

High impact Data Warehousing with SQL Server Integration Services and Analysis Services

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A DW architecture



Session Objectives

- Assumptions
 - Experience with SSIS and SSAS
- Goals
 - Discuss design, performance, and scalability for building ETL packages and cubes (UDMs)
 - Best practices
 - Common mistakes

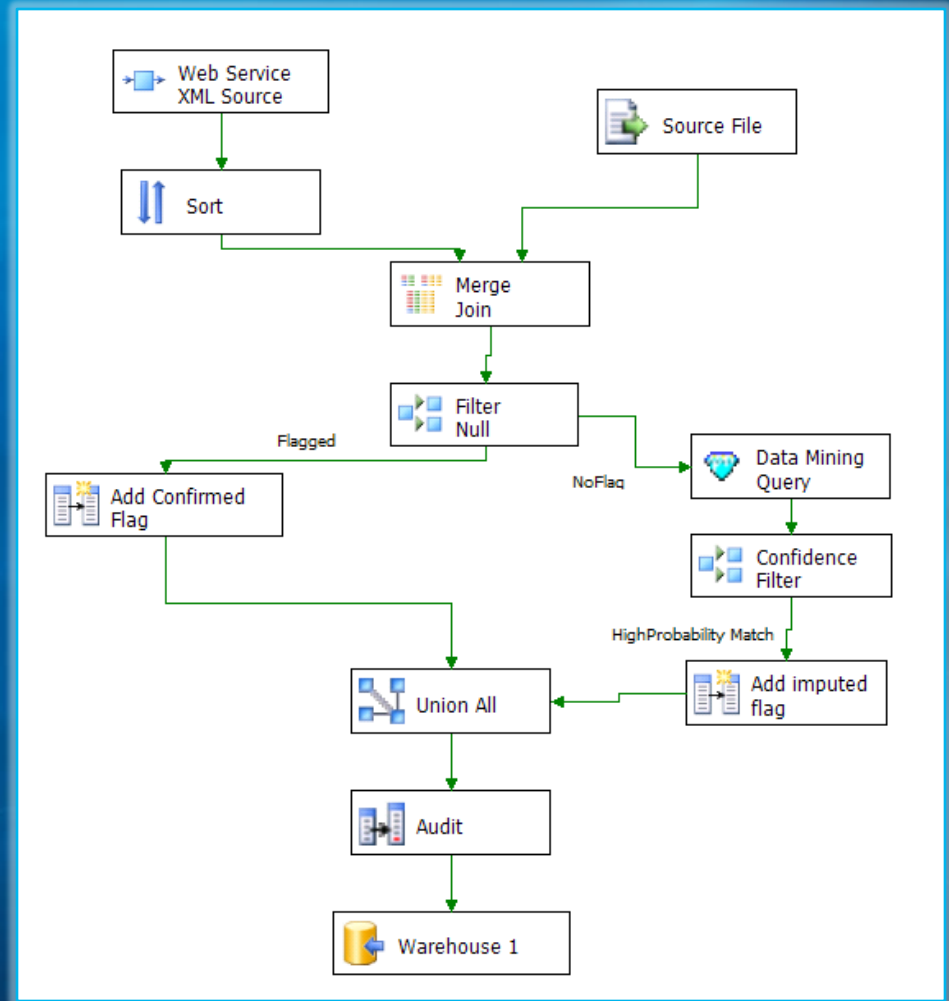
SQL Server 2005 BPA availability!

- BPA = Best Practice Analyzer
- Utility that scans your SQL Server metadata and recommends best practices
- Best practices from dev team and Customer Support Services
- What's new:
 - Support for SQL Server 2005
 - Support for Analysis Services and Integration Services
 - Scan scheduling
 - Auto update framework
 - CTP available now, RTM April
- <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?FamilyId=DA0531E4-E94C-4991-82FA-F0E3FBD05E63&displaylang=en>

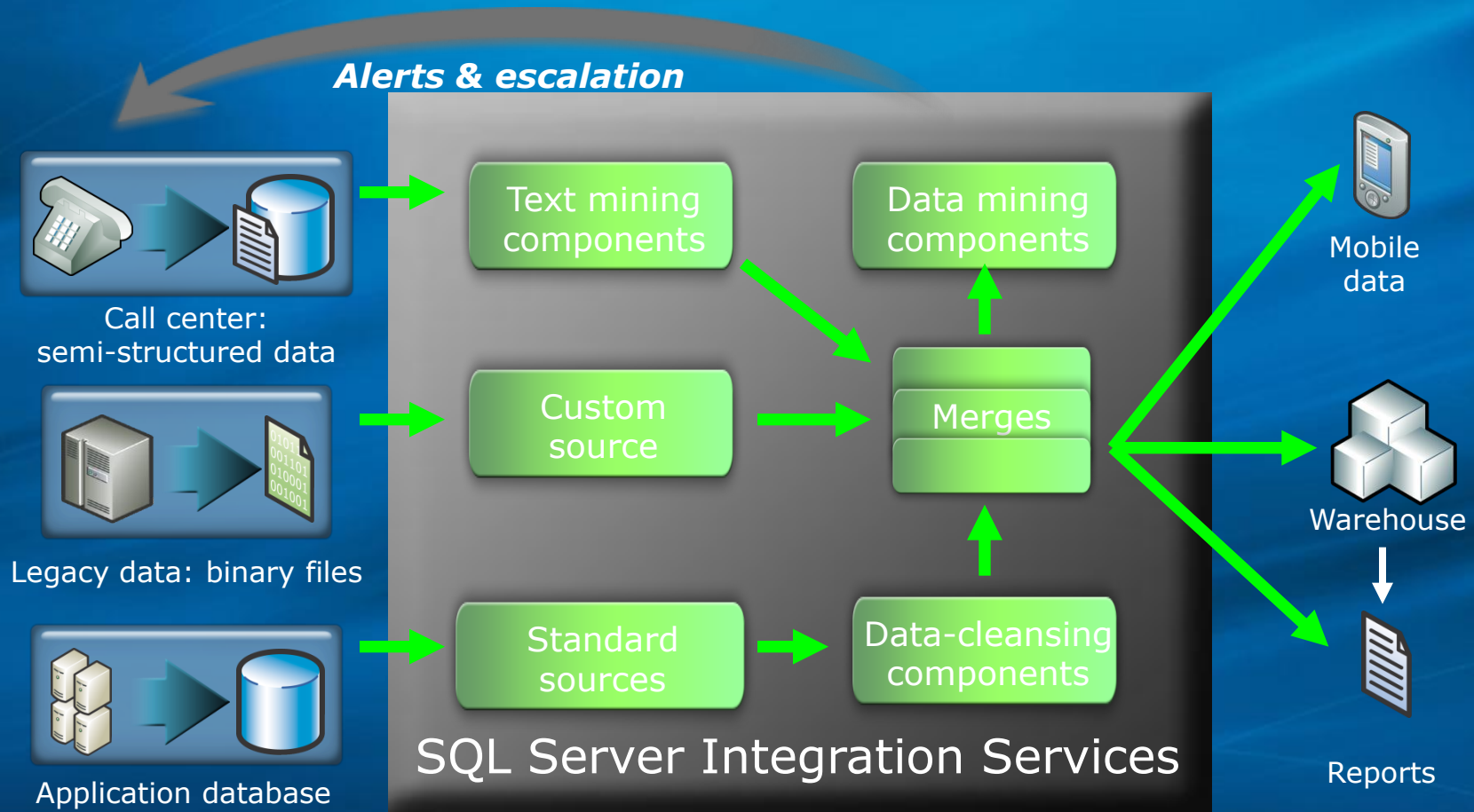
Integration Services

What is SQL Server Integration Services?

