

# IBM InfoSphere Business Glossary, Version 8.1.1

## Manage and leverage business metadata

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### Highlights

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- **Align IT efforts with business goals by enabling the creation, management and accessibility of a corporate vocabulary**
- **Provide a framework for data governance initiatives that promotes trust in information and data stewardship**
- **Provide auditing and change capture capabilities for regulatory and compliance reporting**
- **Jump-start your glossary with a rich set of industry-specific content**
- **Accelerate the adoption of enterprise business terminology by maximizing consumption of glossary content**
- **Enable the business community with intuitive interfaces that require zero administration or training**

### Take control of business metadata

Difficulties in understanding and interpreting data, determining what data is important and then managing that information create roadblocks as business and technical users attempt to collaborate for effective information integration. The problem of business definition inconsistency across enterprise environments is often attributed to the absence of an enterprise-wide data dictionary and stewardship program.

According to the Society for Information Management (SIM) 2008 survey of the top 10 concerns for CIOs,<sup>1</sup> today's CIOs are focused not on trimming the IT budget or reducing staff, but on how they can help their business units leverage technology to meet the challenges that lie ahead. In fact, IT and business alignment regained its spot as the number-one management concern for 2008 after a number-two listing in the 2007 survey.

IBM recognizes that organizations need to collaborate across disparate business and IT teams. IBM® InfoSphere™ Foundation Tools provide breakthrough software that helps companies increase productivity and flexibility to integrate and enrich information assets. By supporting the management, analysis and active sharing of metadata artifacts across a full range of integration activities and user roles, these tools help companies turn their information into strategic assets.

**Business metadata: Critical to your success**

Business metadata allows business and technical users to share a common understanding and meaning of terms. It offers a variety of benefits:

- *Provides business context around information technology assets created and managed by IT*
- *Aligns business processes, key performance indicators (KPIs) and business terms with IT assets*

- *Supports a single source of truth governing large and disparate organizations*
- *Increases decision-making agility in response to market changes*
- *Fosters collaboration and knowledge sharing among users*
- *Increases information reuse and lowers costs*
- *Empowers those who understand the meaning and importance of the information to manage business metadata*
- *Increases trust and confidence in information*
- *Supports data governance initiatives, which require a common business vocabulary and change traceability*
- *Supports an audit source of information for regulatory and compliance reporting*
- *Reduces productivity loss due to lack of information or uncertainty of data ownership*
- *Helps deliver projects faster and with less risk*

*“InfoSphere Information Server is a key toolset for our multiphase, multi-year Molecular Medicine Informatics Model project. We are leveraging the capabilities of InfoSphere Business Glossary, a module of IBM InfoSphere Information Server, to share information about the types of business and technical metadata stored in our research repository so that users can find the relevant information at their fingertips.”*

– Robert Merriel, Director of Business Development, Melbourne Health

IBM InfoSphere Information Server puts business users in control of business metadata by providing easy-to-use, Web-based interfaces that enable authoring, management and sharing of critical business metadata.

IBM InfoSphere Business Glossary (see Figure 1) allows data stewards to create and manage an authoritative vocabulary, enabling a common language between business and IT. This is a critical step to better align the efforts of the technologists with the goals of the business—a top priority for most CIOs.

A user's role within an organization often determines the type of interface he or she uses to interact with business metadata: a data steward and a business user have different needs and responsibilities that require different capabilities. IBM addresses these specialized usage requirements with the InfoSphere Business Glossary suite, which includes:

- **IBM InfoSphere Business Glossary's Web-based administration interface** enables data stewards to create, manage and share a common enterprise vocabulary and classification system.
- **IBM InfoSphere Business Glossary Browser** is a Web-based interface that provides business users with read-only access to InfoSphere Business Glossary contents.
- **IBM InfoSphere Business Glossary Anywhere** provides instant understanding of business terminology directly from any desktop application via a pop-up window or by directly embedding it into any application. Users can view or even author business definitions without loss of context or focus.

