It is a single, unified enterprise data integration platform that allows companies and government organizations of all sizes to access, discover and integrate data from virtually any business system, in any format and deliver that data throughout the enterprise at any speed.

An ETL tool (Extract, Transform and Load)

The main advantages of PowerCenter over other ETL tools lies in its robustness, for it can be used in both Windows and Unix based systems.

PowerCenter can read from a variety of different sources and write to as many targets, while transforming data in between.

The main advantages of PowerCenter over other ETL tools, and hence a reason for its popularity over other such tools are as follows:

It is robust, and can be used in both windows and UNIX based systems

It is high performing yet very simple for developing, maintaining and administering

The architecture of Informatica PowerCenter (version 9.x onwards) is based on the Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) concept.

A Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) can be defined as a group of services, which communicate with each other. The process of communication involves either simple data passing or it could involve two or more services coordinating same activity.

Informatica 9.X represents a major change in the architecture of the project line.

Aim: Its main aim is to provide improved performance and high availability.

Approach: By reengineering the underlying architecture has been made even more service-based.

The PowerCenter server components comprises of the following services:

Repository service: The Repository service manages the repository. It retrieves, inserts and updates metadata into the repository database tables.

Integration service: the integration service runs sessions and workflows.

SAP BW sevice: The SAP BW service looks out for RFC requests from SAP BW and initiates workflows to extract data from, or load data into the SAP BW.

Web services hub; The web services hub receives requests from web service clients and exposes PowerCenter workflows as services.

PowerCenter has two types of services;

Applocation services represent server based functions including Repository and Integration Services.

Core Services represent functions that manage and maintain the environment in which PowerCenter operates and include services like Log Service, Licensing Service and Domain Service amongst many others.

ETL – An Overview

The “E” represents the ability to consistently and reliably extract data with high performance and minimal impact to source system

The “T” represents the ability to transform one or more data sets in batch or real-time into a consumable format

The “L” stands for loading data into a persistent or virtual data store