- Introduced in SQL Server 2005
- The successor to Data Transformation Services
- The platform for a new generation of high-performance data integration technologies



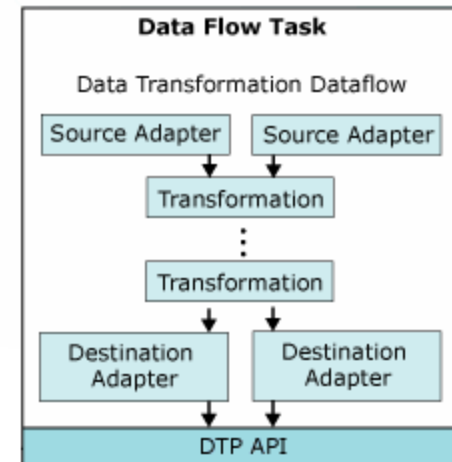
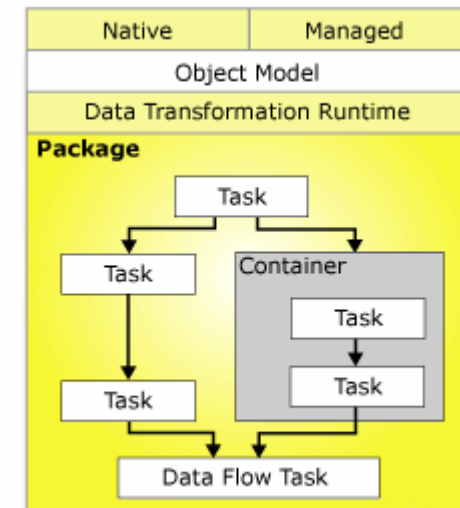
Changing the Game with SSIS



- Integration and warehousing are a seamless, manageable operation.
- Source, prepare, and load data in a single, auditable process.
- Reporting and escalation can be parallelized with the warehouse load.
- Scales to handle heavy and complex data requirements.

SSIS Architecture

- Control Flow (Runtime)
 - A parallel workflow engine
 - Executes containers and tasks
- Data Flow (“Pipeline”)
 - A special runtime task
 - A high-performance data pipeline
 - Applies graphs of components to data movement
 - Component can be sources, transformations or destinations
 - Highly parallel operations possible



Agenda

- Overview of Integration Services
- **Principles of Good Package Design**
- Component Drilldown
- Performance Tuning

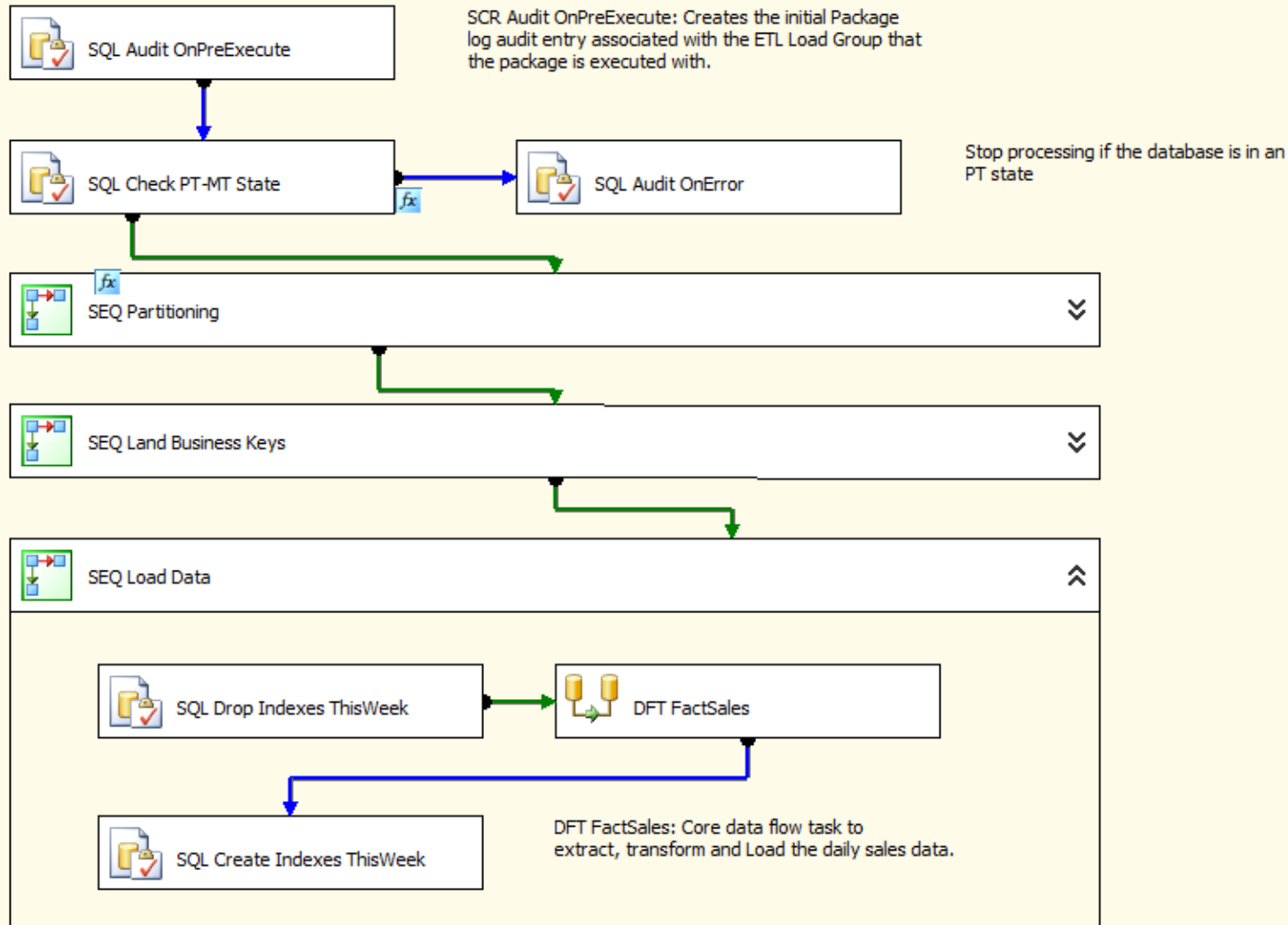
Principles of Good Package Design - General

