# Departamento de Engenharia Informática (DEI/ISEP) Paulo Oliveira Pio@isep.ipp.pt Adaptado do Original de: Fátima Rodrigues (DEI/ISEP)

1

# **Data Warehouse Architectures**

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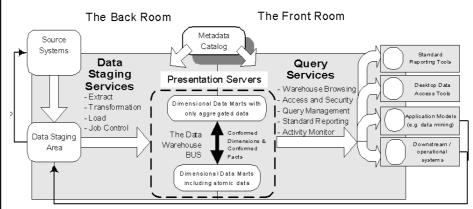
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Chapter 11

3

# **Data Warehouse Bus Architecture** (Ralph Kimball)

### **DW BUS Architecture**



- DW is built on a series of incremental data marts
  - Bottom-up" or incremental methodology
- Has two major types of components: services and data stores

5

### **DW BUS Architecture**

- Is divided into two groups of components and processes
  - Back-room (data acquisition)
    - · Part responsible for gathering and preparing the data
    - Where data acquisition and data staging processes take place
  - Front-room (data access)
    - Part responsible for delivering data to business users
- Flow of data from source systems to user desktop is supported by the metadata catalog
- Includes two types of data marts in the data presentation area
  - Atomic data marts
  - Aggregated data marts

6

### **Back-Room**

- Where the data staging process takes place
- Engine room of the DW
- Primary concern:
  - Getting the right data, with the appropriate transformations, at the right time, and load it into the DW

7

### **Source Systems**

- Are the obvious sources of interesting business data
- Other high-value sources may be external to the business
  - Demographic customer information, target customer lists, and competitive sales data
- Data storage types are dictated by the source system
  - Many older legacy systems are standard mainframe data storage facilities: IMS, IDMS, VSAM, and DB2 are common
- Flat file is one often standard source for the DW
- Understanding their nature is critical for creating the back-room architecture

### **Data Staging Area**

- Is both a storage area and set of processes commonly referred as Extraction, Transformation and Loading (ETL), not seen by end-users
- Everything between the source system and the DW presentation server
- Where much of the data transformation takes place and much of the added value of the DW is created
  - Cleaning the data
    - Correcting misspellings, resolving domain conflicts, dealing with missing values, or parsing into standard formats
  - Integrating data from multiple sources
  - De-duplicating data
  - Assigning surrogate DW keys
  - \_ ...

9

### **Back-Room Services**

- Tools and techniques employed in the data staging process
  - -Also known as data staging services
- Service is an elementary function or task, that can be as simple as:
  - Creating a table in a database
  - Copying data from one table to another

### **Back-Room Services**

- Extract services
  - Pulling the data from the source system(s)
  - Largest effort in the DW project, especially if the source systems are decades-old or mainframe-based
- Data transformation services
  - Acts performed on the data to convert it into something presentable to users and valuable to the business
- Data loading services
  - Set of services responsible by loading the data into the DW
- Job control services
  - Captures metadata regarding the progress and statistics of job execution

1

11

### **DW BUS Architecture** The Front Room The Back Room Metadata Source Catalog Systems Data Query Staging Services Presentation Servers Services Warehouse Browsing \_\_\_\_ - Access and Security . Dim en sion al Data Marts with - Transformation - Query Management only aggregated data -Load Standard Reporting (e.g. data mining) - Job Control - Activity Monitor The Data Conformed Data Staging Warehouse BUS Downstream operational Area Dimensional Data Marts DW is built on a series of incremental data marts - "Bottom-up" or incremental methodology Has two major types of components: services and data stores

### **Presentation Server**

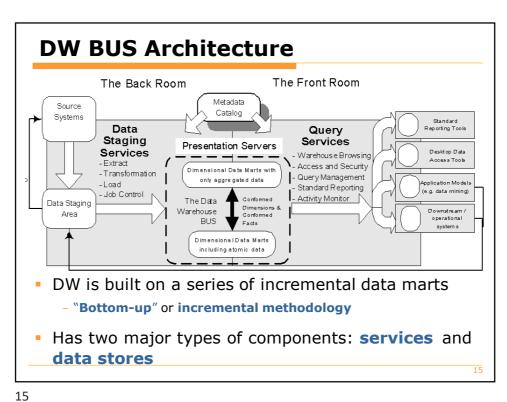
- Where the data is stored for direct querying by end-users, OLAP tools, reporting systems and other applications
- Is a series of integrated data marts
  - Data mart presents the data from a single business process
- Data in the queryable presentation server of the DW must be:
  - Dimensional
  - Atomic (to unpredictable ad-hoc user queries)
- All data marts must be built using common/ shared dimensions

13

13

### **Data Marts in Presentation Server**

- Atomic data marts
  - Hold multidimensional data at the lowest detail level
- Aggregated data marts
  - Hold multidimensional data that have been aggregated
  - Improve query performance
  - Loaded from the data staging area or from the atomic data marts
- All star schema-based data marts may or not reside within the same database instance
- Collection of star schemas which share dimensions and facts is the basis of the DW Bus Architecture



### **Front-Room**

- Public face of the DW
  - -It's what the business users see and work with day-to-day
- Data access services are between the users and the data, hiding some of the complexities and helping them to find what they are looking for

