ETL Tools

• ETL = Extract – Transform – Load
• Typically: data integration software for building data warehouse
• Pull large volumes of data from different sources, in different formats, restructure them and load into a warehouse
• A variety of tools:
  ○ major database vendors (IBM, Microsoft, Oracle)
  ○ independent companies (Informatica – currently among market leaders)
  ○ Open source (e.g. Clover ETL)
ETL tools cont’d

Emphasis on:

• data quality (in particular cleaning and profiling tools)
• transformations between specific formats
• latency requirements (towards real-time)

Much less (currently) emphasis on:

• nontrivial transformations
• proper query answering
IBM

• Product name: InfoSphere DataStage
• Main claims:
  ◦ variety of data sources (almost any database, text, XML, web services)
  ◦ capable of handling data arriving in real-time
  ◦ scalability
• Unix (Linux) and Windows Platforms
InfoSphere DataStage cont’d

• InfoSphere – product line that includes software from WebSphere and Information Server lines.

• Includes lots of other things
  ◦ application integration and transformation
  ◦ online marketing tools
  ◦ mobile, speech middleware
  ◦ business process management
  ◦ change data capture
  ◦ information analyzer
  ◦ data quality tools
InfoSphere Federation Server

- Federated (virtual) integration: “Access and integrate diverse data and content sources as if they were a single resource - regardless of where the information resides.”
- Integration across different relational products (db2, Oracle, SQL server)
- Integrity and accuracy guarantees
- Distributed query optimizer
- XML support
- Security strategies
- These are expensive products (>US$60K license)
IBM’s view of data integration

- Key tasks, with associated products
- Tasks:
  - Connect to information (products: information server; data publisher)
  - Understand information (data architect, models for ... (banking, insurance, retail, telecom))
  - Cleanse information (QualityStage: matching engine, cleaning rules etc)
  - Transform information (DataStage)
  - Deliver information (Federation Server, DataStage)
Microsoft

- Integration Services – part of SQL Server (SSIS)
- Supports multiple formats; converts everything into tabular format
- Transformations:
  - join, union
  - sort
  - aggregate
  - lookup
  - convert
- Has a data quality tool
- Goes beyond traditional ETL: e.g., data and text mining tools
Oracle

- Oracle Warehouse Builder (OWB)
- Data integration and metadata management tasks:
  - Extraction, transformation, and loading (ETL) for data warehouses
  - Migrating data from legacy systems
  - Designing and managing corporate metadata
  - Data profiling
  - Data cleaning
- Included in the Oracle database product.
Oracle: transformations

- Scalar value transformations (plenty of predefined ones):
  - Characters
  - Conversions
  - Dates
  - Numbers
  - Spatial objects
  - XML transformations (from very simple – select nodes by XPath expressions – to very complex, such as applying XSLT style sheet)

- Also user-defined (functions, procedures, packages)
Informatica

- Market leader – Informatica PowerCenter
- Provides support for
  - migration
  - synchronization
  - warehousing
  - cross-enterprise integration
- Works with multiple data formats
- Provides support for metadata management
- Real-time capabilities
Informatica: Transformation language

- Main orientation: scalar value transformations
- Functions: change data in a mapping
- Operators: create transformation expressions
- Syntax is SQL-based
- Part of it is essentially a programming language in a Java-like syntax for manipulating values.
- Roughly: looks at a portion of the source data, modifies it, and changes the target data accordingly.
Informatica: Transformation language cont’d

- DD_DELETE and DD_INSERT specify what to do with data items.
- E.g., IIF(job='CEO', DD_DELETE, DD_INSERT) says: items with job being CEO are marked for deleting, others for insertion.

- Operators:
  - Arithmetic
  - String
  - Comparisons
  - Logical
  - (almost) everything you can imagine

- Many functions for dealing with dates in different formats.
Informatica: Transformation language con’t

- Large number of functions
- Aggregates: AVG, COUNT, MIN, MAX, MEDIAN, PERCENTILE, STDDEV, SUM, etc.
- Character functions: CONCAT, LENGTH, TRIM, etc
- Conversion functions (e.g., TO_CHAR for Date, TO_DECIMAL, TO_FLOAT, TO_DATE)
- Date functions: ADD_TO_DATE, DATE_DIFF, DATE_COMPARE, etc
- Numerical: the usual suspects.
- Scientific: SIN, COS, TAN, etc
- Search for a value in the source: LOOKUP
- This was quick; full manual – almost 250 pages.
Summary

- Complex tools; very good at transforming data values, and at working with specific formats (MS Word, Excel, PDF, UN/EDIFACT, RosettaNet, etc) and for specific industries (finance, insurance, health)
- Much better these days at getting real-time data; very good at bulk loading, supporting multiple formats
- Not so good:
  - virtual integration
  - complex structural transformation
  - query answering
  - metadata management
- A lot of effort will be put there over the coming years