- Follow Microsoft Development Guidelines
 - Iterative design, development & testing
- Understand the Business
 - Understanding the people & processes are critical for success
 - Kimball's "Data Warehouse ETL Toolkit" book is an excellent reference
- Get the big picture
 - Resource contention, processing windows, ...
 - SSIS does not forgive bad database design
 - Old principles still apply – e.g. load with/without indexes?
- Platform considerations
 - Will this run on IA64 / X64?
 - No BIDS on IA64 – how will I debug?
 - Is OLE-DB driver XXX available on IA64?
 - Memory and resource usage on different platforms
 - SSIS connectivity options at [http://ssis.wik.is/Connectivity Libraries](http://ssis.wik.is/Connectivity_Libraries)

Principles of Good Package Design - Architecture

- Process Modularity
 - Break complex ETL into logically distinct packages (vs. monolithic design)
 - Improves development & debug experience
- Package Modularity
 - ...

Good Package Modularity



Principles of Good Package Design – Architecture (continued)

- Package Modularity
 - Separate sub-processes within package into separate Containers
 - More elegant, easier to develop
 - Simple to disable whole Containers when debugging
- Component Modularity
 - Use Script Task/Transform for one-off problems
 - Build custom components for maximum re-use

Principles of Good Package Design - Infrastructure

- Use Package Configurations
 - Build it in from the start
 - Will make things easier later on
 - Simplify deployment Dev → QA → Production
- Use Package Logging
 - Performance & debugging
- Build in Security from the start
 - Credentials and other sensitive info
 - Package & Process IP
 - Configurations & Parameters

Component Drilldown - Tasks & Transforms

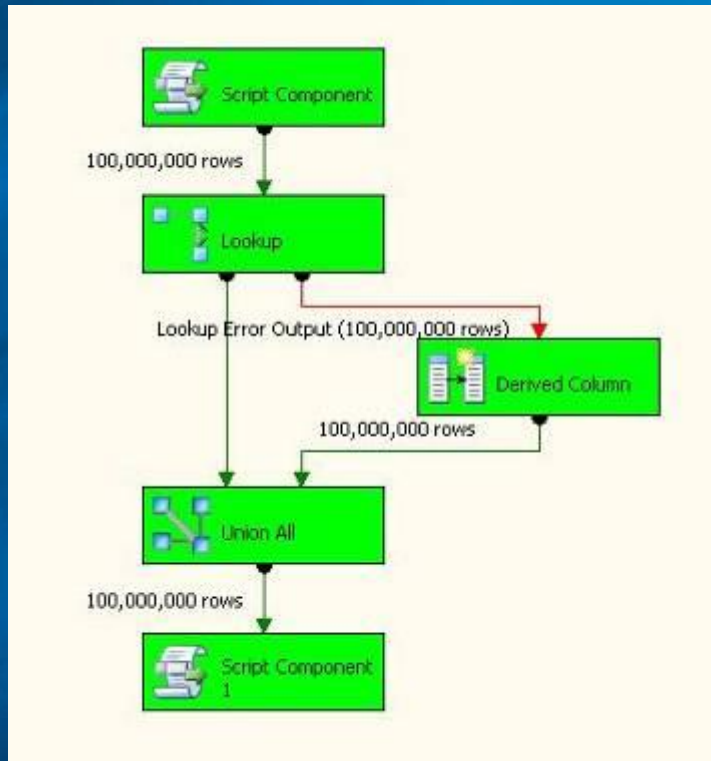
- Maximize Parallelism
 - Allocate enough threads
 - EngineThreads property on DataFlow Task
 - “Rule of thumb” - # of datasources + # of async components
- Minimize blocking
 - Synchronous vs. Asynchronous components
 - Memcopy is expensive – reduce the number of asynchronous components in a flow if possible – example coming up later
- Minimize ancillary data
 - For example, minimize data retrieved by LookupTx

Debugging & Performance Tuning - Volume

- SSIS is just another client for the data sources
- Remove redundant columns
 - Use SELECT statements as opposed to tables
 - SELECT * is your enemy
 - Also remove redundant columns after every async component!
- Filter rows
 - WHERE clause is your friend
 - Conditional Split in SSIS
 - Concatenate or re-route unneeded columns
- Parallel loading
 - Source system split source data into multiple chunks
 - Flat Files – multiple files
 - Relational – via key fields and indexes
 - Multiple Destination components all loading same table

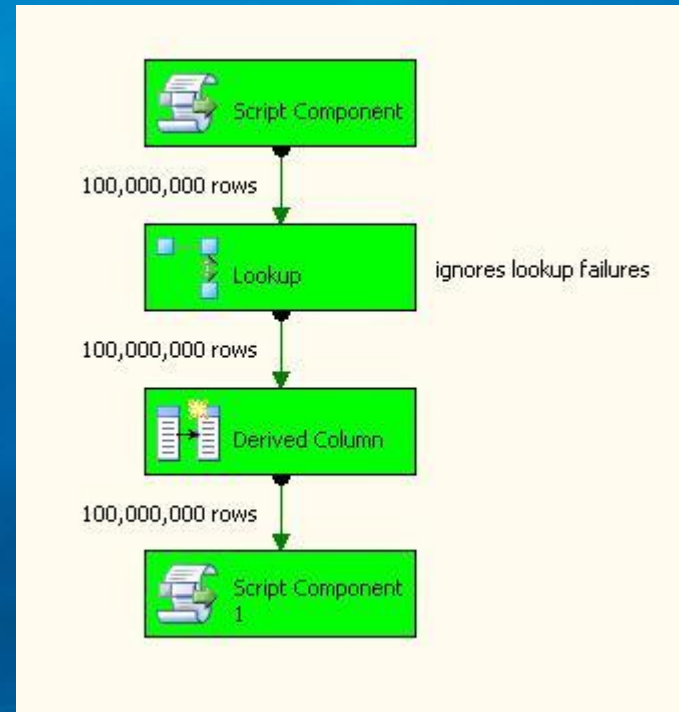
Case Study - Patterns

Use Error Output for handling Lookup miss



105 seconds

Ignore lookup errors and check for null looked up values in Derived Column



83 seconds

See Project Real for examples of patterns:

