

webMethods OneData for Hierarchy Management

CREATE AND MANAGE HIERARCHIES OF ANY KIND AND COMPLEXITY

Manage enterprise charts of accounts for financial reporting or branding structures for consumer goods products or different organizational structures across your organization. You can do all this with webMethods OneData. webMethods OneData provides a ready-to-use, adaptive framework to help your organization manage hierarchies of all types and complexity.

webMethods OneData is a Master Data Management (MDM) solution that provides powerful hierarchy management features, including hierarchy creation wizards, versioning, a configurable business rules engine, workflow approvals, collaboration, and security. OneData's Web-based, graphical user interface makes it easy to create and manage hierarchies, improving productivity and decision making.

FEATURES

Business-user Interface

Create and maintain hierarchies, and manage all associated information, with OneData's easy to use, intuitive front-end (Figure 1). View and manage different associations of a node without having to switch to different views with a "view" axis. View the same information in multiple ways. In addition, you get:

- Graphical visualizations.
- Extensive filtering options to shortlist and navigate to a sub-set of nodes on the hierarchy tree.
- Personalization options to configure views.
- Snapshot versions or "point in time" versions compared.
- Color/icon palettes based on type of node.
- Drag-and-drop for relationship realignment. Menu utilities if nodes not visible for drag-drop on ragged structures.

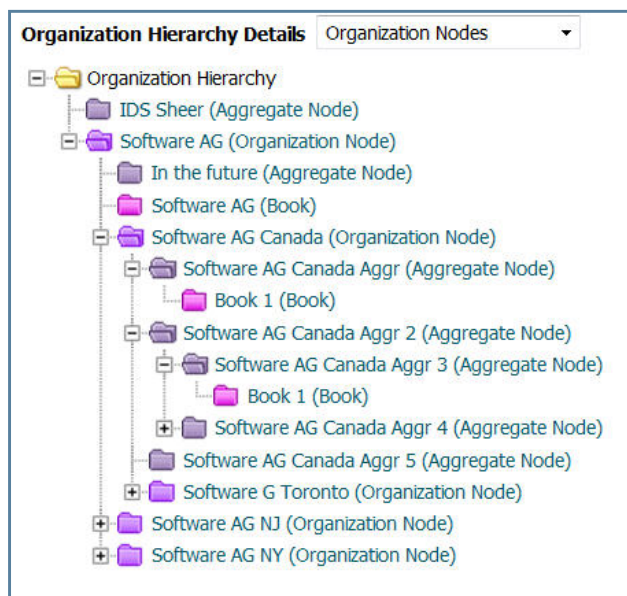


Figure 1. OneData's business user interface to manage hierarchies

Data Model

OneData's versatility means you incorporate your data model into the solution. Extend or modify the model at any time – OneData's user interface adapts accordingly without any programming changes required. The model has no proprietary structures, so it can be queried by any 3rd-party tool. See Figure 2.

Import Wizard and Scheduler

Hierarchies may be created and data loaded from other applications or import files. All dependencies are resolved and maintained during the import process. Imports may be scheduled to run at pre-defined times. Incremental data change detection and load is part of the core import process.

Versioning

webMethods OneData provides multiple options for versioning and rules associated with hierarchies. You choose the appropriate option for each hierarchy/subject area:

- **Persistent Version:** A snapshot of an approved version is created as the working version. All changes are made to the working version, and the changes migrate through the workflow approval pipeline as a

single version. On final approval, changes are posted to deploy and report-only users.

- **Temporal Nodes:** Query hierarchies at a "point in time" with effective dates and expiration dates on individual active nodes and relationships, rather than maintaining a snapshot.
- **In-place snapshot:** Provides the same capability as Temporal Nodes and includes the option to show the user a node's associated attributes at any point in time.

With the Persistent Version option, authorized users create and delete scratchpad versions to simulate what-if scenarios, if needed. These versions are never published but can be deployed to test environments for what-if reporting. Compare versions of hierarchies, merge scratchpad versions and merge all back into the Work-In-Progress version.

