

# DeltaMaster clicks! 08/2006

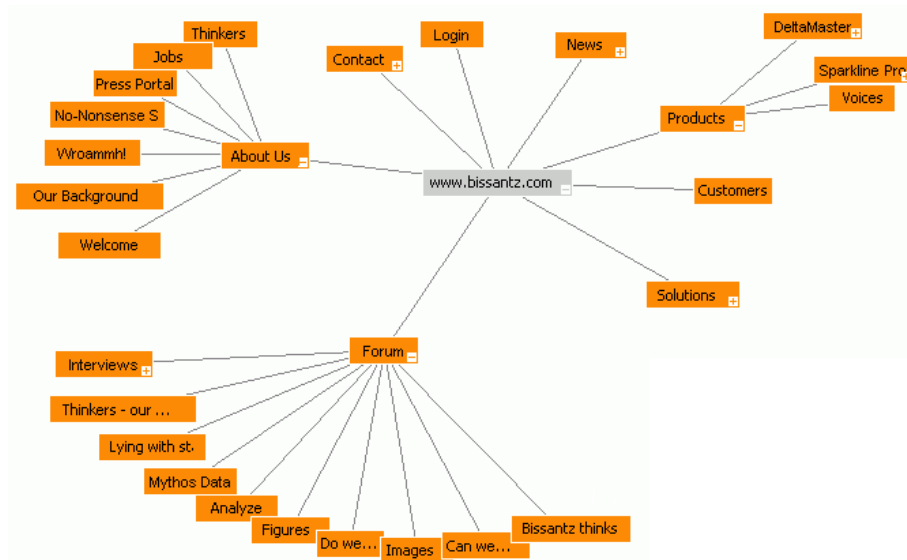
Dear Data Analysts,

Preparing data in such a way that it can be analyzed fluidly can be an extremely laborious job. Techies use software that is known as ETL tools to do this. "ETL" stands for extraction, transformation and loading. The tools usually are just as complicated to use as their names are complex. So what do you do when you want to analyze data and there is no techie in sight?

This is where *ImportWizard* comes in, our 80:20 tool - a supplement to *DeltaMaster*: It can do 80% of what the complicated tools can do, but causes just 20% of the trouble. And what does that mean for you? "Ready – steady – cube!"

Kind regards,

Your Bissantz & Company team



## DeltaMaster 5.2

A new version of *DeltaMaster* has been released. It is based on Microsoft .NET 2.0 and supports ADOMD.NET, an interface that, in particular, improves access to Analysis Services 2005. With the new sound animation, you can also listen to your Sparklines.

## DeltaMaster Matinee

We're hosting the *DeltaMaster Matinee* on September 20, 2006 in the Maritim proArte Hotel in Berlin. We are particularly looking forward to our guest speaker, Mr. Frank Herzog, Director of Controlling and Finances at Labor 28. He will show how he keeps analytical tabs on more than 100 million data sets and approximately 30 different criteria with *DeltaMaster*. [www.bissantz.de/matinee/en](http://www.bissantz.de/matinee/en)

## DeltaMaster@Work

The next free workshop for getting to know our solutions will take place on August 31, 2006 at our headquarters in Nuremberg. Please register by sending an email to Mr. Liepins: [liepins@bissantz.de](mailto:liepins@bissantz.de)

## Archive

To read previous issues of *DeltaMaster clicks!*, visit: [www.bissantz.de/clicks/en](http://www.bissantz.de/clicks/en)

## A different take on the Hyperbrowser

Soon, you can experience the famous Hyperbrowser in a completely different environment: As elegantly as you move through your data, you can browse through our website.

## ***Trick of the Month: ImportWizard – Preparing data for multi-dimensional analysis***

Typically, analysis and reporting applications access data that is regularly "pulled" from (operational) ERP systems and processed into OLAP cubes. We already described this architecture schematically in *DeltaMaster clicks! 07/2006*. The multi-dimensional structures of the cubes can be analyzed more flexibly and more quickly than the original tables. Most *DeltaMaster* analysis modules make use of this feature and work multi-dimensionally.

