

Advanced MetaData Topics

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Introduction

- Focus on a few OBI RPD MetaData modeling challenges
- Medium to advanced skill level
- Deep dives for thorough understanding
 - Not a "Tips & Tricks" session!
- Supports 10g & 11g



About Jeff McQuigg

Senior Architect at KPI Partners



- 9 years OBI consulting experience, 18 DW & BI years overall
 - Personally involved with over 35+ OBI projects, covering every role
- BI & OBI thought leader:
 - Best Practices BI blog at GreatOBI.WordPress.com
 - Moderator on *ITToolbox.com* and *OBIEE Enterprise Methodology Group*
 - Frequent Oracle Open World Speaker
- Kicking off world's largest HR Analytics project tomorrow!
- Personal: My nearly 3,000 bottles of beer are on display at <u>www.BrewPalace.com</u>





Agenda

- Combo Tables
- Make Dims & Facts Reach
- Non-Conformed Dimensions
- Canonical Time
- Selecting a Logical Table Source
- Controlling Join Paths



Combo Tables

Table containing both measures and attributes

- Cuts down on # tables
- Easier ETL
- Fewer Joins for Queries
- Encountered heavily in source 3NF modeling - "Real Time" Reporting

Common for degenerate keys

Plan:

 Convert 1 Physical table into a Logical Star model in OBI



Combo Tables

Use one physical alias

Do not make separate aliases!

Follow modeling rules:

- Only aggregated metrics in the Fact table
- Put attributes into Dim table(s)

Resulting SQL is perfect

Avoid self-joins!





Making Dims & Facts Work Together

No direct link between Logical Table Sources

- LTSs have to link to work
- However a 3rd table completes the link

Adding the W_ORDER_F table to one of the Logical Table Sources (LTS) will make then link

But to which Logical Table Source?





Making Dims & Facts Work Together

Option A - Add to Customers

Customers (W. CUSTOMER, D) Name:

Disabled

Dimension Browse

Map to these tables:

"I "OraDB"..."JEFF". "Orders Combo (W_ORDER_F)" "OraDB"..."JEFF"."Customers (W_CUSTOMER_D)"

Select Customer.Name:

select distinct T321.CUSTOMER NAME as c1 from W CUSTOMER D T321 /* Customers (W CUSTOMER D) */ ;

Option B - Add to Facts

Facts: Orders (W_ORDER_LINES_F) Name:

Disabled

Dimension Browse Map to these tables:

"OraDB".."JEFF"."Facts: Orders (W_ORDER_LINES_F)" "OraDB".."JEFF"."Orders Combo (W_ORDER_F)"

select distinct T321.CUSTOMER NAME as c1 from W CUSTOMER D T321 /* Customers (W CUSTOMER D) */

Select Customer.Name, Facts:Order.Order Amt:



Select Customer.Name, Facts:SRs.#SRs:







Making Dims & Facts Work Together

OBI will frequently add lower grains to queries when in the same LTS

 W_ORDERS_F is lower grain than W_CUSTOMER_D

Safe: Adding a higher grain

 W_ORDERS_F is higher grain than W_ORDER_LINES_F

"Extend the reach of the Fact"

- Reach more dimensions
- Denormalizing FKs
- Think of adding Sockets

This is how you would build it in the first place:

Create table W_ORDER_LINES_F (

ORDER_WID PLACED_DATE_WID SHIPPED_DATE_WID SALES PERSON WID	Number, Number, Number, Number,	
CUSTOMER_WID	Number,	
PRODUCT_WID	Number,	
QUANTITY UNIT PRICE	Number, Number(10,2),	

Scenario:

- Multiple fact tables in a query
- A dimension only works with one of the facts
- Report does not work!

Selected Columns

Double click on column names in the Subject Areas pane to add them to the sorting, or delete by clicking or hovering over the button next to its name.

Customers	SR Status	Facts: Orders	Facts: SRs
📓 Name 🗄	SR Status 🗄	🚺 Order Amt 🚟	🛛 # SRs 🗄

Filters

Add filters to the analysis criteria by clicking on Filter option for the specific clicking on add button after selecting its name in the catalog pane.

Y SR Status is equal to / is in Open



Why?

