Informatica PowerExchange for SQL Server
On-demand Access to Enterprise Data

Informatica PowerExchange® for SQL Server is part of Informatica’s extensive PowerExchange family of universal data access and delivery products. By interfacing seamlessly with Informatica PowerCenter®, PowerExchange for SQL Server enables any organization to deliver data managed in SQL Server databases to multiple strategic IT initiatives—from data marts to operational data stores, for data integration, consolidation, migration, and synchronization—or move data into applications built on SQL Server databases from other data sources as needed.

**BENEFITS**

- Enables business events—not technology—to drive integration processes through patented Change Data Capture Option
- Provides reliable, once-only delivery with unmatched resilience to failure via tight PowerCenter integration and transactional SQL Server access
- Supports compliance initiatives during development and execution through strict enforcement of SQL Server security constraints and data encryption
- Enhances organizational agility, lowers costs and improves time-to-results by eliminating costly manual coding and reducing requirements for SQL Server skills
- Delivers high performance and robust operation thanks to native SQL Server interfaces

**PowerExchange—for Integrating Applications and Data**

Whether migrating to or from SQL Server, consolidating SQL Server instances, or executing any data integration project with SQL Server, many organizations have learned just how challenging it is to build data integration solutions from the ground up.

Coding custom integration logic requires SQL Server domain expertise, and whenever integration requirements include access to data managed by packaged applications, passed via message-oriented middleware, or exposed as Web services, additional hard-to-find technical talent will be needed—increasing cost and risk. As data volumes grow beyond the point where batch windows can cope, more advanced solutions can be built on triggers, date stamps, or similar techniques—but using these methods is complex and can have unacceptable production impact. Add the recurring costs needed to maintain this logic—as the underlying SQL Server database structures change, as the surrounding applications are enhanced, and as the supporting IT environment evolves—and the drawbacks of this approach become clear.

PowerExchange for SQL Server overcomes these obstacles.

It lets PowerCenter directly read and write SQL Server databases. Its patented CDC Option supports high volume and low latency integration scenarios by capturing SQL Server database updates as they occur and sending them to PowerCenter without depending on intermediate message queues or staging tables. Committed updates are delivered, in sequence, with the kind of reliability that can come only with an integrated platform. And there’s no code to develop, so integration interfaces can be developed faster and more reliably, whether they require access to message-oriented middleware, mainframe, midrange, or relational databases, service-oriented architecture and Web services, or packaged applications. One family of products, using one set of skills, accesses them all.

The advantages of PowerExchange don’t stop there. Each member of the PowerExchange family automatically captures relevant metadata from its sources and targets and shares it with the rest of the Informatica platform. Proposed changes can be assessed rapidly and implemented with confidence, and the same metadata can help resolve questions of data lineage that often arise in audit and compliance exercises—one more advantage of the Informatica data integration platform.

PowerExchange for SQL Server Key Features and Benefits

Event-driven Integration with the Change Data Capture (CDC) Option

Business events such as hiring a new employee or shipping a customer order can’t always wait for nightly windows. The CDC Option is a high-performance, non-invasive way to detect these events as soon as they happen, filter them for relevance, and deliver them to PowerCenter—in the proper sequence and without drop-outs or duplicates.

Represented as trusted, committed database updates, business events can be pushed in real-time to PowerCenter, or condensed by PowerExchange and pulled by PowerCenter in batches whenever desired. PowerCenter can then enrich and transform the captured update, handing it off to PowerExchange to trickle-feed into an operational database or data warehouse, or deliver it to a Web service, or any other target in the PowerExchange family. IT infrastructure cost can be lowered by reducing data volumes and by performing data transformation away from production servers.

Reliable Data Synchronization, Replication—and More

PowerExchange and PowerCenter can support sophisticated data replication and synchronization requirements involving complex conflict resolution decisions. Data is captured just once, but it can be delivered to multiple heterogeneous databases without queueing middleware or intermediate staging of data in files or databases. Moreover, as the range of integration projects broadens to include more sources and targets—from additional databases to comprehensive service-oriented architectures (SOA) to packaged applications—total costs are kept lower because the same Informatica platform products and familiar skills support integration scenarios far beyond the capabilities of point replication or synchronization.

Automated Capture of SQL Server Metadata

Informatica PowerExchange for SQL Server automatically captures all available SQL Server metadata from the SQL Server system catalog and delivers it to the Informatica repository, seamlessly integrating it with metadata from other PowerExchange data sources and targets to support the entire data integration life cycle. During development this metadata is used to guide SQL Server access and conversion. As changes occur—whether in SQL Server or in the sources and targets surrounding it—this metadata helps keep maintenance costs down by enabling fast, error-free impact assessment that is unavailable with hand-coded integration techniques.

SQL Server Integration Support

Batch: Native SQL Server interfaces.
CDC Option: captures changes by subscribing to a published SQL Server Replication.

About the Informatica PowerExchange Family

Informatica PowerExchange® is a family of universal data access and delivery products from Informatica. It gives Informatica PowerCenter® bi-directional access to popular ERP and CRM systems, relational and non-relational databases, mainframe and midrange systems, message queuing systems, Web services, and many other enterprise sources and targets. Seamless integration with PowerCenter and metadata-driven development support a drag-and-drop interface that eliminates hand-built integration code, delivers fast and reliable data movement, and supports enterprise-wide initiatives for data quality, internal audit, and regulatory compliance. The PowerExchange CDC Option delivers trusted database updates through PowerCenter to any PowerExchange target, supporting sophisticated right-time data integration strategies and batch-oriented techniques. PowerExchange truly is the foundation of any organization’s data integration strategy. For more information, please visit www.informatica.com/products/PowerExchange.