However, every once in a while, one has to work with data that is not in a cube. In order to be able to study this data with the typical analytical instruments from *DeltaMaster*, we have to put the data into a cube. Take the following examples:

- In mid-sized businesses, and even in subdivisions of larger companies, it is not guaranteed that you will find a spacious IT landscape with "full grown" OLAP databases and integrated processes for data transfers. Instead, many operational application systems are based on smaller databases such as Microsoft Access. But even this information needs to be analyzed, and therefore, cubes are needed.
- Marketing has done a large customer survey and saved the data in an Excel worksheet. Now, the features and responses are to be analyzed using all the tricks in the book.
- In order to prepare a new, integrated *DeltaMaster* application, you've received example data that you wish to analyze closely in order to be well prepared at the start the project with a "rapid prototype".

In these situations – and many others – *ImportWizard* is an ideal supplement to *DeltaMaster*. Its task is to create OLAP cubes that you can analyze using *DeltaMaster* out of input data that is structured in a table. *ImportWizard's* charm is that it is extremely simple to use. It was specially developed for the needs of end-users in technical departments and puts the users in the position to create analysis cubes spontaneously, without any knowledge of databases.

The *ImportWizard* can read data from the following sources:

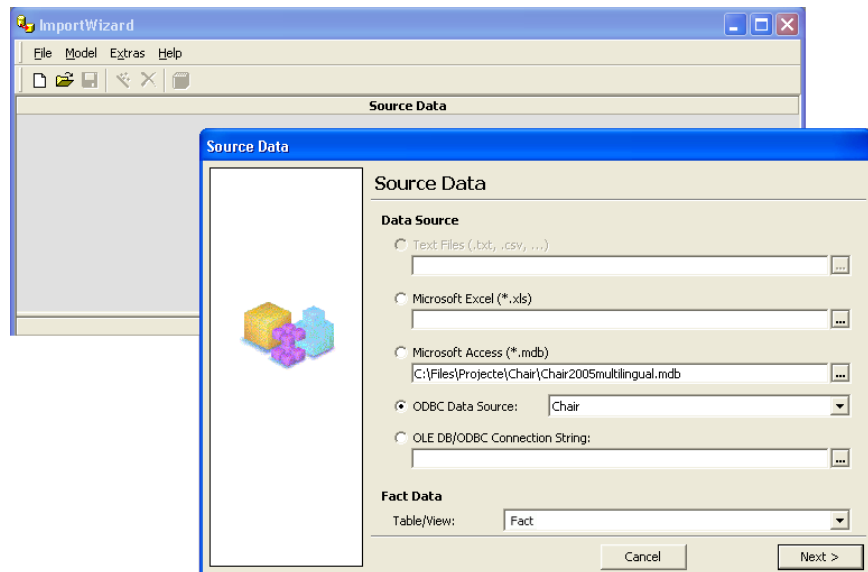
- Microsoft Excel worksheets (.xls)
- Tables and queries from Microsoft Access (.mdb)
- Tables and queries from ODBC and OLE DB connections, for example Microsoft SQL Server

and save the data as cubes for Microsoft Analysis Services 2000 or MIS Alea 3.7 to 4.1. The option to create what is known as a local cube file is of particular interest: it can be used even without an OLAP server.

In the example on the next page, we want to transform the relational source data from our demo database "Chair" into a cube. The important thing here is the basic method of operation. Due to the limited space for presentation, we cannot go into detail about all program options, exceptions, modeling alternatives and so on.

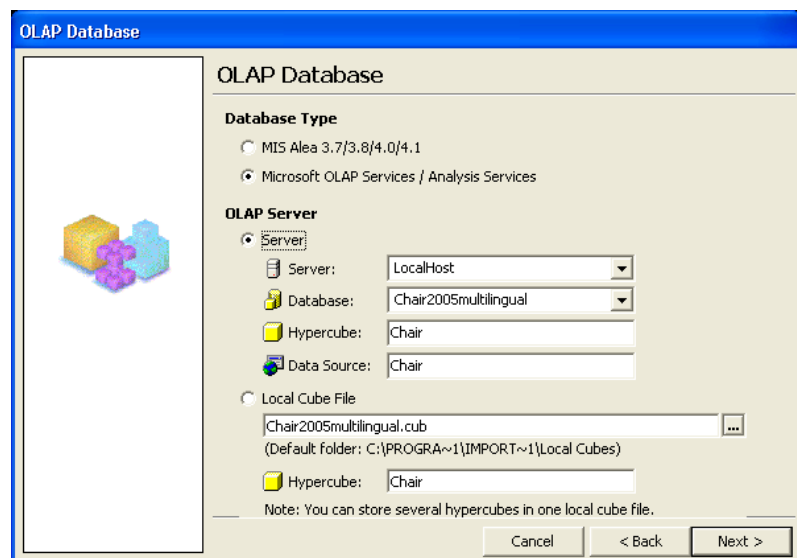
### From the start...

