

Business Warehouse Glossary

Aggregates: Aggregates are subsets of data from an InfoCube. Aggregates make it possible to access InfoCube data quickly in Reporting. Aggregates serve, like database indexes, to improve performance.

Attributes (Master Data Attributes): Are not stored in an InfoCube. They are joined to the master data.

Display Attributes: Subordinated to a characteristic and cannot be selected in a query.

Navigational Attributes: InfoObjects that are logically assigned attributes which you can select in the query.

Characteristics: Type of InfoObject. Non-numeric field; like building, account number, course, birthdate,

Free Characteristic: Characteristics not displayed on the initial report, but are available to be included in the report. Free Characteristics have drill-down capabilities.

Conditions: By defining a condition, you have the option of analyzing the query results in more detail. You can analyze combinations of characteristics using ranked lists, thereby displaying your ten best/worst vendors by sales.

Exceptions: The functions in exception reporting enable you to select and highlight unusual deviations of key figure values in a query.

Filter: A filter has a limiting effect on the data selected. When defining the filter, you select characteristic values from one or more characteristics or from a key figure. All of the InfoProvider data is aggregated using the filter selection of the query.

Hierarchies: The organization of the characteristic values of a characteristic into a tree structure.

Example: A hierarchy for fund centers that are combined in fund center groups.

In reporting, hierarchies for characteristics can be set in the following ways:

- As presentation hierarchies for a characteristic, if it is to be displayed as a hierarchy
- As a way of selecting particular characteristic values if a characteristic is to be restricted to a hierarchy or a hierarchy node

Hierarchies can be loaded into the BW system or created in the BW system for hierarchy basic characteristics. They can be used across InfoProviders.

InfoArea: Contains groups of InfoObjects.

InfoCube: An InfoCube is an InfoProvider that describes a self-contained dataset. An InfoCube is a quantity of relational tables that are created according to the star schema: a large fact table in the center, with several dimension tables surrounding it.

Remote InfoCube: InfoCube whose transaction data is not managed in the Business Information Warehouse, but rather externally.

InfoObject: Business evaluation objects (for example, customers or sales) are called InfoObjects in BW.

InfoObjects are subdivided into characteristics, key figures, units, time characteristics, and technical characteristics (such as request numbers).

InfoProvider: Analysis-relevant view of a BW object for which queries in SAP BW can be created or executed.

There are two types of InfoProviders. One type includes objects that contain physical data. These are known as data targets, such as InfoCubes, ODS objects, and InfoObjects (characteristics with attributes, texts, or hierarchies). The other type includes objects that display no physical data storage, such as InfoSets, RemoteCubes, SAP RemoteCubes, and MultiProviders.

InfoSet: A semantic view of ODS objects and InfoObjects (characteristics with master data) that allows you to create reports on these objects, particularly on the joins between these objects.

Key Figures: Type of InfoObject. Numeric fields; like number of items on hand, account credit amount & account debit amount.

Calculated Key Figures: Calculated key figures consist of formula definitions containing basic key figures, restricted key figures or precalculated key figures.

Restricted Key Figures: You can restrict the key figures of an InfoProvider for reuse by selecting one or more characteristics. The key figures that are restricted by one or more characteristic selections can be basic key figures, calculated key figures or key figures that are already restricted.

Master Data: Static data (data that rarely changes) describing characteristics. Example: An employee's master data can be Birthdate, Home Address, Home Phone, Social Security Number, and Ethnicity.

MultiProvider: Type of InfoProvider that combines data from several InfoProviders and makes it available for reporting.

The MultiProvider itself contains no data; its data comes exclusively from the InfoProviders on which it is based (collated using a join-union operation). You can assemble a MultiProvider from different combinations of InfoProviders.

ODS: Operational Data Store is an object that stores consolidated and cleansed transaction data on a document level

Personalization: You can personalize single variables or all variables in a Web application. This means you assign the variables to a value permanently or until you remove the personalization. Personalization means that you do not always have to make the settings for a variable, that is your personal settings, over and over again.

Report to Report Interface: The report-report interface allows you the flexibility to call a jump target (receiver) online from a BW query (sender) within or outside of the Business Information Warehouse. Jump targets that have been assigned to a BW query can be selected in BEx Web applications and in the BEx Analyzer. You access them from the context menu under the *Goto* function.

Structure: Combinations of characteristics and key figures of the InfoProvider.

Local Structures: Structures that have not been saved as reusable that can only be used in one query.

Reusable Structures: A structure that has been saved as reusable can be used in several queries for the same InfoProvider.

Some of the Glossary definitions have been taken from the SAP Library
http://help.sap.com/saphelp_erp2004/helpdata/en/88/3c1640d4642402e10000000a1550b0/frameset.htm