<http://www.microsoft.com/sql/solutions/bi/projectreal.msp>

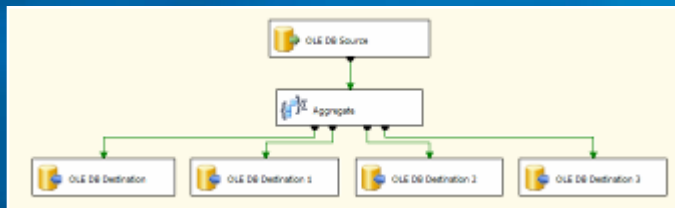
Debugging & Performance Tuning – A methodology

- Optimize and Stabilize the basics
 - Minimize staging (else use RawFiles if possible)
 - Make sure you have enough Memory
 - Windows, Disk, Network, ...
 - SQL FileGroups, Indexing, Partitioning
- Get Baseline
 - Replace destinations with RowCount
 - Source->RowCount throughput
 - Source->Destination throughput
- Incrementally add/change components to see effect
 - This could include the DB layer
 - Use source code control!
- Optimize slow components for resources available

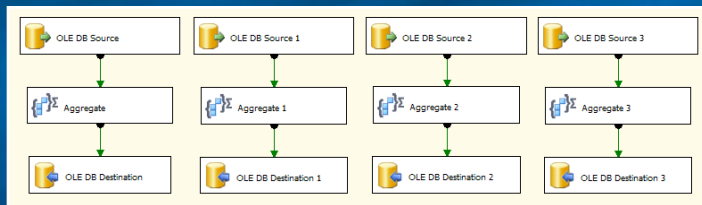
Case Study - Parallelism

- Focus on critical path
- Utilize available resources

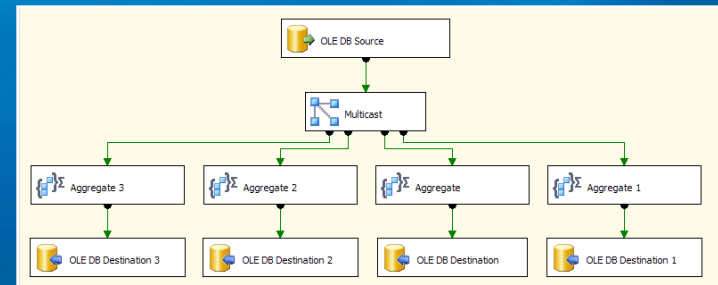
Memory Constrained



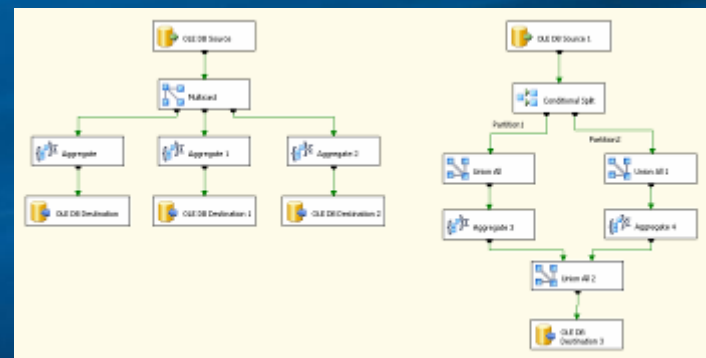
Let it rip!



Reader and CPU Constrained



Optimize the slowest



- Tip: Use Throughput Component in Project REAL to identify slow paths
- Tip: SSIS Performance whitepaper for more details on CPU, memory usage

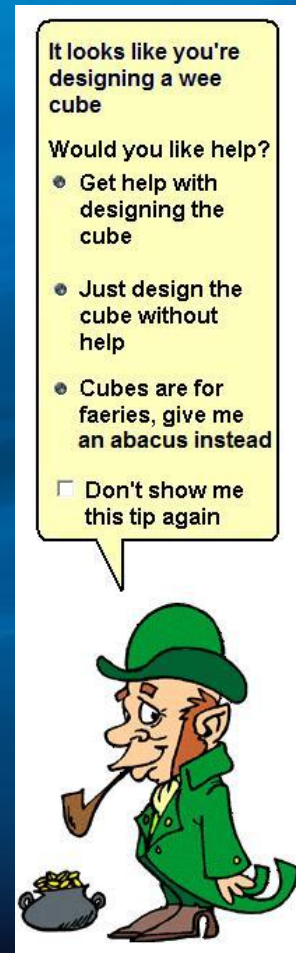
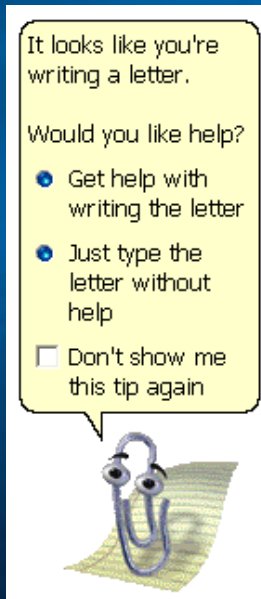
Summary

- Follow best practice development methods
- Understand how SSIS architecture influences performance
 - Buffers, component types
 - Design Patterns
- Learn the new features
 - But do not forget the existing principles
- Use the native functionality
 - But do not be afraid to extend
- Measure performance
 - Focus on the bottlenecks
- Maximize parallelism and memory use where appropriate
 - Be aware of different platforms capabilities (64bit RAM)
- Discipline is key

Analysis Services

Announcing...