When you start a *New Project* from the *File* menu, a wizard appears with which you can select the *Source data* for your future cube. In our case, they are in an Access database. However, you can also select an Excel file or an ODBC or OLE DB data source. As soon as you have selected the file or ODBC data source, *ImportWizard* indicates which tables, views (queries) or worksheets are found at the source under *Fact Data*. The fact data is, loosely speaking, the key figures and criteria that you will later see as analysis values and dimensions in the analysis model. Please select the *Table/View* containing your data, and click on *Next*.



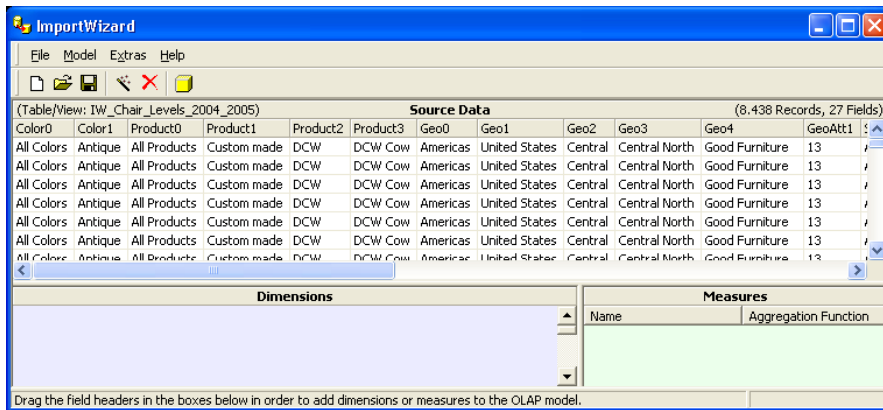
### ... to the finish line

In the next step, define the target format for the cubes generated by *ImportWizard*: either for MIS Alea or for Microsoft Analysis Services. Under Analysis Services, select the name of the server that will receive the cube and enter a name for the database, the cube and the source. Alternatively, you can save the cube file locally to use it without a server installation.



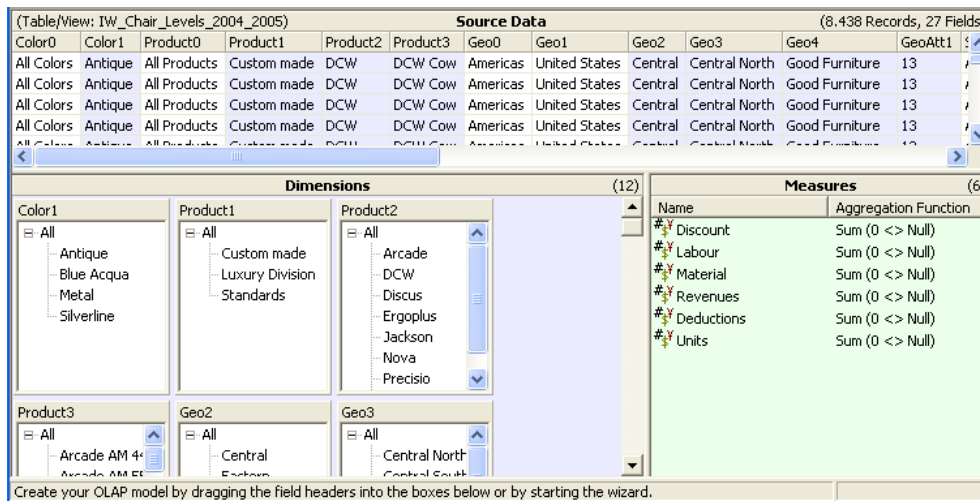
### Dimensions over dimensions

The screen appearing now is split into three sections. In the upper area, *ImportWizard* shows an excerpt of the data source. The redundancy displayed e.g. in the three fields for the products, is desired – it is the basis for dimensional hierarchies. The bottom window displays which dimensions and analysis values are to be depicted.



