

igniteXML & Overlay Vocabularies

Overlaying Vocabularies on to a Canonical Model

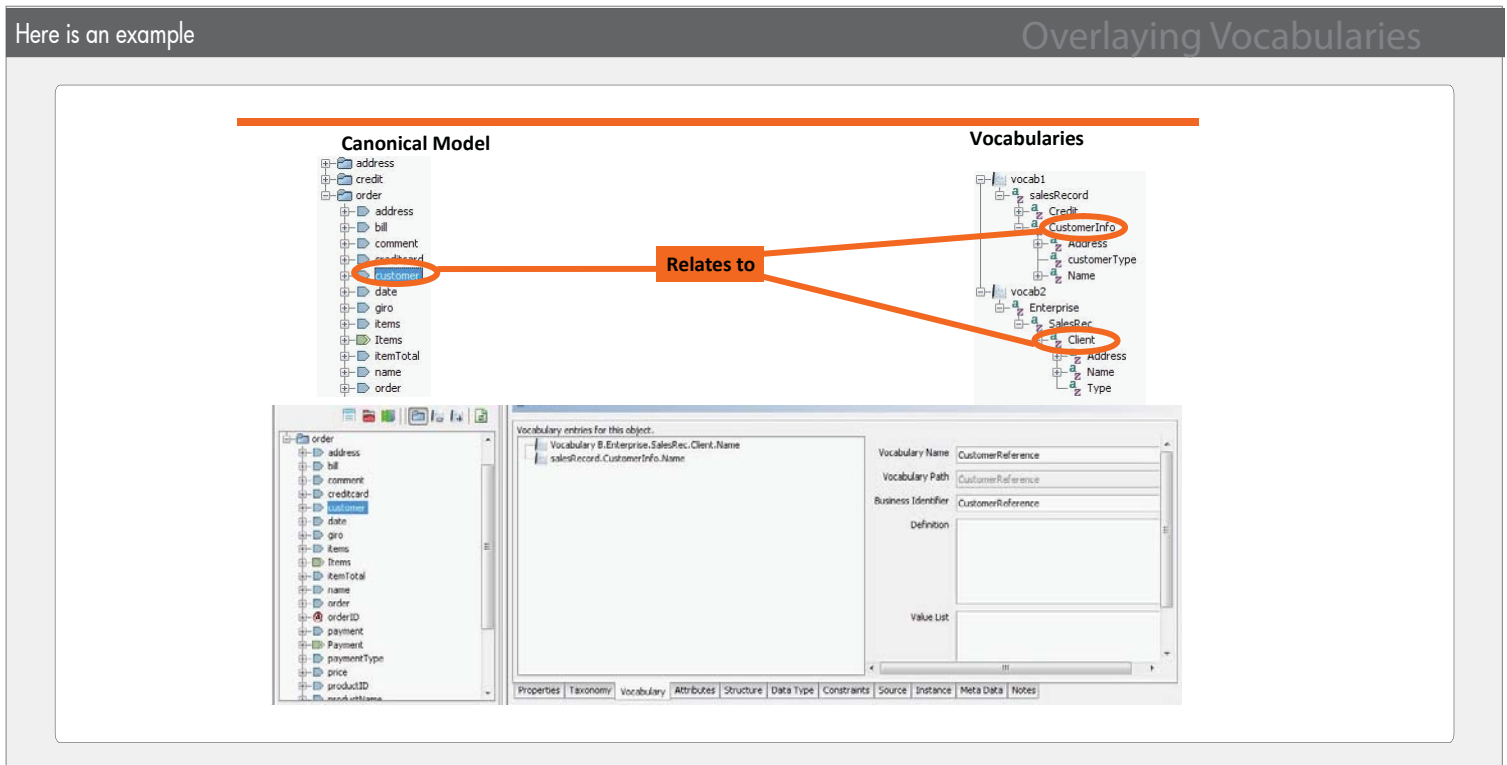
igniteXML & Overlaying Vocabularies on to a Canonical Model

One of the core success criteria for a Canonical Model Strategy is to encourage everyone to use the model. The key to this is getting buy in from the business users. Most business analysts and system developers are familiar with the vocabulary used in their environment but unfamiliar with the vocabulary used in the Canonical Model. These different vocabularies could be data models used in existing back end systems, vocabularies used with trading partners (e.g. EDI) or vocabularies from Software vendors e.g. SAP.

igniteXML has the capability to import these different vocabularies and overlay them onto the Canonical Model at any level of granularity. This means that different users can search across the model using terms familiar to them and be pointed to the correct part of the model.

Here is an example

Overlaying Vocabularies



In this example there are two different vocabularies; vocab1 could be from an invoicing system and vocab2 from a Credit Checking system. Vocab1 has a data model that uses the vocabulary "CustomerInfo" and Vocab2 refers to "Client". These in fact both relate to "customer" in the Canonical Model. The lower part of the diagram shows how this relationship is held at a component level in igniteXML. Once the vocabulary overlays have been established they can be published along with the model to the consumer server. This allows any authorized user to search the model via a web browser using the vocabulary of their choice. When the result is presented they can also see the data lineage i.e. all the other vocabularies associated with the particular component. This is a very powerful capability for the Business Analyst as it provides a view of the canonical model and its relationship to all the existing systems. Once the component has been selected, the ICS server will automatically build a subset schema from the model and publish it along with a vocabulary relationship report for that selection. This report can be used as the starting point for the mappings that need to be built.

The mechanisms for importing and mapping the relationships are designed to be very simple. Most organisations have these vocabularies and mappings sitting in Excel today. With igniteXML you can import the vocabulary directly from Excel (or any XML format). There is also the capability to import an excel sheet that maps the relationships to rapidly populate the model with the vocabulary overlay. igniteXML even has a coverage report to show how much of the model has a vocabulary overlay.

The vocabulary overlay feature was designed to assist in Model adoption but it has an interesting side benefit. The model and the vocabulary relationships are all stored in an underlying RDBMS. Therefore this database could form the starting point for an enterprise wide semantic repository.