



SAP BusinessObjects Data Services Supplement for Oracle Applications

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Introduction

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chapter

The SAP BusinessObjects Data Services Oracle Applications interface allows you to create Oracle Application datastores and import tables for use as sources in SAP BusinessObjects Data Services jobs. With this interface, you can use the Designer to:

- View objects such as tables, functions, and procedures in a database instance under a specified Oracle Applications environment.
- Import metadata for Oracle Applications objects into SAP BusinessObjects Data Services.
- Create data flows that use Oracle Applications objects (such as tables) as sources and targets.



System requirements



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chapter

The Oracle Applications interface allows you to connect SAP BusinessObjects Data Services with Oracle Applications for importing metadata.

These applications operate on an underlying Oracle database. Install the drivers you need to connect Oracle with SAP BusinessObjects Data Services on the same computers on which you install the Designer and Job Server components.

The Oracle Applications interface supports version 11.5 and later versions.

The Oracle Applications interface can be installed using the SAP BusinessObjects Data Services installer.

Because SAP BusinessObjects Data Services connects to Oracle through a database connection, the software can see, import, and use all Oracle Applications objects that the provided Oracle database user (such as APPS) can access without requiring application user login security information.

The Oracle Applications interface uses Oracle Application object library tables (which use the prefix `FND_%`) to get metadata information. For more information about Oracle Application metadata, see your Oracle Application Object Library/Workflow Technical Reference Manual.



Datastores



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chapter

SAP BusinessObjects Data Services uses datastore connections to link with other applications or databases. In a design environment, you use datastores to browse, search, or import metadata that represents external tables, files, messages, and other database objects. When running jobs, the software uses datastore information to move data between source and target databases and applications.

After you define an Oracle Applications datastore in SAP BusinessObjects Data Services, you can browse application modules, tables, table descriptions, and column descriptions. While stored procedures and functions are also displayed, they are not grouped by application because they are not application-specific.

You must define Oracle Applications datastore connections with accurate Oracle Applications information to ensure the accessibility of the tables.

Defining an Oracle Applications datastore

With an Oracle Applications datastore connection, you can browse Oracle Applications metadata.

Browsing and importing metadata

After creating an Oracle Applications datastore, you can browse and import the metadata from the connected application.

Note:

Although you cannot browse packages (there are too many), you can import them by name.

Extracting data from Oracle Applications systems

When extracting data from Oracle Applications, SAP BusinessObjects Data Services processes and converts data types appropriately.



Flexfields



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chapter

SAP BusinessObjects Data Services processes both descriptive flexfields and key flexfields from Oracle Applications if they are in use. Furthermore, SAP BusinessObjects Data Services can distinguish between context-specific and non-context-specific flexfields. The meaning of a context-specific flexfield is based on the value of another (context or structure) field.

Columns created from flexfields have column names based on the physical database name or end-user column name for that flexfield.

For consistency, when the software bases a column name on an end-user column name, it will translate the end-user column name from lowercase letters to uppercase, replacing all non-alphanumeric characters with an underscore.

If the physical name of a flexfield is descriptive (like `TAX_CODE_FLAG`), the software displays that physical name as the column name in a schema. However, if the physical name is generic (for example, `ATTRIBUTE1` or `SEGMENT1`) and associated with a descriptive end-user column name, the software truncates the end-user column name to 50 characters, appends it with an alphanumeric suffix, and uses it as the column name.

The software appends column names created from descriptive flexfield end-user column names with a `_D#` while column names created from key flexfields are appended with a `_K#` where # is a unique number. For example, if the physical name of a descriptive flexfield is `ATTRIBUTE1` and the end-user column name is `Status code`, the logical name might display as `STATUS_CODE_D6`.

When a descriptive flexfield's end-user column name is context-specific, representing multiple names, the first end-user column name (with suffix identifier) appears as the column name and a note appears in the key flexfield's column description, structured as follows:

```
<first end-user column name> (multi-flex column - multiple structures
based on <content field COLUMN NAME> ="<content value>" -
<field comment>)
```

When a key flexfield's end-user column name is structure-specific, representing multiple names, the first end-user column name (with suffix identifier) appears as the column name and a note appears in the key flexfield's column description, structured as follows:

<first end-user column name> (multi-flex column - multiple structures based on ID_FLEX_CODE= "<structure code value>"ID_FLEX_NUM-*<column name>* = *<structure number>*-*<field comment>*)

The following table shows how flexfield column names for both descriptive and key flexfields are based on physical name and end user column name:

Table 4-1: Descriptive Flexfields

From Oracle Applications		To SAP BusinessObjects Data Services	
Physical name:	End-user column name:	Column name:	Business name:
STAT_CODE	N/A	STAT_CODE	STAT_CODE
ATTRIBUTE1	Status code	STATUS_CODE_D1	Status code
ATTRIBUTE1	-(None)	ATTRIBUTE1	-(None)

Table 4-2: Key Flexfields

From Oracle Applications		To SAP BusinessObjects Data Services	
Physical name:	End-user column name:	Column name:	Business name:
STAT_CODE	N/A	STAT_CODE	STAT_CODE

From Oracle Applications		To SAP BusinessObjects Data Services	
Physical name:	End-user column name:	Column name:	Business name:
SEGMENT1	Status code	STATUS_CODE_K1	Status code
SEGMENT1	-(None)	SEGMENT1	-(None)

Note:

Using flexfields with SQL function calls is not supported and causes an invalid column name error. Instead, use physical column names in functions that pass commands directly to the database such as SQL and PUSHDOWN_SQL.

To learn more about flexfields, see the *Oracle Applications Flexfields Guide*.



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