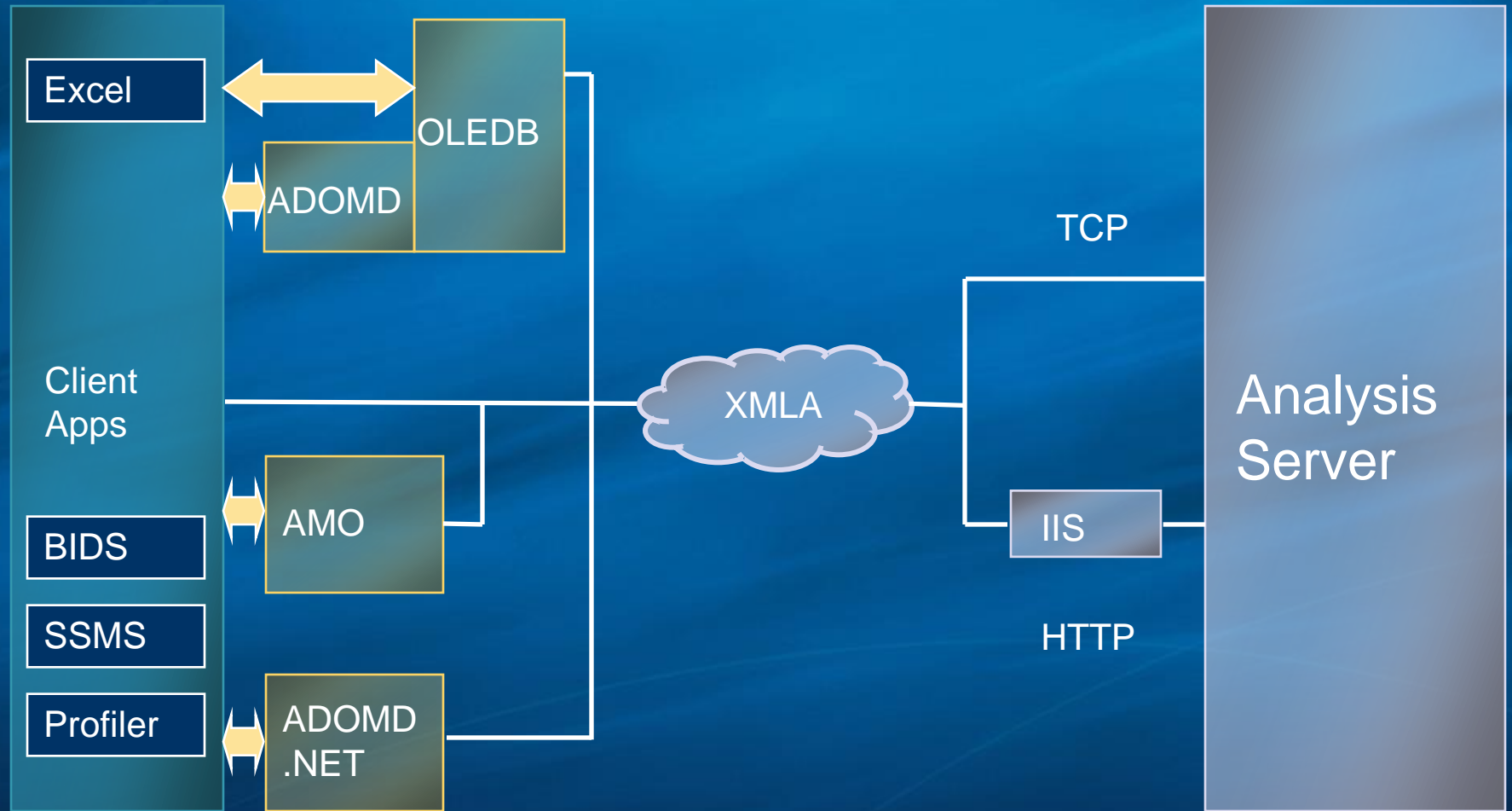
Clippy® for Business Intelligence!



Agenda

- Server architecture and UDM basics
- Optimizing the cube design
- Partitioning and Aggregations
- Processing
- Conclusion

Client Server Architecture



Dimension

- An entity on which analysis is to be performed (e.g. Customers)
- Consists of:
 - Attributes that describe the entity
 - Hierarchies that organize dimension members in meaningful ways

Customer ID	First Name	Last Name	State	City	Marital Status	Gender	...	Age
123	John	Doe	WA	Seattle	Married	Male	...	42
456	Lance	Smith	WA	Redmond	Unmarried	Male	...	34
789	Jill	Thompson	OR	Portland	Married	Female	...	21

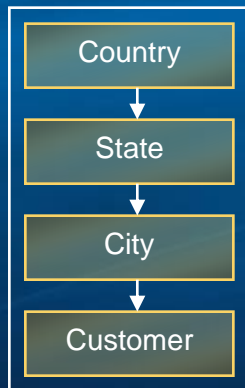
Attribute

- Containers of dimension members.
- Completely define the dimensional space.
- Enable slicing and grouping the dimensional space in interesting ways.
 - Customers in **Dubai** and **age > 50**
 - Customers who are **married** and **eat Shawarma**
- Typically have one-many relationships
 - City → State, State → Country, etc.
 - All attributes implicitly related to the key

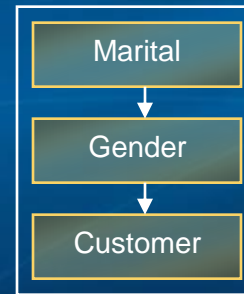
Hierarchy

- Ordered collection of attributes into levels
- Navigation path through dimensional space
- User defined hierarchies – typically multiple levels
- Attribute hierarchies – implicitly created for each attribute – single level

