Tableau Server: Schedule Published Extracts Using Tabcmd in SSIS

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How do you maintain published extracts on your Tableau server?

There are number of ways to refresh extracts either from Tableau Desktop or directly on Tableau Server. On Tableau Server, you can schedule an automated refresh, if your data from the original data source is updated on daily basis.

But what if your Tableau extract fails or is dependent on other business processes? For example, say you have an ETL process to update your data warehouse every night and it finishes between 2:00 AM and 3:00 AM. Nobody wants to standby until it finishes just to press the refresh button from Tableau. To get around this, you could always create a task and associate it with a schedule in Tableau to make your life easier.

But what if your ETL process fails or it takes longer than what you estimated? An ETL process can be fail for many reasons: server is unexpectedly restarted, windows update, bad data, error, etc.

I had a situation where the ETL process failed but the scheduled task for refreshing extracts ran as scheduled. Guess what happened? No data in Tableau. It was not funny at all. I had to find the issue, fix it, re-run the ETL, and refresh extracts. Nobody could use Tableau while I did this.

Long story short, there is another way to avoid this kind of situation by using the **Tabcmd** command line utility that comes with Tableau Server. You can find the **Tabcmd** command line utility on your Tableau server.

By using the **Tabcmd**SQL SSIS Package, you get the following benefits:

1. Can be event/process driven
2. Users can be alerted when the extracts fail

It is very easy to use and powerful!

Here Are The Steps Needed to Refresh Extracts From the SSIS Package

*Please note that you must have the **Tabcmd** command line utility installed on the machine in which your SSIS package runs. Very important.*
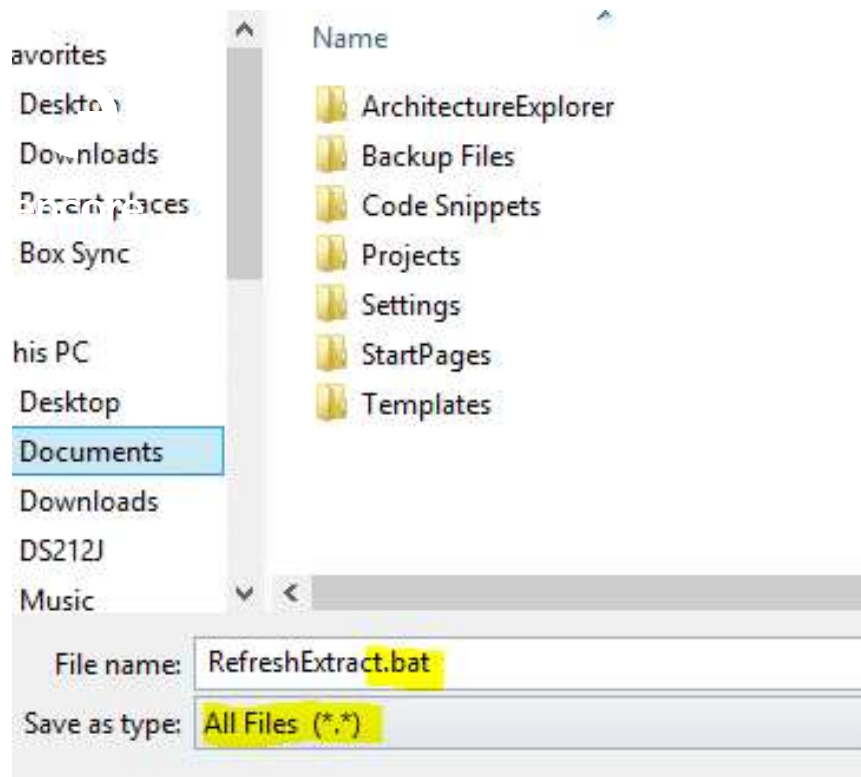
1. Open Notepad
2. Copy and paste the command line below and replace <Your … Here>

tabcmd login -s <Your Tableau Website Here> -u <Your login ID here> -p <Your Password Here> –site "<Your Site Name Here>"

tabcmd refreshextract –site "<Your Site Name Here>" –project "<Your Project Name Here>" –datasource "<Your Extract Name Here>"

tanleau refresh data

3. Save it as a batch file (.bat). Make sure you change "Save as type" to All Files

avorites
   Deskto·
   Downloads
   Recent places
   Box Sync

his PC
   Desktop
   Documents
   Downloads
   DS212J
   Music

Name
   ArchitectureExplorer
   Backup Files
   Code Snippets
   Projects
   Settings
   StartPages
   Templates

File name: RefreshExtract.bat

Save as type: All Files (*.*)

4. Add Execute Process Task at the end of your ETL process

![execute process task]

5. Click Edit
6. Select the batch file you just created from step 3 in Executable field

select batch file

7. Select the Command Line Utility folder in WorkingDirectory field.

select tableau command line utility

8. Click OK to save.

That's it! You are refreshing data extracts now!

Author

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More from Justin Song

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