Managing changes within a business intelligence environment can be an overwhelming task for any IT department, large or small. As the premier change management tool in the BI industry, MicroStrategy Object Manager makes managing changes intuitive, efficient, and accurate.

Using Object Manager, BI administrators can implement effective change management processes for multiple BI applications across the organization, all from a single interface. This reliability and flexibility is especially useful as organizations move towards consolidating their departmental islands of BI into an enterprise BI environment.

Object Manager allows administrators to govern change management, versioning, and internationalization among unrelated and distributed environments. Object Manager:

- Provides a bird’s-eye view of a BI object’s lifecycle as it moves through development and testing, and is deployed into a production environment.
- Enables organizations to deploy BI applications and manage and migrate changes between environments from a single user interface.
- Performs impact analysis to accurately assess the risks associated with change migration.
- Supports global and distributed BI operations.
- Automatically tracks all BI application object changes to comply with internal and regulatory audits and reviews.
- Applies BI application updates automatically, eliminating manual administrative effort.

From a single interface, administrators can seamlessly deploy any BI application into any environment, manage application and object lifecycles, and migrate any or all changes between them.
**Comprehensive Impact Analysis Accurately Assesses Migration Risk**

BI applications contain hundreds of objects that come together to form the application, including business attributes, metrics, reports, and dashboards. Within the MicroStrategy metadata, these objects are used to design and build other objects, forming layers of information. When one object is used to build another, the new object becomes dependent on the original, forming a parent-child relationship. A change in any dependent object will automatically affect the parent. It is important for administrators to conduct a thorough impact analysis before migrating any object from one environment to another. This ensures that the target environment is not adversely affected by the changes.

With a simple right mouse-click on any object, administrators can accurately identify at-risk dependents such as reports, dashboards, and metrics, and use this information to develop risk mitigation strategies. This detailed impact analysis is invaluable to ensure the accuracy of change migration.

**Automatic Dependency Checking Ensures Accuracy in Change Migration**

With Object Manager, developers select objects from one BI application and move or copy them to another environment, whether it be development, test, or production, using simple drag-and-drop or copy-paste actions. When a parent object is moved from one environment to another, the dependent child objects must also move. For example, when a report is moved or copied, the underlying metrics, attributes, prompts, and filters are also moved unless they exist in the destination environment already. To prevent unwanted changes, Object Manager’s object dependency checking automatically identifies whether or not all dependent objects exist in the destination environment and suggests options for conflict resolution. This ensures accuracy during object migration by providing administrators with granular control over the entire process.

**Detailed Change Journal Tracks All Object Modifications**

With its advanced change journaling capabilities, Object Manager is designed to track and audit changes made to any metadata object in the BI system. This important feature eliminates the need to maintain external recording systems, allowing companies to successfully track changes and remain compliant with Sarbanes-Oxley and other regulatory requirements.

Detailed information on every change, such as who made the modification and when it occurred, is automatically recorded into the metadata. In addition to object level change journals, a system level change journal is also maintained, providing administrators with a real-time view of all object changes occurring in the BI system.

Before the actual migration, administrators can quickly identify at-risk dependents and use this information to develop risk mitigation strategies.
Synchronized, Distributed Development Using Update Packages

MicroStrategy Object Manager can bundle object changes into independent package files for easier and faster transfer to other environments. Packages can be transferred anywhere, even through e-mail, enabling the distribution of metadata across multiple geographic areas and time zones. Update packages enable multiple, independent development teams to coordinate the inclusion of their new developments into the global BI system.

Each development team can independently submit incremental updates through update package files. The update packages are then used to import each team’s updates and reconcile all overlaps or conflicts that might arise. Update packages can be imported either manually or through an automated process, thereby migrating changes into destination projects. Since the change information is compressed into the update package file, no connection to the source metadata is required. This allows developers to work independently of the ongoing migration, enabling a 24x7 development cycle.

Automated Object Movement with Project Merge Utility

BI applications are often deployed in phases where certified and tested portions of the application are delivered to end users in sections. With the project merge utility available in MicroStrategy Object Manager, administrators can easily migrate changes in bulk. Applications can be scheduled to automatically update at a specific time or after a particular event using standard operating system commands.

Using project merge features, administrators capture migration rules into a re-usable XML file, eliminating setup time and effort. The actual application upgrade can be scheduled during off-peak hours to minimize application downtime.

Streamlined Version Control for Reports, Dashboards, and More

Within a BI system, multiple versions of a single report or object often exist in development, test, production, and back-up applications. MicroStrategy Object Manager contains an application comparison utility that compares the object versions in different BI applications, making it easy to identify what version to migrate.

Reliable Support for Migrating Objects into International Environments

With MicroStrategy, any BI application can be made available in multiple languages, depending on the preferences of the user. MicroStrategy’s single metadata architecture enables Object Manager to move objects seamlessly between multi-lingual environments. For example, if a metric name has been translated into French, when the metric is migrated from the development environment to the product environment, the French translation will also be migrated.

Individual update packages are scheduled to automatically update at a specific time or following a particular event using standard operating system commands.
MicroStrategy Object Manager – Maintain Complete Control of Application Lifecycle Management

Object Manager Supports All Change Management Operations from a Single Interface

With MicroStrategy Object Manager, administrators have complete control over managing and migrating changes in their BI applications, whether it is a single object update or a bulk migration. Object definitions are kept consistent and accurate across all environments by automatically reconciling any overlaps or conflicts that arise during the migration process.

Additionally, administrators can efficiently and effectively manage the evolution of departmental islands of BI into a single enterprise system. Many BI vendors lack a unified metadata structure and an object migration tool to facilitate this type of consolidation. As a result, these BI platforms are unable to successfully merge departmental applications into a single enterprise BI system. With MicroStrategy Object Manager, administrators control the entire BI change management process from a single interface with ease and efficiency.

MicroStrategy 9 is breakthrough technology that supports the full range of business intelligence applications from a single, integrated platform. MicroStrategy 9 extends the performance, scalability, and efficiency of enterprise BI; enables the rapid deployment of departmental BI applications; and provides a seamless consolidation path from departmental BI to enterprise BI.

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