

METAMANAGER

METADATA MANAGEMENT, CONTENT ENHANCEMENTS, VALIDATION AND DOCUMENTATION FOR COGNOS 8 AND REPORTNET ENVIRONMENTS



Accurately modelled and documented metadata is the foundation to successful implementations.

Cognos Framework Manager serves as the metadata layer to the entire Cognos deployment, and it is important to leverage the metadata attributes of the various elements in order to improve the end user experience.

Examples include data descriptions (what does this data element mean, what is the calculation, where was it sourced); fly outs (when users hover over the element on a report, what do they see), data types, data format etc.

So the 'problem' with ReportNet and Cognos 8 is...

Well OK, 'problem' may be too strong a word to use but it is true to say that: -

- ◆ Framework Manager lacks simplicity in performing routine tasks like adding descriptions, screen tips, and various other object attributes.
- ◆ Model changes cause reports to be 'invalidated'. All reports built off the model must be opened, validated and re-saved. Model changes to the object names (the key field) break all associated reports.
- ◆ Report updates (changing text values, functions, images etc.) are labour intensive and time consuming.
- ◆ Consumers lack insight into the Metadata attributes. Screen tips are designed to be seen by Report Authors only, not Consumers.
- ◆ Aside from backing up the content store database, Administrators have no way to backup select objects and restore them at a later time.
- ◆ Report Studio lacks a method of applying a specific template to a selected group of reports.
- ◆ Cognos Connection does not provide a way to easily share and distribute custom pages to users.
- ◆ Managing Security within Cognos Connection is cumbersome, and it is time consuming to assign the same security to various objects.
- ◆ Administrators have no documentation / audit trail on changes made to models.
- ◆ Model documentation is difficult, and changes require substantial effort and time.
- ◆ Content Store documentation is not possible, and Administrators lack insight into personal folder content, security, schedules, etc.

MetaManager

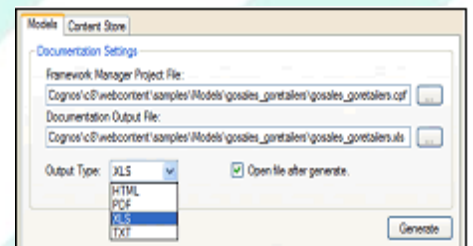
MetaManager allows administrators to simplify many of the complexities associated with metadata management, both at the modelling and consumer level.

With MetaManager, Administrators can...

- ◆ Easily manage metadata into Framework Manager Models.
- ◆ Carry metadata through to end-user reports in the form of screen tips.
- ◆ Document the contents of Framework Manager Models and Content Store to PDF, XLS, TXT or HTML.
- ◆ Find and Replace text within selectable report objects.
- ◆ Replicate changes in the Framework Manager Model throughout all or selected reports.
- ◆ Automate report validation when changes to the underlying packages are made

MetaDocumentor

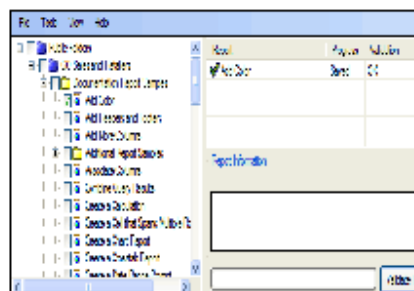
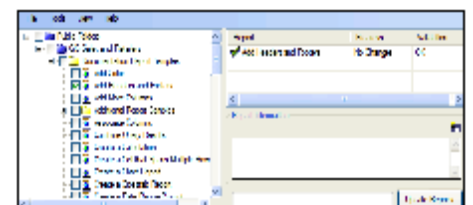
The Meta Documenter provides detailed record keeping of the contents of a Cognos Framework Manager model by documenting into a variety of formats including HTML, PDF, Microsoft Excel and ANSI Text. You also have the ability to select specific objects and properties to document, both in Framework Manager models and within the Content Store. Content Store documentation includes over 80 possible attributes to document for compliance reporting of the content in your environment!



Report Validator

Once metadata modelling has been updated, the value to end-users is realized in the ability to quickly re-validate the existing reports under the newly published package.

Report Validator allows administrators to easily validate selectable reports. Validation errors are provided in detail for the issues that the Report Validator was not able to automatically resolve



About 4D:

4D is located in Congleton in Cheshire. The company is built on providing a high level of Consultancy, Training and Service for Cognos BI and MetaManager Management and Administration Tools for Cognos Environments as well as delivering end-to-end Management Information Solutions, Business Intelligence Applications and Data Warehousing Projects.

MetaManager is distributed exclusively in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland by 4D

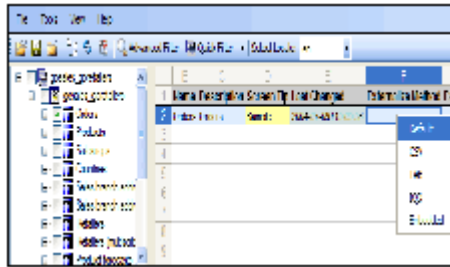


About Brightstar Partners:

At BRIGHTSTAR PARTNERS, our success is measured by our ability to provide the highest quality technical, product, and business support to our clients. We have a passion to inspire and a drive to perform and driven by best practices, providing customized architecture, user-specific design, installation and configuration, product sales, and training assistance. As trusted advisors to our clients, we help organizations reach their full potential by becoming strategy focused rather than operations focused through technology-enabled solutions.