Workflow Approval Process

With webMethods OneData you get multiple options for the workflow approval process – approval of isolated changes and approval of versions as a complete set. The approval process varies depending on the versioning option configured (see above). For example, with Persistent Version, changes flow through the pipeline on manual triggering of the approval request by the current authorized user

or user group. The default approval process creates new workflow transactions in pending pipeline or appends to an existing pending transaction. Approval routes can be different based on the type of change (key events – insert/delete or update – attribute level routes).

Graphical View

Hierarchies are viewed and navigated through OneData's graphical applet (see Figure 3). Drill-down by node or by exploding all branches.

Hierarchy Deployment

OneData offers multiple options for deployment to downstream systems. The flexible deployment capabilities distribute the repository contents to subscribing systems, enabling quick alignment of all applications without any programming. Distribution techniques available include JMS messaging, XML, Web services, Direct updates, Email and File transfer.

Security

Security is role-based, fine-grained, and provides the ability to control column-level as well as row-level access to data. External authentication via LDAP or Windows Active Directory is supported.

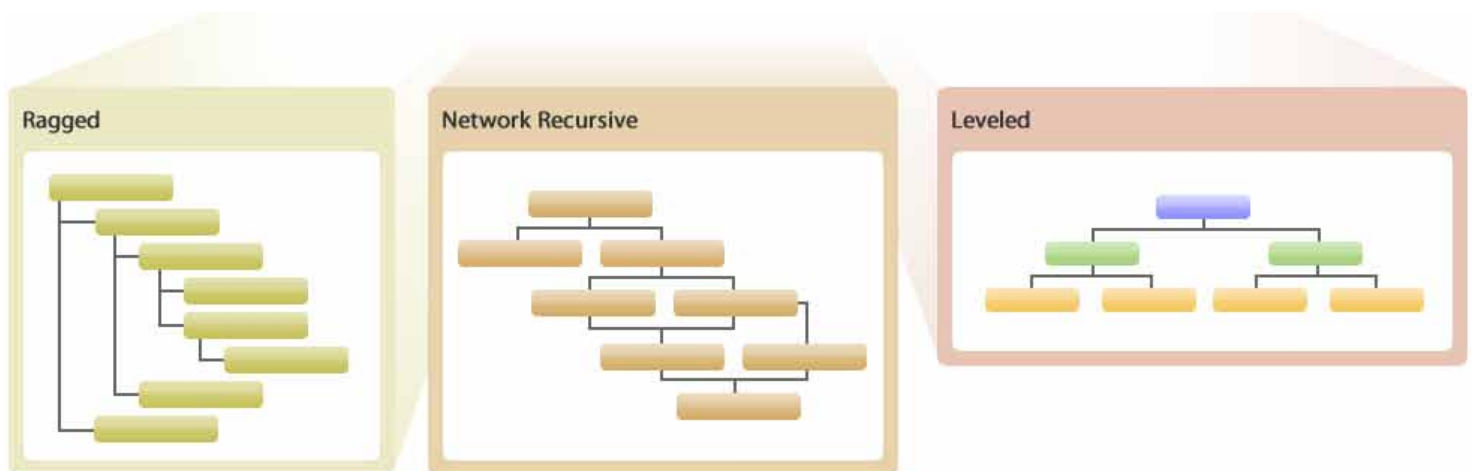


Figure 2. OneData's support for different types of hierarchies

Business Rules Engine and Interactive Hooks (User Exits)

OneData's flexible and configurable business rules engine requires no programming to implement the rules provided in the solution. Interactive Hooks (iHooks) invoke validation routines, interactive process flow wizards and post-action events such as data manipulation and workflow approval. The framework allows extensibility of webMethods OneData with either stored procedures or Java RMI functions.

Hooks are executed automatically on an event or invoked interactively through the webMethods OneData front-end. Hooks are used in scenarios ranging from enforcing validation rules to creating a 10-step prompted wizard to create master data.

High-volume Support

With OneData you can browse and manage hierarchies that contain millions of nodes. This high performance is due to sophisticated proprietary structures within OneData that utilize the power of the underlying relational platform.