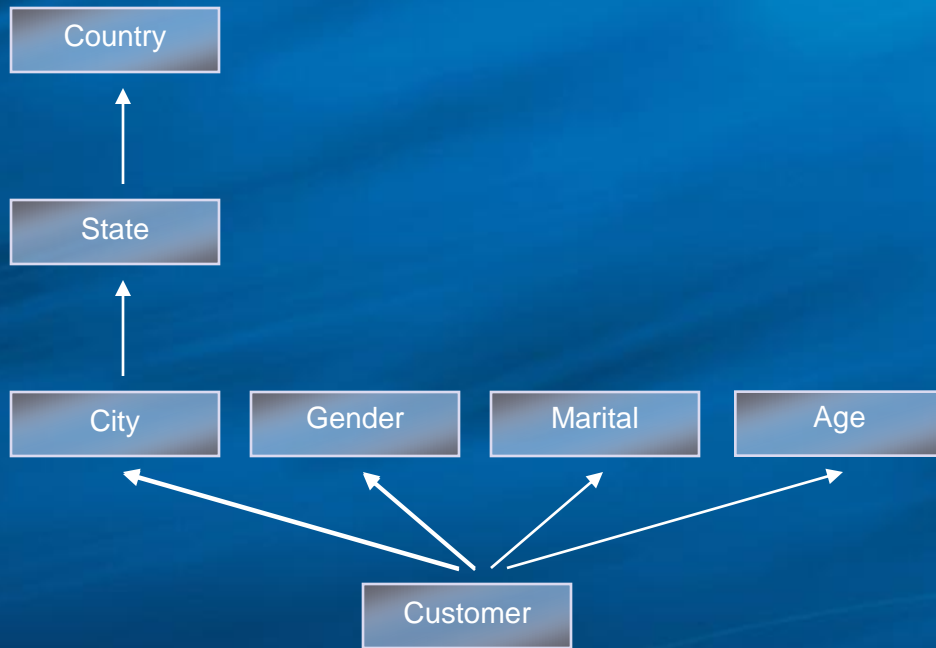
Customers by Geography



Customers by Demographics



Dimension Model



Attributes

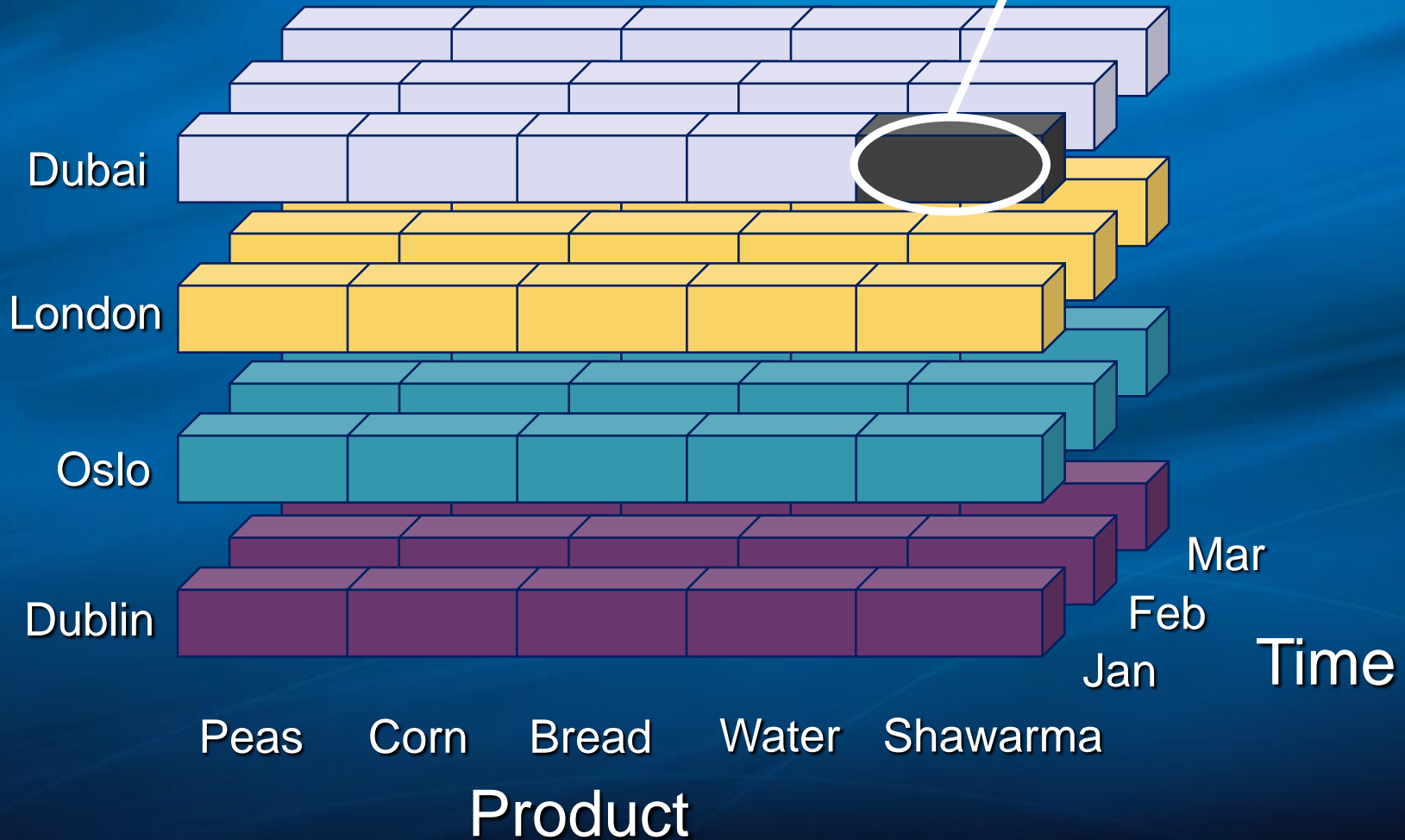


Hierarchies

A Cube

Units of Shawarma sold in
Dubai in January

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Cube

- Collection of dimensions and measures
- Measure → numeric data associated with a set of dimensions (e.g. Qty Sold, Sales Amount, Cost)
- Multi-dimensional space
 - Defined by dimensions and measures
 - E.g. (Customers, Products, Time, Measures)
 - Intersection of dimension members and measures is
a cell (U.A.E., Shawarma, 2006, Sales Amount) =
Dhs. 10,523,374.83

Measure Group

Measure Group

Dimension

	Sales	Inventory	Finance
Customers	X		
Products	X	X	
Time	X	X	X
Promotions	X		
Warehouse		X	
Department			X
Account			X
Scenario			X

Measure Group

- Group of measures with same dimensionality
- Analogous to fact table
- Cube can contain more than one measure group
 - E.g. Sales, Inventory, Finance
- Multi-dimensional space
 - Subset of dimensions and measures in the cube
- AS2000 comparison
 - Virtual Cube → Cube
 - Cube → Measure Group

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SQL Server 2005 SP2

- Consider moving to SP2 as soon as possible
- Very important release for SSAS
 - Significant number of performance optimizations
 - Excel 2007 features
 - Responses to top customer feedback
 - Etc.
- <http://www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx?familyid=D07219B2-1E23-49C8-8F0C-63FA18F26D3A&displaylang=en>