MetaEditor

The Meta Editor module enables administrators to update the various objects and attributes within a Cognos Framework Manager model in an easy to use interface, reading the contents of any Framework Manager model and saving changes back to the model once complete. Updateable objects include Folders, Namespaces, Packages, Query Items and Query Subjects.



Command Line

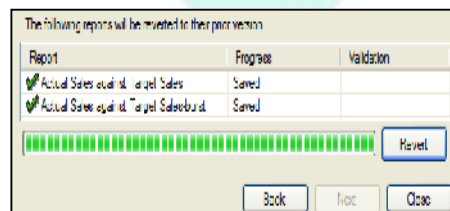
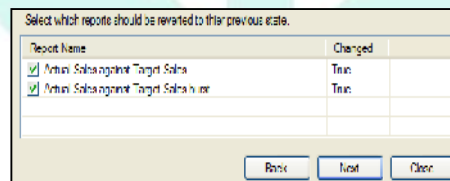
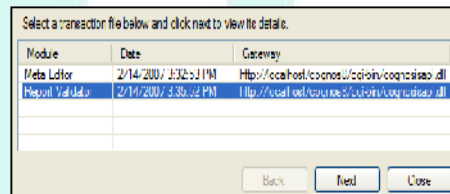
You can use the command line interface to issue MetaManager commands from a DOS prompt, .bat file or Run Command window. Using this interface, you can integrate MetaManager with external scheduling packages that initiate MetaManager processes. The command line interface can access the following modules:

- ◆ Report Validator
- ◆ Global Name Changer
- ◆ Screen Tip Generator
- ◆ Find and Replace
- ◆ Backup / Restore

In addition to automating these tasks, the results of these actions are returned to an XML file, so you can create reports within CRN / C8 displaying the information. Imagine, for example, scheduling a Report Validation every night to determine which reports are valid and which have errors. In the morning, you can receive an e-mail in your inbox with the results of those that have issues and the details behind what went wrong!.

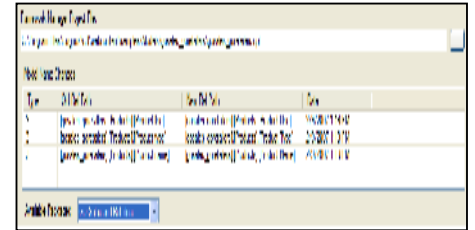
Transaction Manager

The Transaction Manager enables users to revert a particular operation back to its previous state. This includes rolling back reports that were modified using the Find / Replace, Global Name Changer, and Screen Tip modules, as well as Framework Manager Model editor using MetaEditor



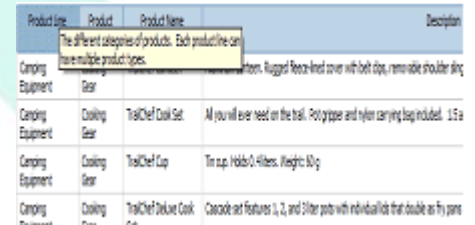
Global Name Changer

Global Name Changer applies all changes made within a Framework Manager model to the impacted reports, eliminating the manual steps involved with reports breaking when changes in the metadata model occur. This includes changes to query items, query subjects, folders etc



Screen Tip Generator

The power of the metadata created within the Framework Manager model is released to the user by automatically bringing the metadata to selectable reports in the form of screen tips. The Screen Tip Generator will populate report column headings with the metadata until that time created within the Framework Manager model creating a completely integrated metadata environment

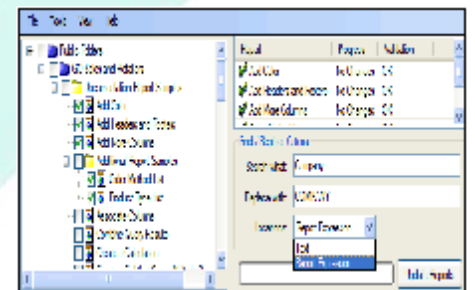


Blasters

Allows administrators to easily distribute custom pages within Cognos Connection and allows for the application of a standard template (any selected report with the desired look and feel) to be replicated to any selected report(s)

Find / Replace

The Find / Replace module provides a powerful and intuitive interface to perform a search and replace across a selectable group of reports. As a protective measure, the Find / Replace search engine limits the actions to only report specific content (text items and report expressions) and not the proprietary report XML tags that would cause the report to become invalid



Backup / Restore

Allows an Administrator to select any object(s) from any Content Store and package them into an archive file. The archive file can be restored to the same location, a different location, or a different Content Store

4D
Dane Mill Business Centre
Broadhurst Lane
Congleton
Cheshire
CW12 1LA

T 01260 274441
F 01260 277977

W www.4dlimited.co.uk
E info@4dlimited.co.uk

Brightstar Partners, the Brightstar Partners logo and MetaManager are trademarks or registered trademarks of BSP Software LLC.

Cognos, the Cognos logo, Impromptu, PowerPlay, ReportNet, FrameWork Manager, Report Studio, and Upfront are trademarks or registered trademarks of Cognos Inc.

All other trademarks mentioned herein are the property of the respective trademark holders. All rights reserved. All of the content contained herein is protected under copyright © 2007 4D Limited

