. Databases, Data modeling, Profiling, ETL, Data Cleansing, Meta Data Management and front end tools, depending on purpose and requirements.

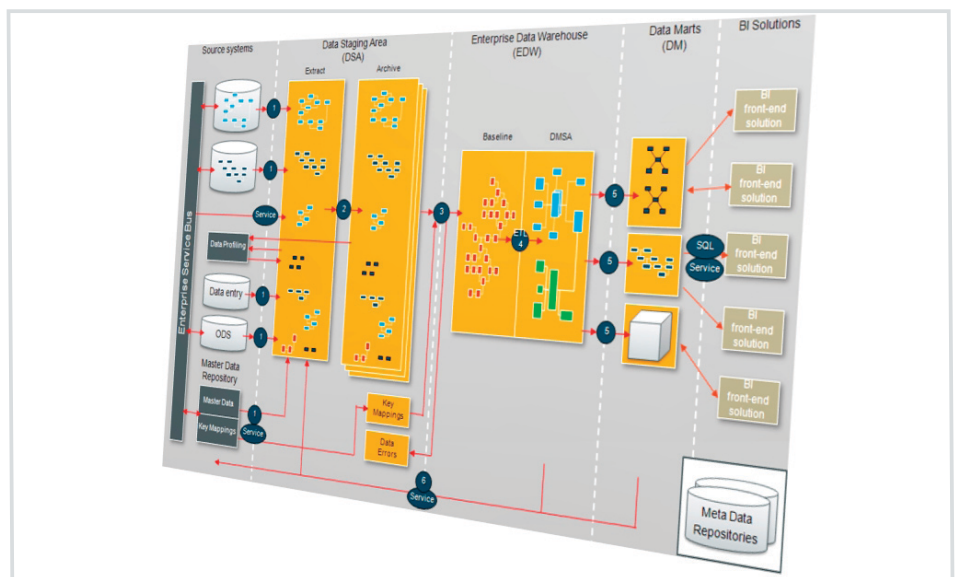
Start by defining requirements and evaluate existing technology for usability. If no existing technology can be reused, or existing Data Warehouse technology needs to be replaced or supplemented, a process for selecting new technology has to be started.

Selection criteria could include Total Cost of Ownership (TCO), functional requirements, performance, fit into existing infrastructure, internal and external competences.

DATA WAREHOUSE DATA MODELS

The data structure of the Data Warehouse components can be modeled using different techniques. Considerations about flexibility, scalability, ease of interpretation, load performance, query performance etc. must be made depending on the role and the requirements of the individual Data Warehouse component, or the layer in the architecture.

3NF, Dimensional modeling, 2G modeling are examples of techniques that can be used, and various industry standard data models from different vendors also exists. A data modeling policy should be made to guide the modeling activities in a Data Warehouse project.



DATA WAREHOUSE HANDBOOK

Where do we start, who should do what and why, and what is the process? A Data Warehouse handbook will give you the answers. It is a company specific set of policies and guidelines for the development of Data Warehouse solutions, e.g. what are the activities, roles, deliverables, and what standards and best practices should we use?

Some guidelines will be technology specific, but most are generic best practices. Platon has the experience and a well proven knowledge repository, Platon Insight®, as a foundation for a Data Warehouse handbook. It will ensure quick time-to-market quality solutions, where the long term perspective is also in focus.

ENTERPRISE INFORMATION MODEL (EIM)

The Enterprise Information Model (EIM) is a conceptual blueprint for the business information of the entire enterprise (or a specific business domain). The EIM documents Information Entities in terms of their definitions and associated business rules. The Enterprise Information Model is a key component in any Information Management initiative and the Data Warehouse data model should reflect the structure and definition documented in the EIM.