Data integration made easy with Talend Open Studio for Data Integration

Dimitar Zahariev BI / DI Consultant dimitar@zahariev.pro @shekeriev





Disclaimer

Please keep in mind that:

- I'm not related in any way to Talend
- Everything stated from now on is my personal opinion and it doesn't reflect in any way the position of my employer or other related parties

Agenda

What is data integration?

Aren't there any tools?

What is Talend Open Studio for Data Integration?

What is data integration?

It has something to do with data ...

What Wikipedia says about data integration?

"Data integration involves combining data residing in different sources and providing users with a unified view of these data."

Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Data_integration

What are the main aspects to consider?

We should pay attention to the following:

Source

Where data is coming from and in what format

Transportation

How we will get the data from and to the end points

Processing

What we are expected to do with the data

Target

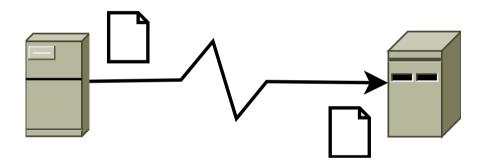
Where and under what format we are expected to put the processed data

Data integration use cases

Typical data integration use cases:

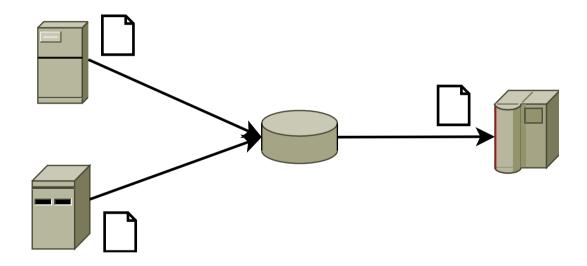
- File exchange
 - Batch processing of different file formats
- Data migration
 - A one-time process that moves and transforms data between two systems
- Data synchronization
 - A repeatable process that keeps the data in sync across many systems
- ETL (extract, transform, load)
 - A key component process of a data warehouse or business intelligence systems

A simple scenario



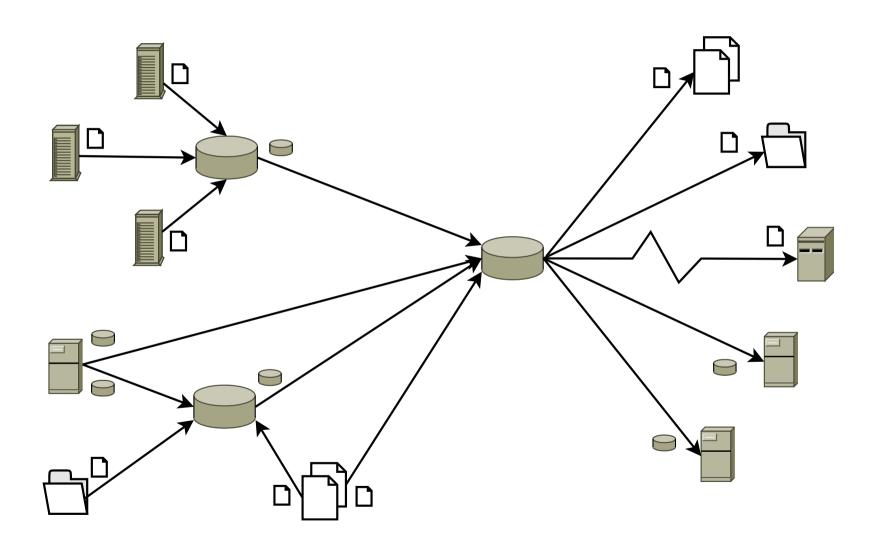
Two systems – one source and one target, exchanging only plain text files, but with different structures.

A bit more complex scenario



Two source systems and two targets – a database and another system. Input data is coming as plain text files and it has to be stored in the database and delivered as text files to the third system.

And what about this?



What can we do to meet the requirements?

Any of the following will do the job:

- Write our own solution from end to end
 Time consuming solution which can be difficult to support or extend also
- Use a combination of existing tools and own code Leads to a fragmented solution with limited options to scale
- Go out and pick up an integration solution
 Usually the most robust choice

Aren't there any tools?

Yes, there are but ...

Data integration tools classification

Based on their level of completeness/coverage:

- Integration packages
- Development environments
- Complete suites

Based on their support terms:

- Community based
- Subscription levels

Integration engines

Integration engines have the following specifics:

- Do not offer UI capabilities
- Intended for easy embedding
- Distributed as libraries
- Offer fewer functionalities

Integration solutions

Integration solutions usually are:

- Offered in different packages
- Richer in terms of functionality
- Convenient graphical UI
- Complementary tools
- Enterprise ready

What is Talend Open Studio for Data Integration?

Besides being a great tool it is also ...

What is Talend Open Studio for Data Integration?

Talend Open Studio is:

- An open source graphical environment
- It allows us to rapidly develop data integration processes
- It makes data integration a manageable process

Which in turn allows us to focus on the process rather than the technical details.

