

# Cognos DecisionStream™

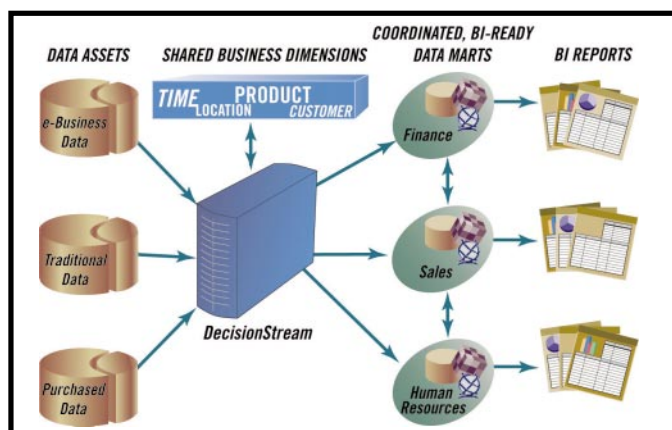
## Enterprise Business Intelligence Starts with Coordinated Data Marts

**TOGETHER WITH COGNOS BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE, DECISIONSTREAM BUILDS AN EFFICIENT END-TO-END BUSINESS SOLUTION—FROM THE RAPID INTEGRATION OF DISPARATE DATA SOURCES TO EFFICIENT ANALYSIS AND REPORTING ON A CONSISTENT DATA FOUNDATION.**

Cognos DecisionStream is a powerful ETL (extraction, transformation, and load) tool that unites data from transaction-style data sources, including legacy files, purchased data (mailing lists), and ERP data sources. It transforms, aggregates, filters, and loads this data to a target, either staging tables or a star schema, in a relational database.

### SHARED DIMENSIONAL FRAMEWORK

But DecisionStream does much more than conventional ETL. Central to the DecisionStream engine is a solid dimensional framework that builds and manages conformed subject-matter data marts that are the foundation of the Cognos solution. Because DecisionStream data marts share business dimensions such as “customer,” “time,” and “location,” they are fast and easy to build and provide unlimited enterprise scalability. As the foundation of the Cognos business intelligence (BI) solution, they give users across the enterprise access to consistent business metrics, allowing more collaborative decision-making.



*DecisionStream's shared dimensional framework allows you to design a series of coordinated data marts.*

DecisionStream builds an end-to-end solution with Cognos BI services to deliver a common, consistent data view for faster, more confident decision-making.

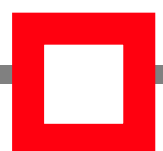
DecisionStream's shared dimensional framework

- Ensures that data is structured and checked for integrity according to specific business dimensions, such as customer, time, location, and so on, to support the way business users think
- Enforces a consistent view of corporate information across all data marts, because all data transformation jobs use the same dimensional framework
- Provides a central location to update dimension definitions
- Enables on-the-fly aggregation of transactional data along dimensional hierarchies
- DecisionStream automatically manages many of the complex processes associated with warehouse dimension table creation and management, including surrogate and dimension history management, support for slowly changing dimensions, and effective date timestamping

### A PIPELINED MULTI-PLATFORM TRANSFORMATION ENGINE

DecisionStream's high-performance transformation engine works within your existing data architecture and tight update schedule to rapidly transform high volumes of transactional data into BI-ready data marts. The benefits of the transformation engine include

- A single pass pipeline to ensure that data is retrieved only once and all aggregation points are calculated in one pass



- A sophisticated star join engine for multi-source merging and aggregation of transactional data to the appropriate dimensional hierarchies and multidimensional targets
- Powerful transformations using built-in or user-defined functions
- Fast access and updates of all major relational databases by leveraging native database APIs and bulk-load utilities
- Easy integration of data mart creation into many different application and scheduling architectures, across UNIX and NT server platforms

## INTEGRATION WITH THE COGNOS SOLUTION

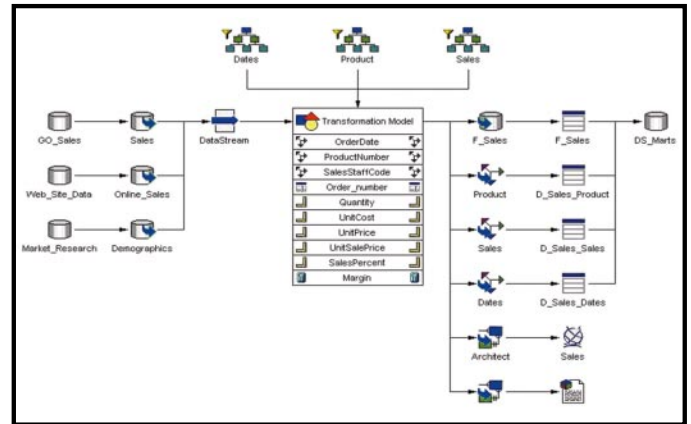
DecisionStream's seamless integration with Cognos' industry-leading solution delivers full enterprise business intelligence value. From transforming and loading data into data marts to deploying business models and reports, DecisionStream ensures the shortest time to deployment. It

- Creates default Cognos Architect models, Impromptu® catalogs, and key reports optimized for each data mart
- Builds default PowerPlay® models (PowerCubes™) from the dimensional framework and coordinates PowerPlay Transformer jobs to create and refresh these PowerCubes

## RAPID PROTOTYPING AND DEPLOYMENT

DecisionStream's graphical design environment enables rapid prototyping and deployment by providing

- A design environment that provides visualizations for overall JobStreams, build processes, source and target mappings, and star joins
- A reference explorer for prototyping the dimensional framework
- An integrated SQL browser for interactively editing and testing queries
- The ability to export data mart creation definitions for cross-platform server deployment



DecisionStream's graphical design environment displays the data flows of a build and allows for direct access to build object properties, enabling rapid prototyping and deployment.

## TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

*Server Platforms:* HP-UX, Sun SPARC Solaris, IBM AIX, Compaq Tru64 UNIX, Windows NT

*Designer Platforms:* Windows 95, Windows 98, Windows 2000, Windows NT

*Database Source / Target Support:* Oracle, Informix, Sybase, MS SQL Server, DB2, ODBC, Flat Files

*Other Target Support:* Cognos PowerPlay, Impromptu, and Architect, and other OLAP Servers such as Microsoft SQL Server Analysis Services

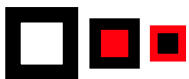
## SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

To install and use DecisionStream for Windows, your computer should have the following minimum configuration:

- RAM 128 megabytes or above
- A hard disk with at least 55 megabytes of free disk space

For high-volume jobs involving many dimensions and aggregation, a high-end UNIX machine with at least 2 gigabytes of memory is recommended.

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