What is the CWM?

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Why metadata?

- Today’s systems are complex and interdependent
  - Need to track data as they flow between systems
  - Need to understand the meaning and context of data elements
Why now?

- With *data*-driven systems, metadata was local and not shared.
- As the market for *information* has matured, so has the demand for shared metadata:
  - Track information from collection to delivery
  - Implement and enforce standards
  - Provide reference points for technologists and users
Why the Common Warehouse Metamodel (CWM)?

- CWM is an industry standard
  - Developed by an independent standards body
  - Supported by industry leaders
- CWM reflects the real world
  - Allows data sharing without compromising uniqueness
  - Allows a single point of reference throughout the enterprise
How did it come about?

- IBM, Oracle, and Unisys propose a Common Warehouse Metadata Interchange (CWMI) RFP to the OMG (June 10, 1998)
- CWMI RFP issued by the OMG (September 18, 1998)
- An initial CWM Specification was jointly submitted by IBM, Unisys, Oracle, Hyperion, UBS, NCR, Genesis, and Dimension EDI (September 17, 1999)
How did it come about?

- IBM, Oracle, Unisys, Hyperion, and Dimension EDI demonstrate interoperability using the CWM (November 16, 1999)
- The OMG Analysis and Design Task Force votes unanimously to recommend adoption of the CWM Specification (March 10, 2000)
- The OMG Board of Directors approves the CWM Specification as an OMG Standard (June 13, 2000)
What is the result?

- The industry’s first standard for metadata interchange for data warehousing
  - A workable standard for the real world
  - A powerful standard to enable breakthrough Business Intelligence systems