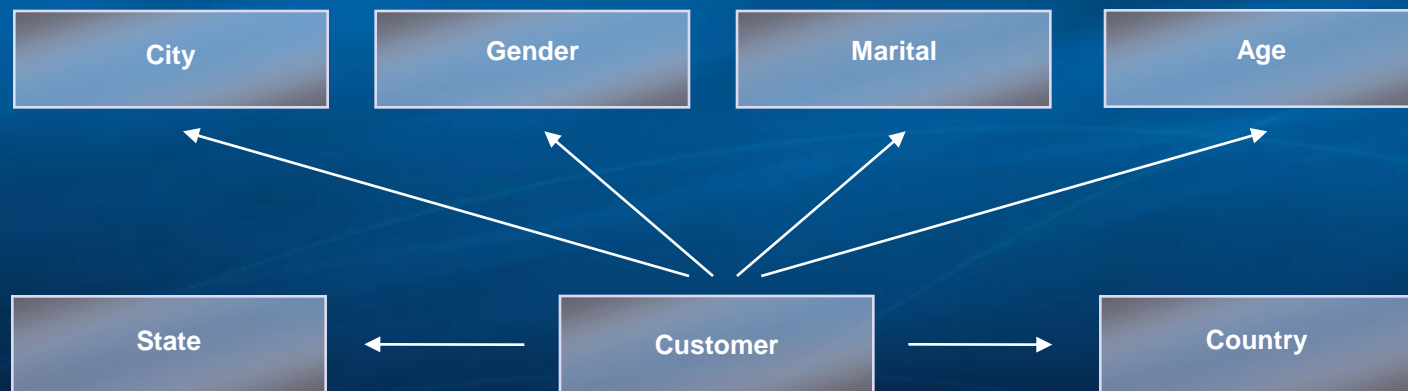
Top 3 Tenets of Good Cube Design

- Attribute relationships
- Attribute relationships
- Attribute relationships

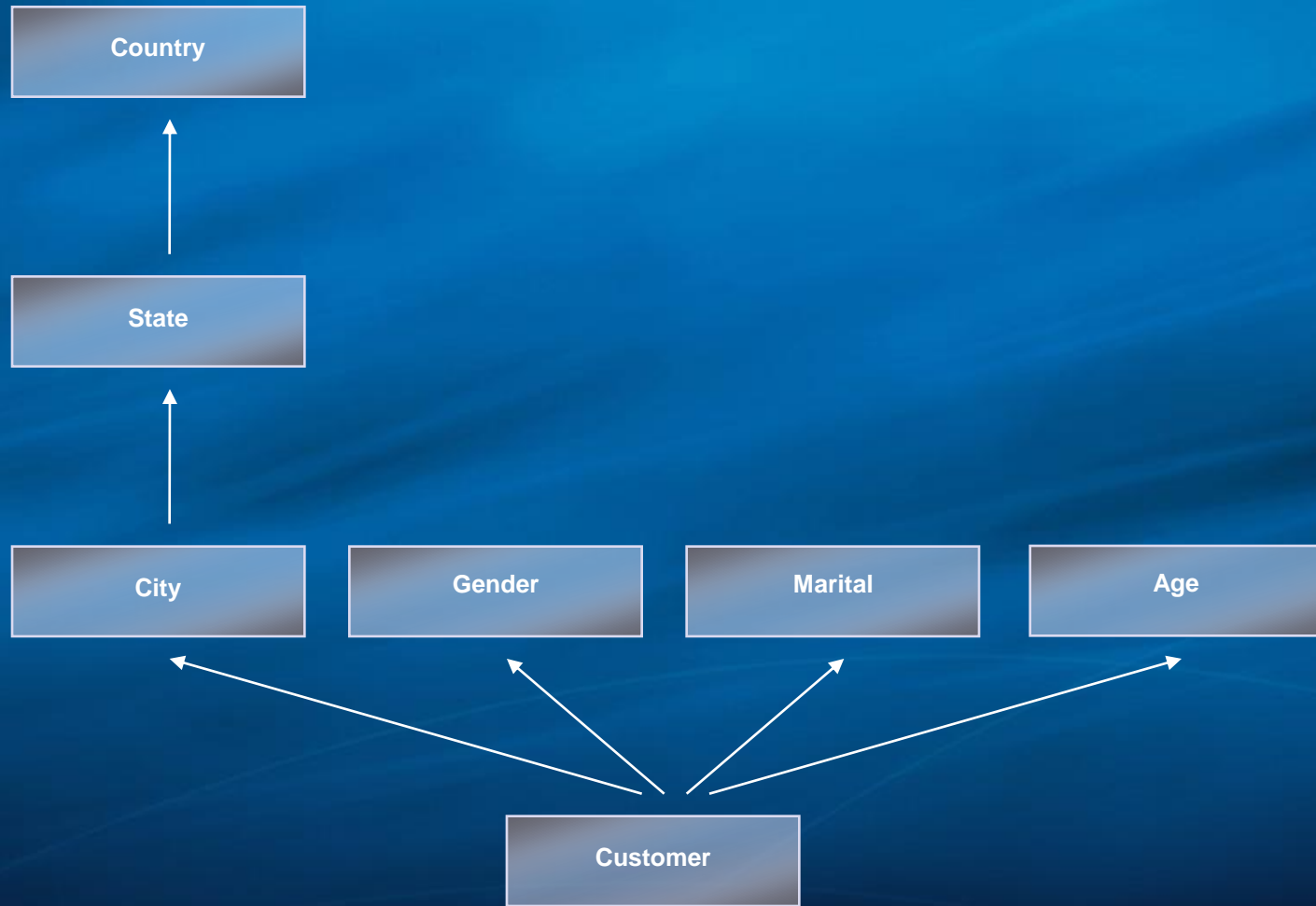
Attribute Relationships

- One-to-many relationships between attributes
- Examples:
 - City → State, State → Country
 - Day → Month, Month → Quarter, Quarter → Year
 - Product Subcategory → Product Category
- Rigid v/s flexible relationships (default is flexible)
 - Customer → City, Customer → PhoneNo are flexible
 - Customer → BirthDate, City → State are rigid
- Server simply “works better” if you define them where applicable
- All attributes implicitly related to key attribute

Attribute Relationships (continued)



Attribute Relationships (continued)



Attribute Relationships

Where are they used?

- MDX Semantics
 - Tells the formula engine how to roll up measure values
 - If the grain of the measure group is different from the key attribute (e.g. Sales by Month)
 - Attribute relationships from grain to other attributes required (e.g. Month → Quarter, Quarter → Year)
 - Otherwise no data (NULL) returned for Quarter and Year

MDX Semantics explained in detail at:

<http://www.sqlserveranalysisisservices.com/OLAPPapers/AttributeRelationships.htm>

Attribute Relationships

Where are they used?

- Aggregation design
 - Enables aggregation design algorithm to produce effective set of aggregations
- Dimension security
 - DeniedSet = {Country.U.A.E.} should deny cities and customers in U.A.E. – requires attribute relationships

Attribute Relationships

How to set them up?

- Creating an attribute relationship is easy, but ...

Attribute Relationships

How to set them up?

- Creating an attribute relationship is easy, but ...
 - Pay careful attention to the key columns!
 - Make sure every attribute has unique key columns (add composite keys as needed)
- There must be a 1:M relation between the key columns of the two attributes
- Invalid key columns cause a member to have multiple parents
 - Dimension processing picks one parent arbitrarily and succeeds
 - Hierarchy looks wrong!

User Defined Hierarchies

- Pre-defined navigation paths thru dimensional space defined by attributes
- Attribute hierarchies enable ad hoc navigation
- Why create user defined hierarchies then?
 - Guide end users to interesting navigation paths
 - Existing client tools are not “attribute aware”
 - Performance
 - Optimize navigation path at processing time
 - Materialization of hierarchy tree on disk
 - Aggregation designer favors user defined hierarchies

Best Practices for Cube Design

• Attributes

- Define all possible attribute relationships!
- Mark attribute relationships as rigid where appropriate
- Use integer (or numeric) key columns
- Set AttributeHierarchyEnabled to false for attributes not used for navigation (e.g. Phone#, Address)
- Set AttributeHierarchyOptimizedState to NotOptimized for infrequently used attributes
- Set AttributeHierarchyOrdered to false if the order of members returned by queries is not important

• Hierarchies

- Use natural hierarchies where possible

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Partitioning

- Mechanism to break up large cube into manageable chunks
- Partitions can be added, processed, deleted independently
 - Sliding window scenario easy to implement
 - E.g. 24 month window → add June 2006 partition and delete June 2004
- Partitions can have different storage settings
 - MOLAP: store aggregations and facts in OLAP
 - ROLAP: store aggregations and facts in Relational
 - HOLAP: aggregations in MOLAP, leave facts in relational

Partitions require Enterprise Edition!

