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**METADATA  
WITHIN  
BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE SOLUTIONS**

IN COLLABORATION WITH  
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## Abstract

Business Intelligence Solutions are built upon several layers respectively components like ETL-tools (extraction, transformation, and loading), data warehouse (DWH), reporting, online analytical processing (OLAP) and data mining. All of these layers separately store and manage meta data in different, mostly proprietary formats. However, there are dependencies between the layers and their meta data, which becomes obvious when the same meta data is stored redundantly in several layers. Therefore, the exchange of meta data and - even better - a central meta data repository is required. Possible solutions should be based on standards and on products as far as possible.

In order to approach possible concepts, the present thesis describes the definition of meta data and responds the general question: what is meta data? It gives an explanation of meta data in Business Intelligence Solutions and their interrelations. Further topics are discussion of current meta data standard efforts such as OMG's CWM and the rudiments of MDC's OIM. In respect of interoperability and storage of metadata, the paper gives also an outline about current interchange and repository standards. It contains also a general outlook how meta data interchange between several BI tools can be realised.

Based on these theoretical framework, a further aspect of this thesis comprises the discussion of meta data in current BI products namely Cognos and IBM's DB2 UDB. After this practical consideration of meta data treatment follows a general investigation and discussion of meta data repositories respectively tools for meta data management and integration, e.g. Informatica's Superglue. But the investigation of meta data repositories occurs without specific repository tools, i.e. based on the practical examination of Cognos and DB2 UDB. But the paper includes only a possible implementation and guideline for handling meta data within a BI solution and not an evaluation of repository products.