Summary

webMethods OneData is a powerful Master Data Management (MDM) solution that reconciles, cleanses and synchronizes enterprise master data on customers, products, suppliers – whatever category you choose. With its Hierarchy Management features, OneData also helps manage your data hierarchies – bill of materials for products, sales territory structures, customer organization structures, business units, etc. – so you get “one version of truth” about your enterprise's key business relationships. With OneData, only reliable, accurate and approved enterprise information flows through your processes, systems and applications. Plus, with Software AG's process-driven approach, you identify the right hierarchy data and control ongoing changes.

With webMethods OneData you get data your business can count on.

Get to know more about OneData by visiting our web site: www.SoftwareAG.com/mdm

BENEFITS

Manage and govern all types of enterprise hierarchies belonging to different subject areas, with different requirements and use cases.

Incorporate your data model, maintaining inherent relationships and dependencies.

Gain multiple ways to view and manage hierarchies (graphical, flat, de-normalized) with multiple options for versioning and workflow for each hierarchy.

Manage other subject areas such as Customer or Product data, or Reference data. Store, manage and associate unstructured data such as documents and images with hierarchies.

Facilitate your Service Oriented Architecture (SOA) environment with numerous integration options such as Web Services, Java Message Service (JMS), XML support and API.

Get flexible workflow routing and integration with e-mail to effectively manage the ongoing quality of data in the repository.

Open, scalable, extendible architecture allows applications to grow with your organization's demands. Allows for a phased rollout of different subject areas.

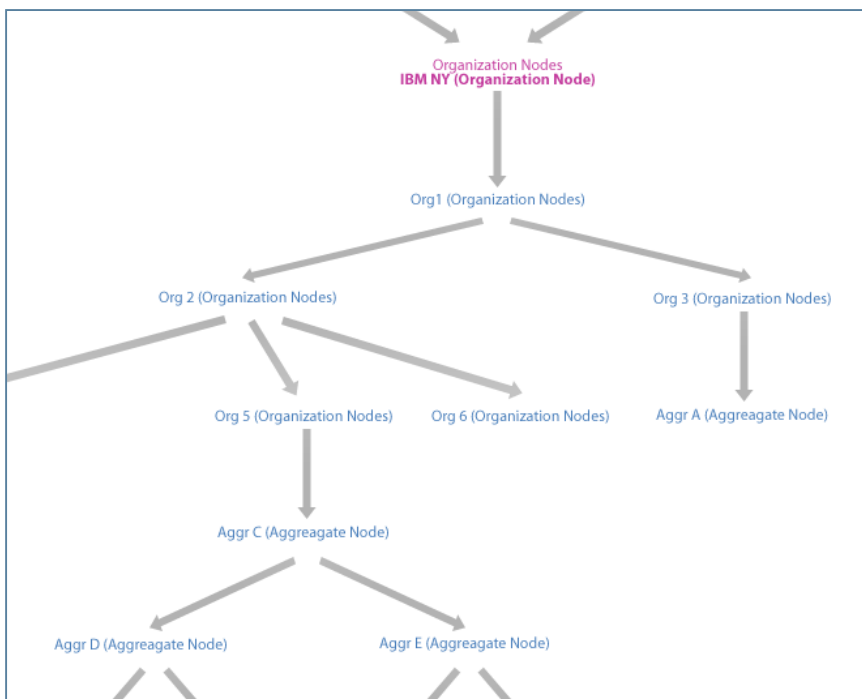


Figure 3. Hierarchy view through OneData's graphical applet

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Software AG is the global leader in Business Process Excellence. Our 40 years of innovation include the invention of the first high-performance transactional database, Adabas; the first business process analysis platform, ARIS; and the first B2B server and SOA-based integration platform, webMethods.

We offer our customers end-to-end Business Process Management (BPM) solutions delivering low Total-Cost-of-Ownership and high ease of use. Our industry-leading brands, ARIS, webMethods, Adabas, Natural, CentraSite and IDS Scheer Consulting, represent a unique portfolio encompassing: process strategy, design, integration and control; SOA-based integration and data management; process-driven SAP implementation; and strategic process consulting and services.

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