Basic Structure of the request is:

• Customer, SR Status, Order Amt, # SRs

• OBI breaks it down as:

- 1. # SRs by Customer and SR Status
- 2. Order Amt by Customer and SR Status
- Model does not support Order Amt by SR Status



Solution #1: Fake a physical join between the two tables

- Cartesian Product
- "Tricking OBI"

Add to Business Model

- Joins
- Content Tab

neral Column Mapping	Content Parent-Child Setting	•1
ggregation content, group t	by Logical Level	
	Chamilton a second second second	
Logical Dimension	Show unmapped	16
Snow mapped iv Logical Dimension CustomersDim	Show unmapped Logical Level Customers (W_CUSTOM	8
Snow mapped iv Logical Dimension CustomersDim Order StatusDim	Show unmapped Logical Level Customers (W_CUSTOM Order Status Detail	2
Snow mapped iv Logical Dimension CustomersDim Order StatusDim Sales PersonDim	Show unmapped Logical Level Customers (W_CUSTOM Order Status Detail Sales Person Detail	***

jable:			Table:	
SR Combo (W_SR_F)	***		Facts: Orders (W_ORDE	R_LINES_
jolumn:			Column:	
Name	Type ^ Operato	ci il	Name	Туре
COMMENTS	VARC	-	ORDER_LINE_WID	DOUBL
CUSTOMER_WID	DOUBL		ORDER_WID	DOUBL
DATE_WID	DOUBL .		PRODUCT_WID	DOUBL
A CONTRACT OF THE OWNER			·	
riving table: None	Ψ.	Type:	Incer	
Cardnality				
CN C 0,1 C 1 0	C Urilinowa		C1 C0,1 C 11	C Unknow
(min				





Now it is able to issue a query Note the table with SR Status (W_SR_F) is included

- SR Status to W_ORDER_F:
- No Joins → Cartesian Product!

Be very careful with this solution *Must* filter to *one record* to eliminate Cartesian Product (Over-counting)

This example contains a special problem:

- Multiple W_SR_F records will have Status = 'Open'
- Over-counting should occur
- If a normalized Dimension table with 1 record for 'Open', then safe

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Name	SR Status	Order Amt	# SRs
Aaron Turner	Open	7600.00	1
Amy Harris	Open	1550.00	1
Chamonay Benjamin	Open	7000.00	1
Mike Gallagher	Open	1125.00	1

Table

16

```
select T321.CUSTOMER_NAME as c1,
T455.STATUS as c2,
count(T455.TICKET_NUM) as c3
from
W_CUSTOMER_D T321 /* Customers (W_CUSTOMER_D) */ ,
W_SR_F T455 /* SR Combo (W_SR_F) */
where (T321.CUSTOMER_WID = T455.CUSTOMER_WID
and T455.STATUS = 'Open' )
group by T321.CUSTOMER_NAME, T455.STATUS
order by c1, c2
```

Solution #2: Use Totals Level Based Metric

- Set the SR Status Dimension to *Total* for every metric used
- Tells metrics to ignore a dimension
- Both queries are clean

select T321.CUSTOMER_NAME as c1, T455.STATUS as c2, count(T455.TICKET_NUM) as c3 from W_CUSTOMER_D T321 /* Customers (W_CUSTOMER_D) */ , W_SR_F T455 /* SR Combo (W_SR_F) */ where (T321.CUSTOMER_WID = T455.CUSTOMER_WID and T455.STATUS = 'Open') group by T321.CUSTOMER_NAME, T455.STATUS order by c1

ical Column - Order Amt	
neral Column Source Aggreg	pation Levels
	×
	and the second
Logical Dimension	Logical Level
Logical Dimension CustomersDim	Logical Level
Logical Dimension CustomersDim Order StatusDim	Logical Level
Logical Dimension CustomersDim Order StatusDim Sales PersonDim	Logical Level

Name	SR Status	# SRs	Order Amt
Aaron Turner	Open	1	7600.00
Amy Harris	Open	1	1550.00
Bryant Meyer		0	1750.00
Chamonay Benjamin	Open	1	7000.00
Jennifer Choi		0	450.00
Mike Gallagher	Open	1	1125.00
Sally Chen		0	15225.00





- Other filtering may be needed
- Filters on SR Status are *meaningless* to the Orders Query
- Possibly add a different filter

Name	SR Status	# SRs	Order Amt
Aaron Turner	Open	1	7600.00
Amy Harris	Open	1	1550.00
Bryant Meyer		0	1750.00
Chamonay Benjamin	Open	1	7000.00
Jennifer Choi		0	450.00
Mike Gallagher	Open	1	1125.00
Sally Chen	100010000	0	15225.00





SR Status = 'Open' and # SRs > 0



1=1 Join

Pros

- Very easy to configure
- Works very well for filtered reports

Cons

- Potential 'nuclear bomb', especially for Answers
- More difficult for Database optimizer

Level Based Metrics

Pros

Safer to use

Cons

- Metric by Metric config

 More development work
- Harder to QA
- Consider which technique to use for your system
- You may need both!