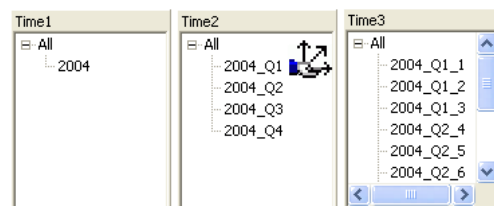
In order to create your model from the available fields (columns), simply drag the column header with the mouse and drop it in the dimension or value window, depending on if the field should be a dimension or a measure in your cube.

It's even faster with the wizard: When you click on the button with the magic wand, *ImportWizard* recognizes dimensions and measures automatically. *ImportWizard* inspects the source data with a series of heuristic techniques in order to recommend the best possible result. The model that the wizard creates can be changed as needed. In our example, *ImportWizard* recognized all analysis values and most dimensions correctly.

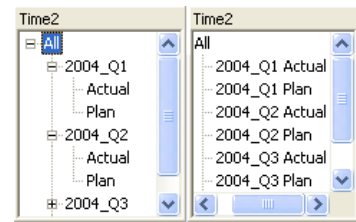


Columns that are already used as a dimension or measure are marked with a background color. The model is still missing hierarchies, for example the typical differentiation of years, quarters, and months, or the division of articles into main product groups, product groups and products.

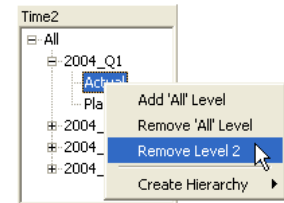
And even this is done quickly with *ImportWizard*: Press the *Ctrl* key and drag the column heading of one dimension box into another. This is done automatically and requires no confirmation if *ImportWizard* finds a connection using the redundancy of the source data.



If the connection could not be derived, the system asks if the second dimension should be placed *below* or *behind* the last level of the first dimension. The difference can be seen in the figure on the right. For demonstration purposes, an inexpedient hierarchy was selected. The value types can be found *below* the years on the left side of the image and *next* to the years on the right side of the image.



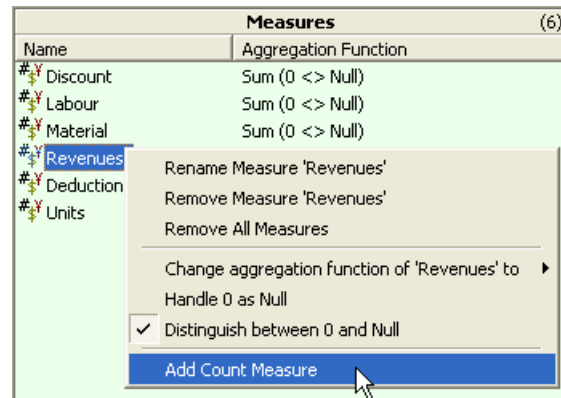
In the context menus of the dimensions and levels, you can find additional options, e.g. to rename or remove them from the model. If you would like to undo an unfortunate allocation like the one in the image above, click on an element of that level and remove it. *ImportWizard* can also automatically create hierarchies for common structures such as postal codes or dates. Here it is not necessary to include additional columns in the source data.



### Measuring

Your cube measures – those automatically created by the wizard as well as you own– can be renamed or further parameterized. Using the context menu, you can define the function you will use to aggregate the values. The most common aggregation is a sum. The other variants, e.g. the median, only come into play in a few cases.

It is also often useful to *Add a Count Measure* to your cube to have the number of records available e.g. to use them for ratios.



### Cubed

When the model meets your needs, click on the cube icon in the toolbar in order to create the cube. If you decided on a local cube file and have not entered a path, *ImportWizard* creates the file in the "Local Cubes" subdirectory of the *ImportWizard* installation folder, typically "C:\Program Files\ImportWizard\Local Cubes".



You have now successfully created your cube and can analyze it in *DeltaMaster* to your heart's desire.

The modeling project itself can be saved by clicking on the diskette icon. This way, you can re-create the cube with up-to-date data or modify the cube structure without having to start from scratch again.

All customers and partners can download and evaluate *ImportWizard* from the member section of our website. The entire functionality is available without restrictions, but creating a cube requires a license.