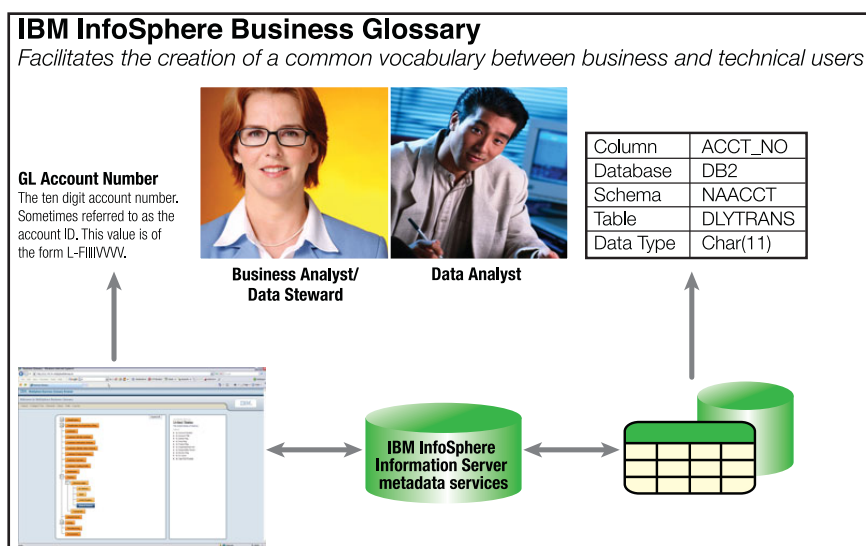


Figure 1. InfoSphere Business Glossary helps to align the efforts of IT with the goals of the business by establishing a common business vocabulary.

**InfoSphere Business Glossary: A collaborative tool for understanding and trusting your data**

InfoSphere Business Glossary helps organizations create, manage and share an enterprise-wide controlled vocabulary that acts as the common language between business and IT. This is a critical step in better aligning technology with business goals. In addition to a controlled vocabulary, the InfoSphere Business Glossary hierarchy and classification systems provide further business context.

Actively connected to InfoSphere Information Server metadata services, InfoSphere Business Glossary enables data stewards to link business terms to

technical artifacts shared between IBM InfoSphere Data Architect, IBM InfoSphere Information Server or any third-party data integration solution. The result is a common set of semantic tags used by data modelers, data analysts, business analysts, governance stewards, data architects, developers and end users. To ensure high quality and tight security, only authorized data stewards can use the administrative functions within InfoSphere Business Glossary to create and manage the glossary.

Business terminology is always subject to change. What defines a "high-value customer" today may be different tomorrow. As business requirements evolve, so may the acceptable definition

of a term. Being able to see the history of what changed, why it changed and who changed it is as important as the change itself (see Figure 2). Such a history is critical to data governance protocols, as it increases the trust and understanding of the information. It also serves as a history of records to ensure compliance with regulatory rules such as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and Basel II.

InfoSphere Business Glossary has a Web-based interface designed to enable data stewards to administer the contents of the common glossary. Key features include:

- **Web-based management of business terms and categories** enables the creation of a common vocabulary and business hierarchies for both business and technical users.
- **Active connectivity to InfoSphere Information Server metadata** helps ensure that technical and business information is always up to date.
- **Custom attributes** enable administrators to extend business terms and categories to additional elements that communicate information unique to their business environments.
- **Collaborative environment and feedback mechanisms** encourage organic growth by allowing different InfoSphere Business Glossary users to cooperate and to jointly develop and improve the glossary information.

