

be produced on a dedicated impact printer locked in a room that cannot be opened by any of the normal IT staff. Archived data sets should be stored with checksums to demonstrate that they have not been altered in any way.

The Back Room – Preparing the Data

PROCESS CHECK

Planning & Design: Requirements → *Architecture* → Implementation → Release
Data Flow: Extract → Clean → Conform → Deliver.

The back room and the front room of the data warehouse are physically, logically, and administratively separate. In other words, in most cases the back room and front room are on different machines, depend on different data structures, and are managed by different IT personnel.

Figure 1.1 shows the two distinct components of a typical data warehouse.

Preparing the data, often called *data management*, involves acquiring data and transforming it into information, ultimately delivering that information to the query-friendly front room. *No query services are provided in the back room.* Read that sentence again! Our approach to data warehousing assumes that data access is prohibited in the back room, and therefore the front room is dedicated to just this one purpose.

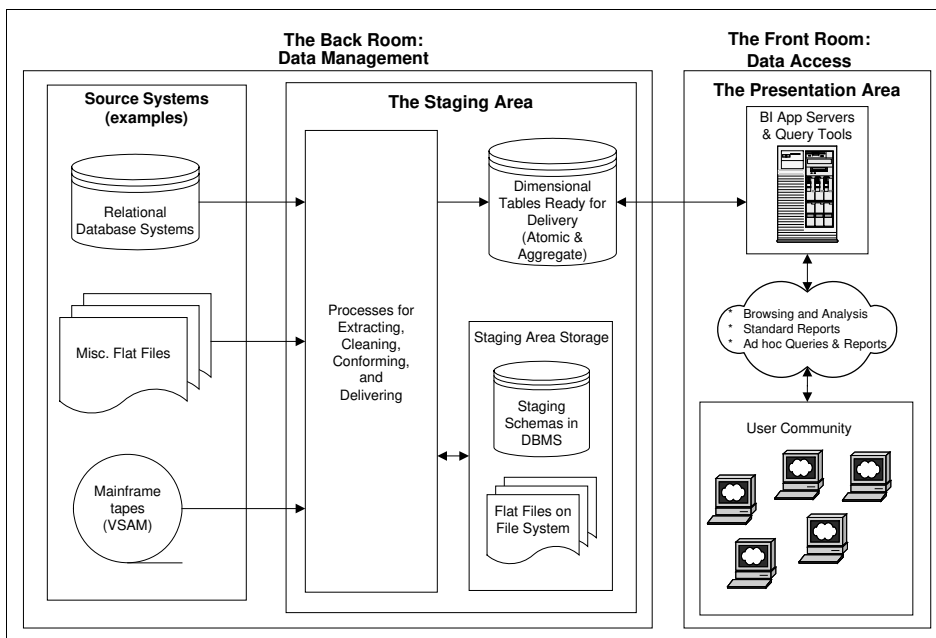


Figure 1.1 The back room and front room of a data warehouse.