



### What does SAS Information Map Studio do?

SAS Information Map Studio creates information maps—business metadata that translates your warehouse and data structures into terms that business users can understand, enabling consistency and self-sufficiency in getting the information needed to drive decisions.

### Why are SAS Information Maps important?

SAS Information Maps provide a business metadata layer that enables your business users to ask questions and get answers themselves. This frees IT resources from one-time reporting requests and reduces the need to provide training in programming and database structures.

### For whom is SAS Information Map Studio designed?

SAS Information Map Studio is designed for information architects and query designers who need to create and manage information maps (business metadata) to enable self-service information access by business users.

## SAS® Information Map Studio

*Empowering business users with self-sufficient access to consistent information*

Mission-critical decisions are made daily at all levels of an organization. Almost everyone needs fast, easy access to appropriate information. In spite of this necessity, corporate information is virtually locked away in a variety of corporate databases and remains inaccessible to many employees.

Most business users do not have the programming experience needed to extract data from different data sources. Experts such as data modelers and query designers understand the syntax and data warehouse well enough to retrieve the appropriate data from disparate systems to service requests accurately, but it is tough for IT departments to keep pace with the growing demand for data and reports. In addition, security and data integrity standards must be maintained, so it's not possible to provide everyone with open access to the data warehouse.

As a result, IT is overloaded with one-time requests for information because users cannot self-sufficiently get data from across the enterprise into their own reports.

SAS Information Map Studio is a Java application for creating and managing information maps (business metadata). This business metadata layer enables business users to query the data and get their own answers without programming knowledge or extensive database architecture training. Information maps enable IT to distribute the physical reporting database to business users in terms they understand, as well as provide and manage consistent results across users and applications. Core business rules can be defined in the

information maps and distributed to each user in exactly the same manner regardless of department or location. And, because information maps are stored in a central metadata repository, they can be accessed and reused by multiple SAS applications.

### Key benefits

- **Frees IT from one-time reporting requests.** SAS Information Map Studio enables IT to provide common sets of information in terms that are understood by business users. Business users can then use the information maps to create queries and build the reports they need without IT intervention and without having to know SQL, MDX or anything about the physical data stores held throughout the organization. Stress is reduced on IT departments as one-time requests from the majority of users are removed from the workload.
- **Users get consistent reports and information.** SAS Information Map Studio leverages SAS' centralized metadata architecture and the information maps are stored in the SAS Metadata Repository. As a result, information maps are available across the suite of SAS 9.1 reporting interfaces and to SAS solutions. Information is presented in a consistent fashion across all departments and divisions with everyone using the same terminology in the same way. This ensures that IT resources are not spent reconciling data inconsistencies. Business users are more effective and can make better decisions because they can trust the information they gather.



stored process will execute first, the table is refreshed with the latest results and those results are shown in the report.

### **Leverage SAS' centralized metadata architecture**

SAS Information Maps are stored in the central SAS Metadata Repository. As a result, they are available consistently across the suite of SAS 9.1 reporting interfaces and to SAS solutions built on the SAS Enterprise Intelligence Platform. Information maps are integrated across the entire SAS Intelligence Value Chain and metadata maintenance is no longer an issue.

### **Administer information maps**

Information maps can be organized into a folder tree in the SAS Metadata Server, and you can use SAS Information Map Studio to create, move, rename or delete the information maps. A query testing facility enables you to see and validate the query code (either SQL or MDX), based on selections from the information map.

SAS Information Map Studio allows you to apply row-level permissions to an information map based on relational data. As a result, data is filtered for specific user groups, so each group sees only its authorized subset of the data. Individual information maps, as well as folders containing multiple information maps, can be secured from within SAS Information Map Studio or by using SAS Management Console.

## **Key Features**

### **Integrated with SAS BI Architecture**

- Reads the metadata captured in SAS Metadata Server that describes physical data sources.
- Stores information maps in the SAS Metadata Server to provide centralized access from multiple SAS applications.
- Generates data lineage reports, showing what physical resources are referenced in the information map.

### **Map physical structures to understandable business terms in information maps**

- Create data items that map physical data references to business-context terms.
- Create data items with descriptive labels.
- Organize data items into folders and subfolders so users can easily find information.

### **Access data from virtually any data source**

- Access data from SAS data sets, DB2, Oracle, Teradata, SQL Server and many other databases.
- Access data across different RDBMS. Join a table from one database to a table in another database.
- Access multidimensional OLAP structures using SAS OLAP Server (9.1).

### **Graphical user interface for drawing data models**

- Set up relationships between different RDBMS tables in the information map. Both single-key and multiple-key relationships are supported.
- Automatically create join relationships when a table is added to the information map.
- Create table aliases to provide additional flexibility required for proper query generation.

### **Capture consistent business rules**

- Create predefined filter expressions that users can select to provide the appropriate result subset.
- Create prompted filters so users can dynamically select filter values when creating or viewing a report.
- Define calculated expressions, using either the expression builder or by manually entering the appropriate code. The code can be validated to ensure proper syntax.
- Set the data format, including SAS user-defined formats, to provide a consistent representation in downstream reports and other applications.

### **Specify allowable options for end users**

- Capture allowable aggregations for numeric measures, so business users have the appropriate information on how to use a data item.
- Generate values for the filter expression by querying the database, supply a predetermined list of values or allow users to enter the value they want.
- Use settings to restrict sorting or ranking and establish the default format for displaying data (including SAS user-defined formats).

### **Leverage SAS Stored Processes**

- Stored processes can be linked to information maps allowing the full power of SAS to analyze and transform the data that will be presented by the SAS Information Map.

### **Administer information maps**

- Create, move, rename or delete information maps within a folder tree in the SAS Metadata Server.
- Use the "Test Query" facility to see and validate the query code (either SQL or MDX) based on selections from the information map.
- Row-level permissions can be applied to an information map based on relational data. This filters the data surfaced for specific user groups so each group sees only its subset of the data.
- Secure information maps or folders containing information maps from within SAS Information Map Studio or by using SAS Management Console.

## SAS® Information Map Studio

### Technical Requirements

#### *Client environment*

- Windows (x86-32): Windows 2000 Professional, Windows XP Professional.

#### *Server environment*

- SAS Information Map Studio must connect to an environment running SAS BI Server or SAS Enterprise BI Server.
- Please refer to the SAS Enterprise BI Server Fact Sheet for a complete list of supported hardware systems, including Windows, UNIX, Linux and mainframe.

#### *Required/optional software*

- SAS Information Map Studio is delivered as a component of SAS BI Server, SAS Enterprise BI Server, SAS AppDev Studio, SAS Information Delivery Portal and many other SAS solutions.
- SAS OLAP Server is required to create information maps on top of multidimensional data sources.



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