

Introduction of Source System Connections & Wdata Chains

Original air date: November 13, 2020

Speakers: Michael Cox, Dillon Jenkins, Wade Hays

Working with Data

Q: Does Wdata gather/integrate some or any unstructured data?

A: Without knowing specifically what you mean by unstructured data, Wdata can gather data from source systems along with any CSVs/Excel.

Q: Are the dimensional tables used to create a somewhat OLAP like appearance of the data stored in the data tables?

A: Yes, they are where you manage hierarchies and the various dimensions of your data.

Q: To clarify, is the data structure you bring in always in the raw data form (data and dimensions)? So, you're not bringing in a Trial Balance, as an example, that you want to combine with other data.

A: Actually, bringing in the Trial Balance is one of the most common approaches. It does depend on the process as to what you would bring in.

Q: As the fact tables grow large (you mentioned terabyte scales), what happens to Queries with a couple of JOIN and GROUP BY clauses? Do they still run on average office timescales?

A: Yes, we leverage a distributed query engine that allows for us to process large amounts of data very quickly.

Q: Can I set up views for queries?

A: Yes! Please visit this [help article on views](#).

Connectors

Q: Do you have a sheet where we can see for what the systems the GroundRunner is certified (i.e. what operating Systems is it compatible with, etc)

A: Please visit this [help article](#).

Q: Is there a connector for OneStream XF?

A: We do not have a connector for OneStream, but you can use SFTP.

Q: Does the Platform HTTP connector accept JSON responses? What about SOAP?

A: It does accept SOAP and JSON responses.

Q: Can you add a test connection button on the connections creation?

A: There is not a test connection button today.

Q: Is there a best practice for when to bring data in? Daily? After a close?

A: It completely depends on your process! Some set it to be every hour, others set it to every day.

Data Storage

Q: Where does the data get stored before it's imported into a table/spreadsheet? Does it get retained there?

A: Yes, it is maintained in Wdata and then the specific query is connected to a Spreadsheet.

Q: If that spreadsheet is copied, does it mean the copy would have a different ID and be disconnected from the chain?

A: Yes, it would have a different ID upon copy.

Chains

Q: Is the table/dataset creation required before you extract data through the chains?

A: It is not required as they can be created as part of a chain. However, it is a best practice to architect your process and build your tables prior to integrating and automating the process with chains.

Q: Can you trigger chains rather than schedule them?

A: Absolutely. Please visit this [help article on triggers](#).

Q: For failures in Chains, is there a quick way to notify admins (e.g. via email)?

A: You can get emailed upon failure.

Q: Is there a way to trigger Chains calling to them via API and passing RTPs?

A: There is no API support yet, but it can be triggered via our generic webhook.

Q: Regarding trigger events, is there a way to automatically trigger the chain from the spreadsheet or document in Wdesk?

A: Not today, but this is on our roadmap.

Q: When are the Workspace variables available for use?

A: They are available now.

Q: How then do you migrate a chain across development environments?

A: Today, you cannot move a chain from one workspace to another. However, in a larger scale production environment, it is best practice to use multiple chain builder "environments". You can then move a chain from a dev environment into a production environment.

Q: If you make a change to a chain, do you need to publish first before you execute?

A: Yes.