Benefits of Partitioning

- Partitions can be processed and queried in parallel
 - Better utilization of server resources
 - Reduced data warehouse load times
- Queries are isolated to relevant partitions → less data to scan
 - `SELECT ... FROM ... WHERE [Time].[Year].[2006]`
 - Queries only 2006 partitions
- Bottom line → partitions enable:
 - Manageability
 - Performance
 - Scalability

Best Practices for Partitioning

- No more than 100s of partitions, less than 20M rows per partition
- Specify partition slice
 - Optional for MOLAP – server auto-detects the slice and validates against user specified slice (if any)
 - Must be specified for ROLAP
- Manage storage settings by usage patterns
 - Frequently queried → MOLAP with lots of aggs
 - Periodically queried → MOLAP with less or no aggs
 - Historical → ROLAP with no aggs

How to Monitor Aggregation Usage?

SQL Server Profiler - [Untitled - 2 (bi-real-es64)]

File Edit View Replay Tools Window Help

EventClass	EventSubcl...	TextData	Connectio...	NTUser...	ApplicationN...
Existing Session		*	13	lenwy	Microsoft SQ...
Notification	6 - Object ...		59	dwickert	
Query Begin	0 - MDXQu...	SELECT { ([Measures].[Sales Qty]) ON COLUMNS , NON EMPTY { ([Item].[...	63	dwickert	Microsoft SQ...
Query Cube Begin			63		
Calculate Non Empty Begin			63		
Get Data From Aggregation		Query 5a 19b Store Sales	63		
Get Data From Aggregation		Query 5a 19b Store Sales	63		
Get Data From Aggregation		Query 5a 19b Store Sales	63		
Get Data From Aggregation		Query 5a 19b Store Sales	63		
Get Data From Aggregation		Query 5a 19b Store Sales	63		
Progress Report Begin	14 - Query	Started reading data from the 'Query 5a 19b Store Sales' aggregation.	63	dwickert	
Progress Report Begin	14 - Query	Started reading data from the 'Query 5a 19b Store Sales' aggregation.	63	dwickert	
Progress Report Begin	14 - Query	Started reading data from the 'Query 5a 19b Store Sales' aggregation.	63	dwickert	
Progress Report Begin	14 - Query	Started reading data from the 'Query 5a 19b Store Sales' aggregation.	63	dwickert	
Progress Report Begin	14 - Query	Started reading data from the 'Query 5a 19b Store Sales' aggregation.	63	dwickert	
Progress Report End	14 - Query	Finished reading data from the 'Query 5a 19b Store Sales' aggregation.	63	dwickert	
Progress Report End	14 - Query	Finished reading data from the 'Query 5a 19b Store Sales' aggregation.	63	dwickert	
Progress Report End	14 - Query	Finished reading data from the 'Query 5a 19b Store Sales' aggregation.	63	dwickert	
Progress Report End	14 - Query	Finished reading data from the 'Query 5a 19b Store Sales' aggregation.	63	dwickert	
Progress Report End	14 - Query	Finished reading data from the 'Query 5a 19b Store Sales' aggregation.	63	dwickert	
Query Subcube	2 - Non-ca...	000,00000000100,000,0,01000110...	63		
Query Subcube Verbose	22 - Non-c...	Dimension 0 [Buyer] (0 0 0) [Buyer Name]:0 [Buyer Index]:0 [Buyer ID]:0 Dim...	63		
Get Data From Aggregation		Query 5b 19c Store Sales	63		
Get Data From Aggregation		Query 5b 19c Store Sales	63		
Get Data From Aggregation		Query 5b 19c Store Sales	63		

Profiler

How to Monitor Aggregation Usage?

[illegible]

Tip: SP2 includes aggregation utility for fine tuning aggregations

Best Practices for Aggregations

- Aggregation design cycle
 - Use Storage Design Wizard (~20% perf gain) to design initial set of aggregations
 - Enable query log and run pilot workload (beta test with limited set of users)
 - Use Usage Based Optimization (UBO) Wizard to refine aggregations
 - Use larger perf gain (70-80%)
 - Reprocess partitions for new aggregations to take effect
 - Periodically use UBO to refine aggregations

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Improving Processing

- SQL Server Performance Tuning
 - Improve the queries that are used for extracting data from SQL Server
 - Check for proper plans and indexing
 - Conduct regular SQL performance tuning process
- AS Processing Improvements
 - Use SP2 !!
 - Processing 20 partitions: SP1 1:56, SP2: 1:06
 - Don't let UI default for parallel processing
 - Go into advanced processing tab and change it
 - Monitor the values:
 - Maximum number of data source connections
 - MaxParallel – How many partitions processed in parallel, don't let the server decide on its own.
 - Use INT for keys, if possible.

Parallel processing requires Enterprise Edition!

Improving Processing

- For best performance use ASCMD.EXE and XMLA
 - Use <Parallel> </Parallel> to group processing tasks together until Server is using maximum resources
 - Proper use of <Transaction> </Transaction>
- ProcessFact and ProcessIndex separately instead of ProcessFull (for large partitions)
 - Can help isolate performance problems & provide predictable data source usage
- ProcessClearIndexes deletes existing indexes and ProcessIndexes generates or reprocesses existing ones.

Best Practices for Processing

- Partition processing
 - Monitor aggregation processing spilling to disk (perfmon counters for temp file usage)
 - Add memory, turn on /3GB, move to x64/ia64
 - Fully process partitions periodically
 - Achieves better compression over repeated incremental processing
- Data sources
 - Avoid using .NET data sources – OLEDB is faster for processing, .NET data sources may have cause ~30% performance hit

Conclusion

- AS2005 is major re-architecture from AS2000
- Design for perf & scalability from the start
- Many principles carry through from AS2000
 - Dimensional design, Partitioning, Aggregations
- Many new principles in AS2005
 - Attribute relationships, natural hierarchies
 - New design alternatives – role playing, many-to-many, reference dimensions, semi-additive measures
 - Flexible processing options
 - MDX scripts, scopes
- Use Analysis Services Enterprise Edition and SP2 to get max performance and scale

Resources

• SSIS

- SQL Server Integration Services site – links to blogs, training, partners, etc.:
<http://msdn.microsoft.com/SQL/sqlwarehouse/SSIS/default.aspx>
- SSIS MSDN Forum:
<http://forums.microsoft.com/MSDN/ShowForum.aspx?ForumID=80&SiteID=1>
- SSIS MVP community site:
<http://www.sqlis.com>

• SSAS

- BLOGS: <http://blogs.msdn.com/sqlcat>
- [PROJECT REAL-Business Intelligence in Practice](#)
- [Analysis Services Performance Guide](#)
- [TechNet: Analysis Services for IT Professionals](#)

• Microsoft BI

- SQL Server Business Intelligence public site:
<http://www.microsoft.com/sql/evaluation/bi/default.asp>
- <http://www.microsoft.com/bi>