One Date Dimension:

- Is conformed across other facts
 - Order Open Date is not conformed
 - Mix multiple metrics along a common time period
- Provides expanded analysis functionality
 - More "BI like" more big picture, more enterprise
- Requires less configuration
 - 1 Date Dimension instead of many
- Is easier for Business users to understand

Besides...

The real world has only 1 date anyway!

Canonical Time does the same thing but in a single fact table





- Essentially a superconformed Date dimension
 - Transactions with many dates
 - SR Transaction: Open Date & • **Close Date**
 - Order Transaction: Create Date, • Planned Shipped Date, Actual Shipped Date, etc.
- Goal: Only 1 Date dimension
 - Instead of: "Open Date Dim" & "Close Date Dim"
 - Simply Use: "Date Dim" •
 - BI Apps do this to a large degree Order Facts ٠





Example 1: Show SR activity (# Opened & # Closed) by Month

Non-Canonical:

Open SRs = Filter(# SRs using SR Status = 'Open')

Volatile

- For a SR opened in Jan and closed in Feb:
 - Report run in Jan shows Opened
 - Report run in Feb shows Closed
- History will be restated each day
- Status based metrics will not show actual activity
- Tie-in to month will be one of the dates but not both

Canonical:

Build # SRs Opened & # SRs Closed with a Canonical Date

Use Open & Close Date FKs on the SR Fact

- Non-Volatile
- Independent of each other

Note the subtle language distinction:

Open SRs ≠ # SRs Opened

Example 2: Show Order activity (# Opened & # Shipped) by month

Physical Layer Configuration:

- Make aliases for the *fact*, *not the facts: Orders Placed Date (W_ORDER_F)*
- Join on appropriate Fact Date field

Physical Foreign Key	- Facts: Orders	Placed Date (W_OR	DER F) FI O		-
----------------------	-----------------	-------------------	-------------	--	---

Table:		Tgble:
Date (W_DAY_D)	111	Facts: Orders Placed Date (W_
Çolumn:		Column:
Name	Type - Operator:	Name
DATE_WID	DOUBL	GROER_WED D
Driving table: None Capdinality	- 7	gpe: [Inner
C 75 C 70,1 G 1	C Uninown	C 1 C 0,1 C N C U
Hint: Expression:		

Table:		Tgble:
Date (W_DAY_D)	+++	Facts: Orders Shipped Date (M
<u>Column:</u>		Cgiumn:
Name	Type * Operator:	Name
DATE_WID	DOUBL	SHIPPED CATE WOO
Griving table: Fione Cardinality	<u>ر</u> ۳	pei linner
CN CO,1 G	C Unitemen	CI CUI FN CU
Expression:		

"OraD6","","JEFF","Date (W_DAY_D)","DATE_WID" = "OraD6","","JEFF","Pacts: Orders Shipped Date (W_ORDER_F)", "SHIPPED_DATE_WID"



Facts: Orders Shipped Date (W_ORDER



Essentially making logical Snapshot fact tables

- Be careful with performance when many queries issued
- Similar concept as the old technique for Time Series



- Discuss how OBI selects a LTS
 - "Aggregate Navigation"
- Fundamental to understanding OBI
 - Required for advanced configuration
- Some examples will help understanding in order to manipulate the system to solve your own unique problems



Basic steps in selecting a LTS:

- 1. Identify all LTSs which have:
 - a. the proper fields mapped
 - b. "work" together joins, content tab
 - c. Considering Fragmentation Content
- 2. Pick the Highest grained Fact LTS
- 3. Pick remaining Dim LTSs



Dimensional LTS Ordering:

- 10g: Dimensional ordering is meaningless
- 11g: Meaningful

Fact LTS Ordering:

Meaningful in both 10g & 11g



W_PRODUCT_D

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Example: Select Product.Product Category;



Product, Customer, Day

• Which is the highest grained Fact source?