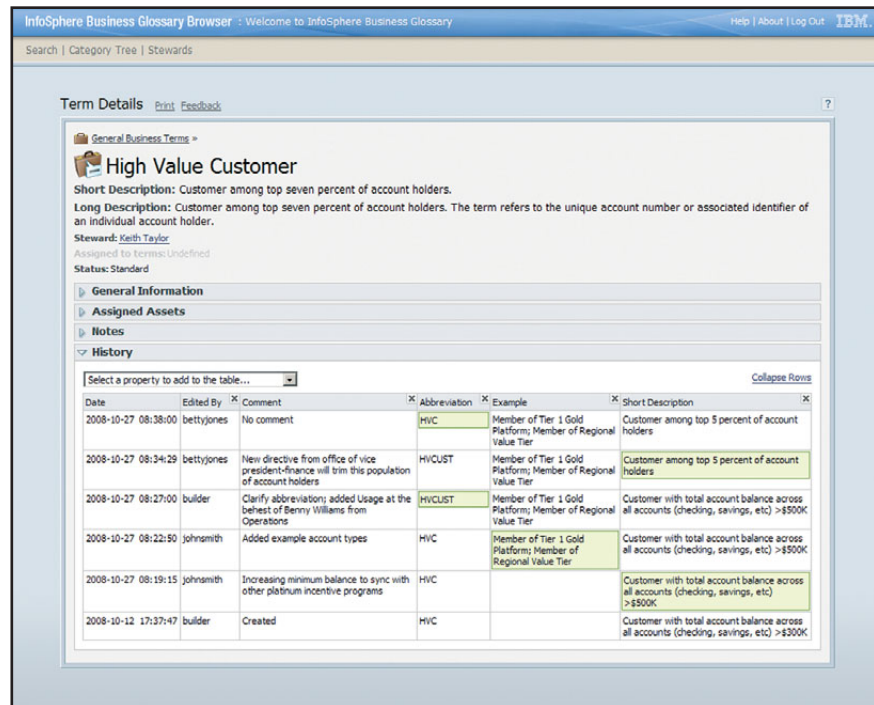


Figure 2. InfoSphere Business Glossary provides a term history feature that shows the progression of a term—a key requirement for data governance projects.

- **Powerful glossary import/export capabilities**, supported by multiple formats such as Business Glossary Archive, CSV and XML, enable administrators to combine existing fragmented and home-grown glossaries into a single enterprise glossary for use by a wider business audience, perform full or selective exports to share content between multiple glossary instances and even make programmatic updates to glossary content from other applications.
- **Data steward management** enables term integrity and governance tasks to be assigned to responsible stewards.
- **Globalization and translation support** for simplified Chinese, traditional Chinese, Japanese, Korean, French, German, Italian, Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese allows customers around the world to use InfoSphere Business Glossary in their native language.

## InfoSphere Business Glossary Browser:

### Search, browse and explore

InfoSphere Business Glossary Browser is an intuitive, Web-based interface that provides business users read-only access to InfoSphere Business Glossary contents. This high-speed search utility goes directly to the heart of InfoSphere Business Glossary and allows users to search on the most frequently accessed objects with just a few simple clicks. Users also have the option to graphically explore the business metadata for terms, categories and stewards, which naturally expands the use and adoption of a common business glossary throughout the enterprise.

Easy to use with no training requirements, InfoSphere Business Glossary Browser enables business users to:

- **Explore** the corporate vocabulary/glossary through a well-defined classification and hierarchy system (see Figure 3)
- **Search** the enterprise glossary with sophisticated ranking algorithms that list results in a best-match order

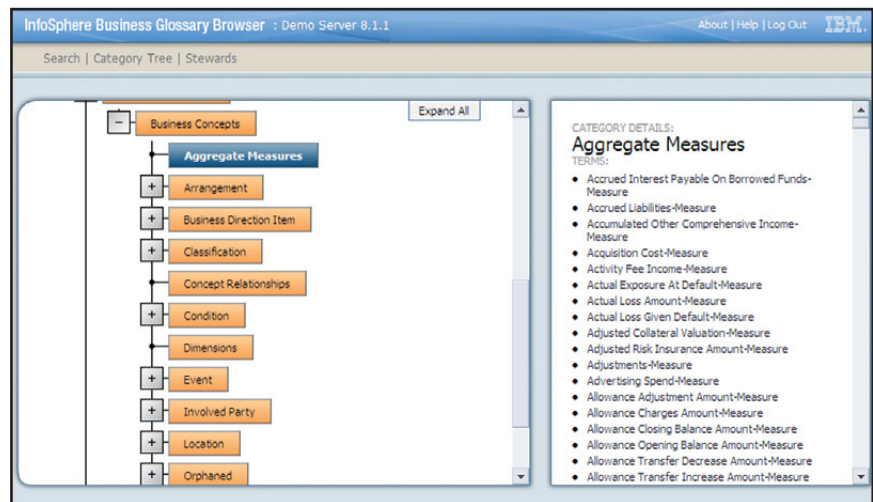


Figure 3. Hierarchical navigation of InfoSphere Business Glossary Browser enables users to explore the corporate glossary.

- **Identify data stewards** responsible for data assets
- **Access related technical assets** with one click from within the business context
- **View an audit trail** of what data was changed, why it changed and who changed it
- **Send feedback** related to metadata and business terms directly to data stewards

### InfoSphere Business Glossary Anywhere: Access to business information from any application

Business understanding is crucial, yet time pressure often keeps business users from leveraging available

resources. For example, you may read an e-mail or a white paper and come across a term that makes you wonder how it is being defined or used in your organization. InfoSphere Business Glossary Anywhere makes it easy for business users to look up business definitions without losing context or focus. This real-time access to unfamiliar terms helps promote the use of established business terms and policies throughout the organization.

