

The Issue

What do you do when enterprise applications do not talk to one another?

How do you find the information you are looking for? Do you have one place where you can find a consolidated view of this knowledge?

How do you assemble data describing a customer that is found in a number of different applications and managed on different platforms?

What happens when information that is the responsibility of one group of users is of interest to others located across an enterprise?

How can you leverage the functionality of search engines to access data resident in your databases and enterprise applications?

The Solution

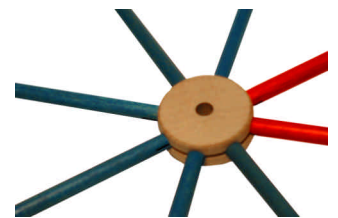
dbCrawler is a software product that leverages XML-based technologies to provide users the ability to find information contained in databases across their enterprise. This functionality is delivered using a simple browser-based interface.

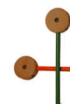
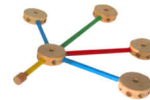
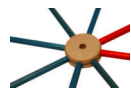
As part of a complete dbCrawler implementation, TRIMAP staff work with customers to define exactly what corporate information is needed and determine how specific data elements relate to each other.

Once these relationships are defined and the dbCrawler software is configured, it is used to first interrogate information in corporate databases and then publish XML files. This data is extracted on a scheduled basis.

After a customer-selected search engine is configured, it is used to search and reference the XML files created by dbCrawler and any other corporate data that may be applicable.

Using the search engine results, data is combined with an XSL style sheet to format and display it as part of the simple user interface. In some cases, the XSL style sheet can be used to launch other applications using key identifiers and pre-populate specific required fields.



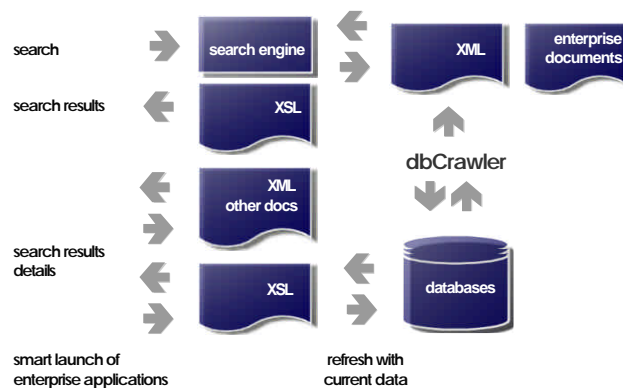


Functionality, benefits and specifications

- Enables searching of information resident in SQL 92 compliant databases across a corporate environment.
- Integrates disparate data for a specific customer such as billing, transaction, usage, contact or inventory-related information.
- Presents data to an end-user in a single window or "dashboard" interface.
- Uses a table-driven technique to map data located within different databases.
- Can be used to launch specific applications that "own" specific data, directly from the same user interface.
- For applications launched using the simple interface, automatically populate key fields from data contained in the XML data file.
- Enables simple keyword search across 'collections' of data to reduce time required to find information.
- Enables searches on multiple attributes at the same time (use of "and", "or", "<near>", "**").
- Provides extremely fast access to information assembled from data managed across an enterprise.
- Avoids creation of new applications.
- Minimizes need for data entry by leveraging and re-using existing processes, data and documents.
- Provides fast startup and early benefits through use of an existing and proven scalable solution that has been deployed by major organizations in Canada and the United States.
- Users define what information is needed, where it can be located and how specific data elements relate to each other.
- Can be used with different search engines including Verity, Google and Microsoft Index Server.
- Extensive use of XML / XSL technologies.
- Minimal hard drive and RAM requirements.
- Can be deployed in a Unix or NT/Win2000-based environment.

Process

- XML files are created by dbCrawler as part of a scheduled process, typically, as part of a nightly batch process.
- An end-user accesses a simple browser interface to execute a search for some customer-related data.
- A search engine is used to find documents and files that meet the search criteria including XML files created by dbCrawler.
- XML data files included in the search results are transformed and displayed using an XSL stylesheet.
- A user may retrieve the complete XML data file containing information integrated from sources and applications across the enterprise (for example customer details, account status and all products or services that may have been acquired).
- Data can quickly be refreshed with real time information that is managed by third party applications.
- Applications can automatically be "smart-launched" where fields are automatically populated by information contained in the dbCrawler generated XML file.



roBott

dbCrawler

srWriter

qaBuilder

vgMapper

A construction set for enterprise application integration