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Sample Metadata Application: ReadMe

These scripts are designed to initially populate the metadata tables (as seen in Chapter 15 of the **Microsoft Data Warehouse Toolkit, Second Edition**, 2011). The logic of the metadata population scripts is based on the extended properties created from the modeling spreadsheet.

# Before you begin

1. Install SQL Server 2008R2, including the relational database, SQL Studio, Reporting Services, and BI Development Studio (BIDS).
2. Run the script to create the DW\_Metadata database: **CrDb\_DWMetadata.sql**. The script includes database create statements, which are commented out.
3. Install the stored procedures that will help you manage DW\_Metadata. The script is **CrSP\_DWMetadata.sql**. It creates four stored procedures:
   1. *updDtbList*, to update the list of databases registered in DW\_Metadata. It picks up only relational databases. SSAS databases are populated via a different mechanism.
   2. *dtbClear*, clears out all the metadata in DW\_Metadata, for a single database
   3. *dtbLoad*, loads (or re-loads) all the metadata in DW\_Metadata, for a single database.
   4. *loadAllDtbs*, loads all databases (calls updDtbList and then calls dtbLoad for all databases with Gen\_Metadata\_Ind = 'Y'

# Populating the DW\_Metadata database

Simply run the stored procedure LoadAllDtbs, to populate the tables in DW\_Metadata with the information about your databases. When the stored procedure begins, grabs the complete list of user databases on the server (which you can find in the table DW\_Databases). It looks for a database extended property called “Description.” If it finds that property, it’ll assume that you generated the database from the Kimball design spreadsheet, and will set the Gen\_Metadata\_Ind to ‘Y’ for that database.

If you have modified the metadata in DW\_Metadata, perhaps by adding more detailed descriptions or commentary, then do not run LoadAllDtbs or dtbLoad again, or you’ll lose your work.

You can re-run updDtbList, as it’s non-desctructive to the metadata.

# Exploring the DW\_Metadata database

The easiest way to explore the contents of the DW\_Metadata database is to use the predefined reports that are also available on the book’s website. Starting at the database level, you can drill down to subject areas, objects (dimensions and fact tables), and attributes of objects (dimension attributes and fact columns).