InfoSphere Business Glossary Anywhere requires no training for the business community. Business users

simply select a term within any application and see the business definition of the word immediately in a pop-up window (see Figure 4).

### InfoSphere Business Glossary

Anywhere also allows users to embed a zero-footprint Web service into any application to search, auto-suggest, create, update or delete business terms from within that application. For example, this feature can be integrated into company portals (see Figure 5).

Available through an industry-standard representational state transfer (REST) API, this feature not only supports glossary read or search capabilities, but also lets business or technical users create business terms and definitions while working in their applications.

The rapid adoption benefits provide organizations with a fast return on their investments.

### InfoSphere Business Glossary Packs: Jump-start your business glossary with content relevant to your industry

In a recent report on Best Practices for Taxonomy Creation, "... Gartner recommends assessing available taxonomies and adapting one, rather than creating one from scratch."<sup>2</sup>

InfoSphere Business Glossary Packs for different industry verticals help accelerate the implementation and deployment of your business glossary

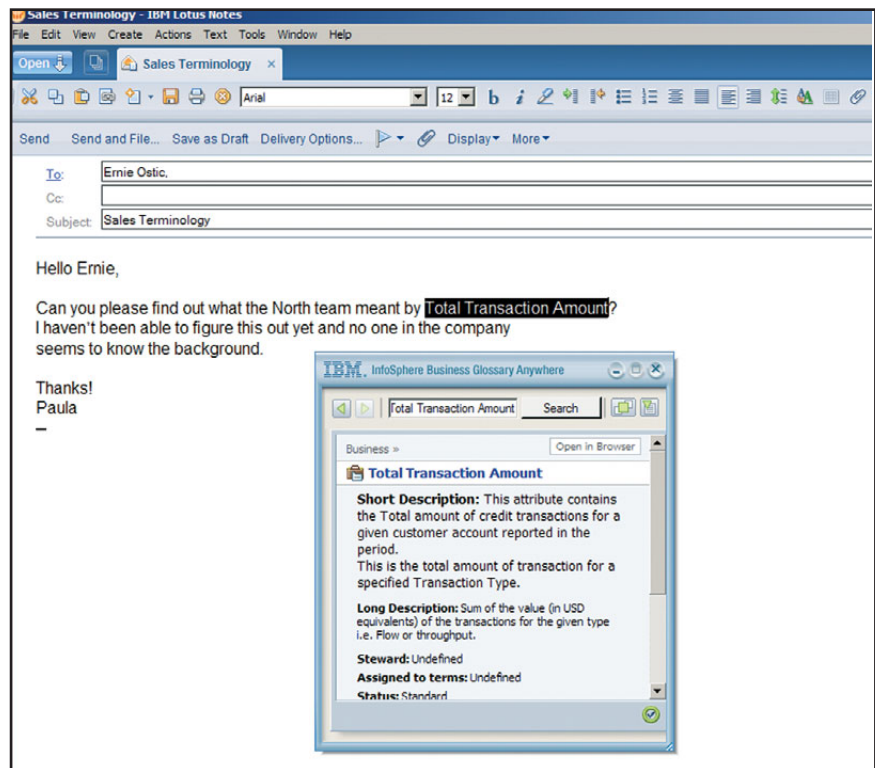


Figure 4. The InfoSphere Business Glossary Anywhere pop-up window shows the definition of a term within any application. This example shows the pop-up window appearing within IBM Lotus Notes®.

