

Q&A Session for
IBM Chat with the Lab: ROLAP - Cognos 8.4 and InfoSphere Warehouse Cubing Services 9

Date: January 30, 2009

Q: Can it handle Slowly Changing Dimensions (Type 2 etc) ?

A: Yes, this is possible using the concept of related attributes for members in a dimension.

Q: Does it cater for all types of fact tables (Snapshot, Transaction, Factless) ?

A: Yes - these types of tables are supported as are degenerate dimensions (descriptive attributes stored in the fact table)

Q: Is there a limit to the number of hierarchies?

A: While the cube model supports only one hierarchy at a time it is possible to define a dimension that has multiple hierarchies; in this way we enable the sharing of metadata defined in a single dimension across multiple cube models having diverse requirements.

Q: How about alternate hierarchies, can the system handle it?

A: Please see the previous response.

Q: Can you create a cube from non db2 data as a source?

A: If you use the federation capabilities in DB2 you can create cubes in Cubing Services based on data from any data source. It is recommended that you work with your IBM account management team to assess the suitability of this configuration for your environment and business needs.

Q: Is this model read and write?

A: No, Cubing Services is a ROLAP engine and is read-only.

Q: What is Cubing Services packaged with?

A: InfoSphere Warehouse Base and Enterprise Editions include Cubing Services.

Q: Why would one use Infosphere instead of data manager in other words what are the benefits of using Infosphere over data manager?

A: InfoSphere Cubing Services eliminates the need to move relational data by providing run-time caching and optimization plus an interface for MDX queries. Data Manager is an ETL tool that supports the creation of relational star schemas on a variety of relational data sources. Access method and query optimization for relational schemas is determined based on database vendor and version; most database products will support SQL access.
