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Introduction to Building Your Metadata Repository

This chapter explains how to plan and design your metadata repository, including how to plan your business model, how to work with the physical content for your business model, and general repository design guidelines.
To effectively plan and build your metadata repository, you need to have experience with SQL queries and be familiar with reporting and analysis. You should also have experience with industry-standard data warehouse modeling practices, and be familiar with general relational entity-relationship modeling.

This chapter contains the following topics:

About Oracle BI Server Architecture

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The Oracle BI Server component processes user requests and queries in underlying data sources.

The Oracle BI Server maintains the logical data model and provides client access to the model using ODBC connectivity or native APIs, such as OCI for the Oracle Database.

The Oracle BI Server uses the metadata in the Oracle BI repository to perform the following two tasks:

- Interpret Logical SQL queries and write corresponding physical queries against the appropriate data sources.
- Transform and combine the physical result sets and perform final calculations.

The Administration Tool client is a Windows application that you can use to create and edit your Oracle BI repository. The Administration Tool can connect directly to the repository in offline mode, or it can connect to the repository through the Oracle BI Server. Some options are only available in online mode. See Use Online and Offline Repository Modes.

The image shows how the Oracle BI Server interacts with query clients, data sources, the Oracle BI repository, and the Administration Tool.

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Import Metadata and Working with Data Sources

This chapter describes how to create a new Oracle BI repository, set up back-end data sources, and import metadata using the Import Metadata Wizard in the Administration Tool. It also describes how to use a standby database with Oracle Analytics Server.
This chapter contains the following topics:

About Importing Metadata and Working with Data Sources

After creating an Oracle BI Repository file, you can import metadata from your data sources into the Physical layer of the repository.

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In the Oracle BI Administration Tool, the Physical layer of the contains the data sources the Oracle BI Server uses to submit queries, and the relationships between physical databases and other data sources used to process multiple data source queries.

The metadata imported into an Oracle BI Repository must have an ODBC or native database connection to the underlying data source. You can also import metadata from software such as Microsoft Excel using an ODBC connection.

When you importing metadata from each data source, the structure of the data source is also imported into the Physical layer. You can display data from supported data sources on Oracle BI Server and other clients. You can't import metadata from unsupported data sources.

After you import metadata, properties in the associated database object and connection pool are set automatically. You can adjust database or connection pool settings, see Set Up Database Objects and Connection Pools.

Oracle recommends importing metadata rather than manually creating the physical layer to avoid errors.