W_ORDER_LINE_F





But there are Fact 2 LISs remaining	Dimension	Level	# Elements
LTS #1 has 1 dim > LTS #2 and 1 dim	Product	Category	5
< LIS #2		Details	500
OBI does not know which is best	Customer	Region	4
Need to quantify sizes to help		Details	1000
Use # elements at this level	Date	Week	52
		Day	365

Fact Table	Grain	Expected # Elements / Size
W_CAT_RGN_DAY_F	Prod Cat, Customer Region, Day	5 X 4 X 365 = 7,300
W_CAT_CUST_WEEK_F	Prod Cat, Customer, Week	5 X 1000 X 52 = 260,000

If Region to Customer was 4:25 instead of 4:1000:

Fact Table	Grain	Expected # Elements / Size
W_CAT_RGN_DAY_F	Prod Cat, Customer Region, Day	5 X 4 X 365 = 7,300
W_CAT_CUST_WEEK_F	Prod Cat, Customer, Week	5 X 25 X 52 = 6,500



- In many cases you do not need # elements
 - Only if many fact & aggregate tables
- What if 2 Fact LTSs have the same grain?
 - Adding a new dimension will lower it
 - i.e., 5 dims *is higher than* 6 dims
- Example: federation across a DM and OLTP
 - Want the bulk of queries to hit the DM tables
 - Grains are identical



- Physical models are identical
- Both Physical models mapped into same Business Model
 - Exact same grains
- Reminder:
 - 11g: dimensional source ordering important
 - 10g: meaningless





- Additional LTS control can be achieved by adding a dummy dimension
 - Even further control is possible with a hierarchy
 - Essentially a "priority" dimension
- Map in a 1 record dummy table with a few fields
- Cartesian join (1=1) them to Fact tables



- Make a dimension
 - Multiple LTSs, each at a different grain
 - Each column maps only to 1 LTS
- Assign each Fact LTS to your desired priority via a level

Logical Table Source - Facts:	Orders (W_ORDER	B
General Column Mapping (Content Parent-Child Settin	gs
Aggregation content, group b	y Logical Level	
I♥ Show mapped I♥	Show unmapped	- r - r
Logical Dimension	Logical Level	
PriorityDim	P3 (Detail)	×
ProductDim	Product (Details)	X





- The priority dimension changes the grain
- Forces LTS selection



11g Priority Groups do a similar thing

- Priority Group of 0 is the highest priority
- Considered very early on in the LTS selection process





Other tools to help in LTS Selection:

- Data Security Filters
 - Treated like any other filter from Answers
- Additional columns mapped to specific LTSs
 - Similar solution for choosing Inner Join vs. Outer Join
- Adjustment of # *Elements*
- Different Subject areas w/ Implicit Facts



Join Path Control

Example:

- Given this Business Model
- And the same prompt on 2 pages
- Customer is constrained on Month

SI EE	OBI EE
Sales Order Analysis Service Request Analysis	Sales Order Analysis Service Request Analysis
Year / Month	E Vere (Merch
	Tear / Monun Lad

Date

Facts: Orders

Customers

Facts: SRs

- What if we had a large subject area of Orders & SRs?
 - Can't choose a single implicit fact
- How will OBI determine which customers to show?
- How does the dashboard context factor into its decision?



Join Path Control

- Answer:
 - It will use the highest LTS
 - It has no UI contextual information
 - Does not know about SRs or Orders dashboard pages
- <u>Want:</u> Customers who ordered in a month
- <u>Get:</u> Customers who had an SR in a month
 - → Wrong customer list!
- Pervasive in OBI Dashboards
 - Especially the BI Apps

Sales Order Analysis & SR Analysis Pages:

Logical SQL:

```
SELECT "Core"."Customers"."Name"
FROM "Core"
WHERE "Core"."Date"."Year / Month" = '2011 / 02'
ORDER BY 1
```





```
select distinct T321.CUSTOMER_NAME as c1
from
    W_DAY_D T861 /* Date (W_DAY_D) */ ,
    W_CUSTOMER_D T321 /* Customers (W_CUSTOMER_D) */ ,
    W_SR_F T455 /* SR Combo (W_SR_F) */
where (T321.CUSTOMER_WID = T455.CUSTOMER_WID
and T455.DATE_WID = T861.DATE_WID
and T861.YEAR_MONTH = '2011 / 02' )
order by c1
```



Join Path Control

Solution:

- Build contextual prompt Subject Areas
- Tie each area to a specific join path
- Use Implicit Fact Column

Enhanced Solution:

- Improve performance with a Coverage table (i.e. Factless Fact)
 - Summary level
 - E.g., W_ORDER_CUST_MONTH_F







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