Informix Geodetic DataBlade Module

DATASHEET

Combined with Informix Dynamic Server with Universal Data Option, the Informix Geodetic DataBlade module provides customers with the ability to manage geospatial information referenced by latitude-longitude coordinates, to support global space- and time-based queries without the limitations inherent in map projections, and to achieve high precision regardless of global location. This DataBlade is NOT a planimetric Geospatial solution along the lines of ESRI's Spatial Data Engine (SDE) DataBlade module, Formida's Fire Spatial DataBlade module, or MapInfo's SpatialWare DataBlade module.

Detailed Product Description

The Informix Geodetic DataBlade module provides unique capabilities for storage and retrieval of geospatial data.

GIS (Geographic Information Systems) applications are proliferating throughout organizations involved in natural resource and facilities management as well as general business enterprises. The need for managing the geographic data associated with these systems directly in enterprise database management systems has long been recognized; the object-relational database management system provided by Informix Dynamic Server with Universal Data Option (IDS/UD) finally makes this possible. The Informix Geodetic DataBlade module is one of a class of server extensions to support this kind of application; in that class, it offers some capabilities not available with other products.

A GEODESIC is a measurement between two points on the earth's surface. In this case, the shortest distance between two points is NOT a straight line: It is an arc, owing to the curvature of the earth's surface. Other geospatial search and manipulation engines handle PLANIMETRIC (flat-plane) geometry; they must therefore approximate the round surface of the earth by projecting the surface onto flat planes using various transformations. These projections introduce distortions which can only be disregarded by limiting the area covered by each map.

The Informix Geodetic DataBlade module, on the other hand, treats the earth as a globe, not a flat map. There are no edges and no distortions.

The Informix Geodetic DataBlade module also includes a time dimension and an altitude range in its spatial types. This yields tremendous performance benefits where time and other criteria are often used in queries alongside the spatial criteria. A single index scan can cover all of these dimensions simultaneously.

The product is developed by Informix in partnership with Geodyssey, Ltd., of Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

This product does NOT compete with the Geospatial solutions offered by our partners ESRI, Formida, and MapInfo. It solves a different set of problems than those solved by our Geospatial partners.