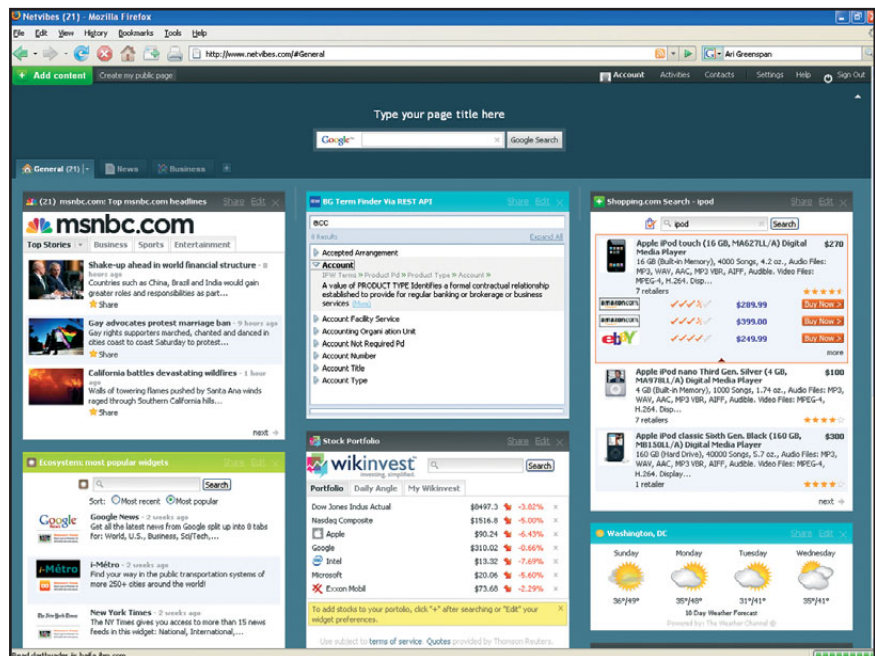


Figure 5. InfoSphere Business Glossary Anywhere can be embedded into any application, such as a portal or mashup.

by immediately providing rich and relevant industry-specific glossary content. Based on work with more than 400 IBM clients and 10 years of experience in key industries such as banking, financial markets, retail, telecommunications, healthcare and insurance, these packs allow customers to quickly deploy, promote and adopt InfoSphere Business Glossary—and therefore get a quick return on their investment.

**InfoSphere Information Server and InfoSphere Foundation Tools help deliver trusted information**

Organizations face a great challenge in locating information and getting it where and when it is needed in the form needed—and then discerning further insights from it. Information validity and control are additional concerns. The hurdles only mount if businesses cannot ensure access to authoritative, consistent, timely and complete information.

InfoSphere Information Server is a revolutionary software platform that helps you derive more value from the complex, heterogeneous information spread across your systems. It enables your organization to integrate disparate data and deliver trusted information wherever and whenever needed, in line and in context, to specific people, applications and processes. It helps business and IT personnel collaborate to understand the meaning, structure and content of any type of information across any source. It provides breakthrough productivity and performance for cleansing, transforming and moving this information consistently and securely throughout the enterprise so it can be accessed and used in new ways to drive innovation, increase operational efficiency and help lower risk.

InfoSphere Foundation Tools help you understand the information you have so you can target tactical projects

to gain incremental value and positively affect your business's bottom line. To do this, you need a blueprint to correlate your business requirements with the information and technical assets you have distributed across your enterprise. InfoSphere Foundation Tools can help you assess where you are and where you want to go, and help you build a blueprint to get there successfully.

**System requirements**

For current, detailed hardware and software system requirements for InfoSphere Business Glossary, visit [ibm.com/software/data/infosphere](http://ibm.com/software/data/infosphere). For the client, InfoSphere Business Glossary requires Microsoft® Internet Explorer Version 6.0 or higher. InfoSphere Business Glossary Anywhere requires Microsoft Windows® XP or Windows Vista.



## For more information

To learn more about InfoSphere Business Glossary, data governance and metadata management, please visit:

- [ibm.com/software/data/infosphere/business-glossary](http://ibm.com/software/data/infosphere/business-glossary)
- [ibm.com/software/sw-library/en\\_US/detail/M969392H43073W75.html](http://ibm.com/software/sw-library/en_US/detail/M969392H43073W75.html)
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To learn more about InfoSphere Information Server and other information integration solutions from IBM, contact your IBM marketing representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit [ibm.com/software/data/infosphere](http://ibm.com/software/data/infosphere)

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<sup>1</sup> Duvall, Mel. "SIM Releases Top 10 Concerns Of CIOs." November 2008. [www.ciozone.com/index.php/Management/SIM-Releases-Top-10-Concerns-Of-CIOs.html](http://www.ciozone.com/index.php/Management/SIM-Releases-Top-10-Concerns-Of-CIOs.html)

<sup>2</sup> Gartner. "Best Practices for Taxonomy Creation." ID Number G00167683. May 7, 2009.



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