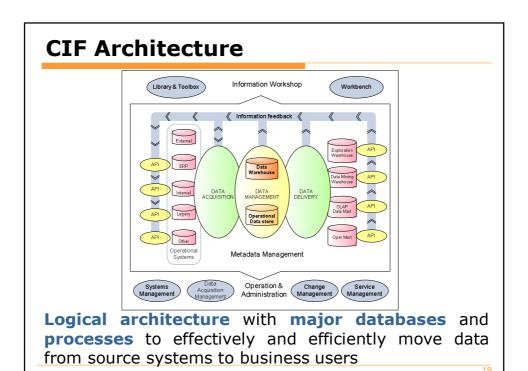
### **Front-Room Services**

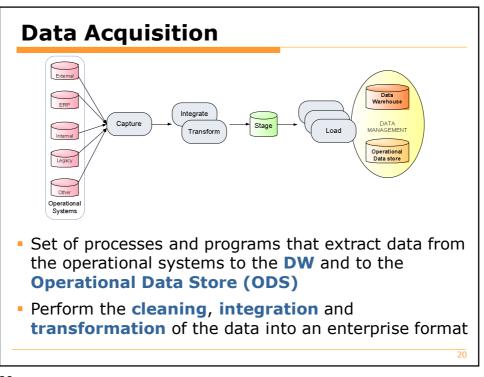
- Warehouse browsing
  - Takes advantage of the metadata catalog to support the users in their efforts to find and access the data they need
- Access and security services
  - Facilitate a user's connection to the DW
- Activity monitoring services
  - Capture information about the use of the DW
- Query management services
  - Set of capabilities that manage the exchange between the query formulation, the execution of the query on the database, and the return of the result set to the desktop
- Standard reporting services
  - Ability to create fixed-format reports that have limited user interaction and regular execution schedules

17

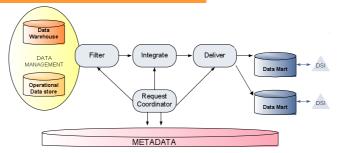
17

# **Corporate Information Factory** (Bill Inmon)





### **Data Delivery**



- Process that moves data from the DW or ODS into data marts and oper marts
- Like in the acquisition layer, data is manipulated as it is moved
- Origin is the DW or ODS, which already contains high quality integrated data that conforms to the enterprise business rules

21

### DW vs. ODS

- DW A subject-oriented, integrated, time variant and non-volatile collection of data used in strategic decision making [Inmon and Hackathorn, 1994]
- ODS
  - Data is **fully integrated** like in a DW
  - Data is current
  - Data is volatile or updatable (no history is retained)
  - Data is usually entirely detailed
  - Source of near real-time and accurate data accessible from anywhere in the corporation

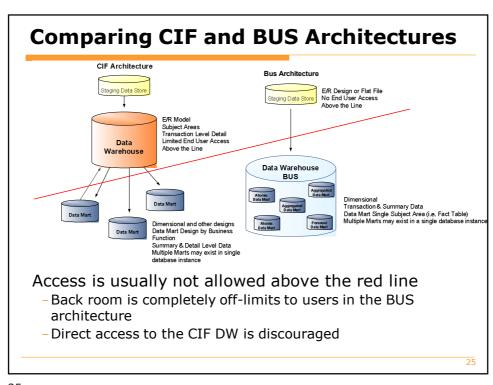
### **Data Marts vs. Oper Marts**

- Data marts are customized and/or aggregated subsets of data derived from the DW
  - Where the analytical activities take place
- Data in each data mart is usually tailored for specific analytical requirements of a business unit or function
  - Product profitability analysis, sales analyses, ...
- Oper marts are derived from the ODS and used to provide the business community with dimensional access to current operational data

23

23

### **Bus Architecture vs CIF Architecture**



### **CIF vs. BUS: Differences**

- No physical repository equivalent to the CIF DW in the BUS architecture
- BUS DW is the collection of atomic and aggregate data marts
- BUS architecture data marts (star schemas) are significantly different from the design of the CIF DW (relational schema)
- Various data marts schemas "conform" through common dimensions in the BUS architecture
- In the BUS architecture all components are dimensional, except the data staging area

26

### CIF vs. BUS: Similarities

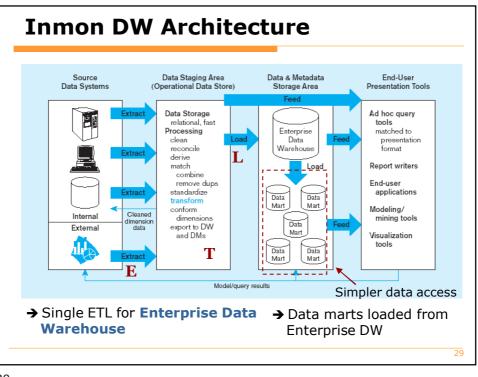
### Both architectures:

- Have a separate staging area, metadata management, data acquisition and data delivery processes
- Power of information resides in the atomic data, which embed all available information dimensionality
- Existence of dimensional data marts
  - Aggregate data mart in BUS architecture is usually the same as the data mart in the CIF architecture

27

27

### **Kimball DW Architecture** Source Data Systems Data & Metadata Storage Area End-User Presentation Tools Data Staging Area Processing Ad hoc query clean tools reconcile derive matched to presentation format match Data combine Mart remove dups standardize Report writers Data Mart End-user applications ∞nform dimensions Modeling/ mining tools Data Mart export to data Internal External marts Visualization T tools Data Mart Model/query results → Separate ETL for each → No single consolidated independent data mart DW from the beginning



### **Kimball Approach**

- Most common approach
- Begins with a single data mart and others are added over time for more subject areas
  - Will require an overall integration plan
- Relatively inexpensive and easy to start to implement
  - Can be used as a **proof of concept** for DW
- Separate ETL process is developed for each data mart, which yields costly redundant data and processing efforts
- Can perpetuate the "silos of information" problem
- Key is to a have an overall plan for integrating the different data marts

30

## **Inmon Approach**

- Comprehensive DW is built initially
- Data marts are built using aggregate subsets of the data in the DW
- Like all complex projects, it is expensive, time consuming, and prone to failure
- When successful, it results in an integrated and scalable DW

31