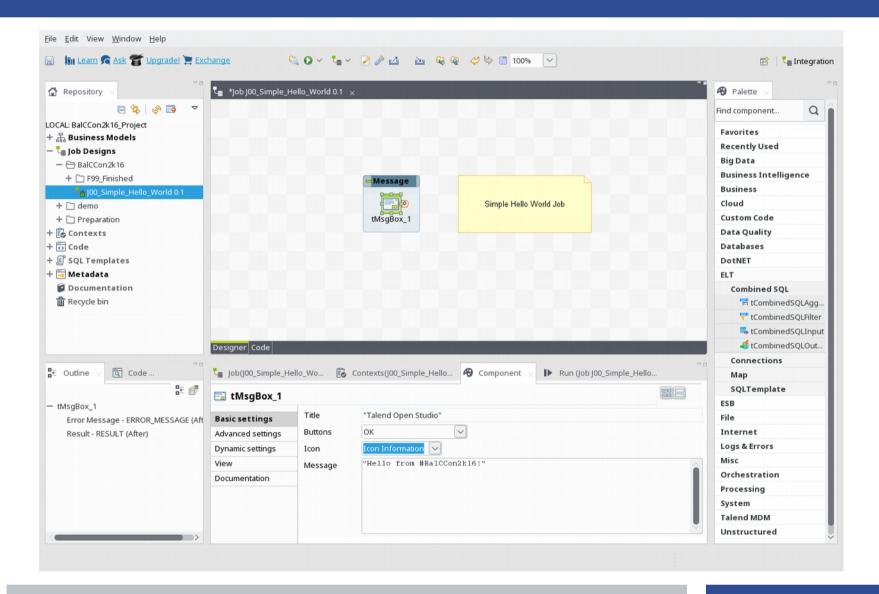
What it does?

Typical usage of Studio includes but is not limited to:

- Data migration
- Data synchronization
- Data exchange
- and etc.

Talend Studio addresses both the needs of ETL for analytics and ETL for operational integration equally well.

General look and feel



Main definitions

Workspace

Local directory that stores one or more projects

Project

Logical grouping of one or more jobs

Job

The smallest executable unit. It is a group of one or more components. Typically implements a data flow or integration process

Main components of the Studio

Repository

Gives us access to the Repository where we can create Jobs and manage metadata

Design Workspace

Provides us with a playground to design our Jobs

Configuration Tabs

Allow us to control the components behavior and execute Jobs

- Outline and Code Tabs
- Palette

Contains the different components we use to build our Jobs

Main sections of the Repository

Job Designs

Stores Jobs we work on. Furthermore Jobs can be organized into folders

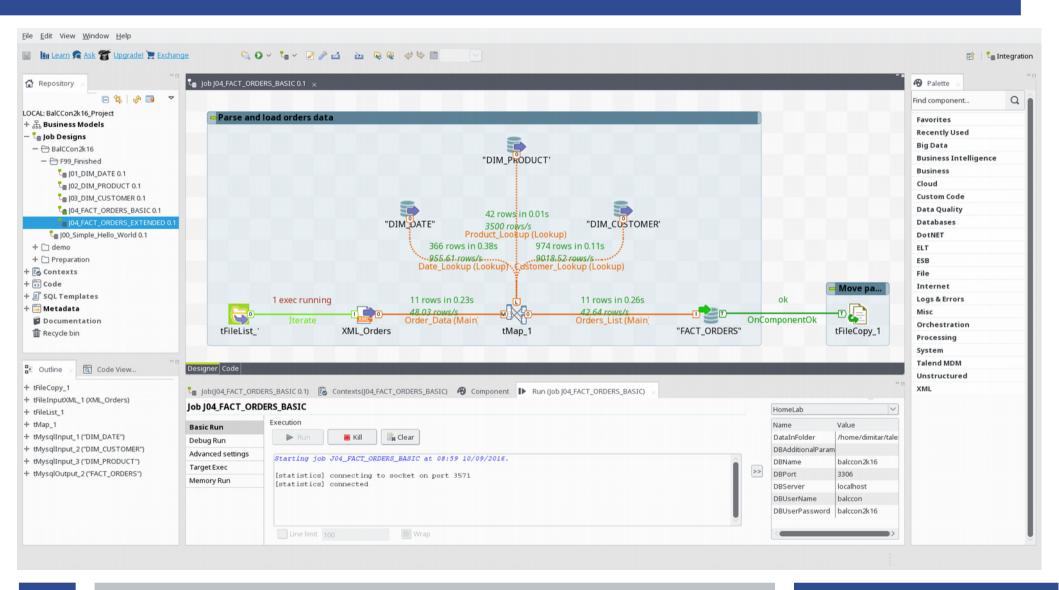
Contexts

Contains sets of global or job-specific variables

Metadata

Holds descriptive information about our data sources and targets grouped by type

Talend Open Studio for Data Integration in action



What skills do we need to possess?

It is good to be comfortable to some extent with:

- General file structures (CSV, XML, and etc.)
- Relational Databases and SQL
- Data warehousing methodology and techniques
- General Java knowledge
- Protocols like SMTP, FTP, and etc.

... and of course willingness to learn.

Why we should use it?

Here are some points to consider:

- It is open source
- It is easy to learn
- It is quick to develop with
- It is easy to install
- It has a huge amount of components
- It is backed by a solid community

Resources

Useful stuff to help us on our journey with Talend

Official resources

A short list of helpful resources:

- Software and documentation
 http://www.talend.com/download/talend-open-studio#t4
- Talend knowledge base
 https://help.talend.com/display/HOME/Knowledge+Base
- Talend community site
 https://www.talendforge.org/
- Talend demo project (available within the studio)

Additional resources

A very good book on the subject:

• Getting Started with Talend Open Studio for Data Integration by Jonathan Bowen

Resources prepared by me:

- Pre-Built Linux VMs with Talend installed for VirtualBox https://zahariev.pro/balccon2k16
- Articles on the subject (they will increase with time)
 https://zahariev.pro/category/talend

Thank you!

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