



Late Arriving Dimensions


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Late-Arriving Data

- Believing all data will arrive at the same time in the data warehouse is wishful thinking.
- Why? Performance. OLTP access windows. Disparate sources of OLTP data.
- Examples:
 - Orders are updated hourly, but the dimensions that rely upon it (salesperson, customer, product) are updated weekly because they come from several sources.
 - A customer changes address while order is being processed.

Late-Arriving Dimensions

- Fact comes in with a natural/business key that is not yet in the dimension.
- Placeholder technique:
 1. Insert a new dimension row with just natural key and placeholder attributes.
 2. At a later time, dimension processing should update the dimension attributes in a Type 1 fashion.



Customer Key	Customer ID	Customer Name	Customer Credit	Placeholder
5502	1001	Robin Banks	\$4000	N
5503	1002	Jean Poole	\$1500	N
5504	1003	Customer TBD	\$0	Y