

This demonstration illustrates the value of an Information Integration Solution. This human resources (HR) management scenario is an example of how this solution can enable you to easily implement Information Integration between heterogeneous systems.

There are many different reasons that a company may need to maintain more than one HR system with different databases storing the HR data. A corporate merger, for example, could result in DB2 Express data in the US, Oracle data in China, Informix data in Canada, and MS SQL Server data in the United Kingdom.

With a Federated System Information Integrator, you can successfully access data through a united data view regardless of different data sources.

The federated system has two key components:

1. The federated server upon which WebSphere information Integrator is installed,
2. Wrappers, the components by which the federated server interacts with diverse data sources. In this example, there are wrappers for DB2 Express, Oracle, Informix, and MS SQL Server.

With Information Integration technology, end users can access and transform data stored in diverse formats.

In our example, an HR system can check and see which databases are available to an end user who is creating a new employee record. A red light beside the target server name means the databases are not available. A green light means that the servers are available.

In this example, the US and China-based servers are unavailable, and the Canada and UK servers are available. When searching, the federated system finds and retrieves data from all available databases.

An HR employee wants to retrieve all employee records; the search fields are left blank. A list of all employees is displayed.

Next, the HR employee creates a new employee record. The new employee serial number is automatically generated. The department, employee name, gender, phone number, birth date, date-of-hire, salary, bonus, and hiring location are all filled in by the HR employee. When the newly created record is submitted, the federated system will add the information to the appropriate database. Since the employee is in the UK, the record is inserted into the UK database.

Existing employee information can be edited, updated, or deleted in the same manner. The federated system, using the target database wrappers, transparently handles the transactions without the HR employee having to worry about the diverse databases involved.

The information integration solution illustrated here is applicable to almost any industry where companies need to integrate applications and system data to leverage different data resources and provide united, easy-to-use end-user interfaces.