Data Flow

Overview

Flexible and Powerful Environment
Data Flow from Pitney Bowes Group 1 Software is a powerful and flexible integration engine that brings together data from disparate sources into a single view where a comprehensive set of data transformation tools can merge and cleanse the data to enhance its business value. Once transformed from data to information, Data Flow provides a variety of tools for analyzing the information, creating meaningful reports and better understanding critical data about your business. This solution empowers the business user to make smart decisions based on real data.

Graphical Design Tools
Data Flow is designed to support both business and technical users. Its new and improved interface reduces the learning curve as it allows end users to master the solution more quickly than other BI tools. Data Flow incorporates a powerful visual development environment that helps speed and simplify the creation of sophisticated data transformations. Data Flow enables you to quickly and easily see your data at any stage of the development process. With this visual approach to the design and construction of plans, Data Flow users can create a data integration plan and report more quickly.

Supports Many Data Formats for Greater Efficiency
Data Flow handles one of the widest varieties of data formats, from legacy applications to Web-based technologies. Available modules include Mainframe, AS/400 and R/3(SAP). And Data Flow natively handles all major RDBM systems, such as Oracle®, IBM DB2 and MS SQL Server, as well as most major text-based data formats, including XML. This ability to read data in its native format helps eliminate the need to write custom extract programs. By eliminating this time-consuming and expensive task, more projects come in on time and under budget.

Not only does Data Flow allow users to rapidly access, connect, integrate and analyze data from a wide array of applications, databases, and data files, but any combination of these data sources can be incorporated into a single process quicker and easier. Other systems require you to perform join functions within the database, but Data Flow enables users to join two or more sources in memory, making it easier to analyze or perform operations on data from multiple sources.

64-Bit for Faster Processing
Data Flow now offers 64-bit processing power. 64-bit processors allow you to address more memory, increasing your performance and offering greater scalability. Further, Data Flow with the 64-bit processor can support a higher number of concurrent users and instances as well as faster processing and larger data loads.

Summary
Built specifically for the data analyst—it is one single solution that combines powerful data integration and Business Intelligence capabilities.

Benefits
For many data analysts, there are two daunting parts to achieving sound reports. One is accessing the data. The other is manipulating the data to create meaningful reports. Data Flow is one solution that can quickly, easily and affordably bring both capabilities to you.
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NEW FEATURES FOR 2008!

Easier migration between development and production environments
Why deal with hard-coded connection parameters? You don’t have to with Data Flow. You just point your plan to the desired environment, eliminating the need to create multiple plans. If you are working in a large scale application, you can also work in physically partitioned arenas.

Reusable Sub-Component Support
This feature increases your productivity as it is now possible to reuse already developed modules as you would a subroutine. It can be called but maintained and improved centrally. Why reinvent the wheel? Common functionality used in different places can be developed, maintained and managed centrally which reduce redundancies that waste time and allow for error. This is a very friendly feature for developers who can now offer functionality to the business analyst for better reporting.

Unicode Support
Global enterprises that need to glean data from around the world will find Data Flow’s Unicode support a huge benefit. Unicode which enables all international character sets means that no matter where the work is done, it can be collected and stored from around the globe.

Improved Look-Up Performance and Functionality
Perhaps the most widely utilized Data Flow transforms is the “key look-up”. And this too has been enhanced for greater productivity and ease of use. Now you can return multiple columns in one transform, simplifying your plan. New comparison operators have been added which greatly reduces the number of manual modifications. And the memory and caching of the key look-up has been reconfigured for stronger performance. Why deal with hand-coded and scripted solutions? There is no need to any longer.

New Transforms for Greater Efficiency
The latest release of Data Flow packages three new transforms that were designed specifically at the request of our user community. They are: Mark Duplicate Rows; Filtered Splitter; and Multi-Condition Filter. These transforms enhance productivity and speed up the development process.

Automatic Documentation of Flow
This new release eliminates the burden of documentation for development while enhancing the quality of the development process altogether. You see, the documentation is done automatically and generated into an HTML file.

Track Plan Changes
So, how did we get to this point? Every data analyst knows that meticulous recording of plan changes are required that not only identify who changed what and when, but how and what was changed? This has been a laborious manual effort. No more. Data Flow now documents this automatically. Now you can focus on moving the plan forward, increasing efficiency and productivity.
Merge Multiple Data Sets into a Single Stream

Create Re-Usable Subcomponents
SUPPORTED OPERATING SYSTEMS
- UNIX®, AIX 5.1, HP-UX 11i, Solaris® 8 or 9
- Windows® 2000 or 2003

Client Operating Systems
- Windows Vista®, XP, 2000 or 2003

SUPPORTED DATABASES
- Microsoft® SQL Server 6, 7 and 2000
- Oracle® 7, 8i and 9i
- IBM® DB2 6.1, 7.2, and 8.0
- IBM® DB2 for AS400 V4R4
- IBM® DB2 for OS390 v5 and vi
- AS400
- Sybase® 11, 12, and 12.5
- Informix® 7, 8, and 9
- RedBrick® 5.0.12 and 6
- MySQL 4.1.4
- ODBC
- XML
- Delimited Text Files
- Fixed Width Text Files
- Hierarchical Files
- SAP R/3
- Multiple ERP and CRM Solutions

LANGUAGE SUPPORT
- English
- Japanese
- Korean
- Simplified Chinese
- German
- French