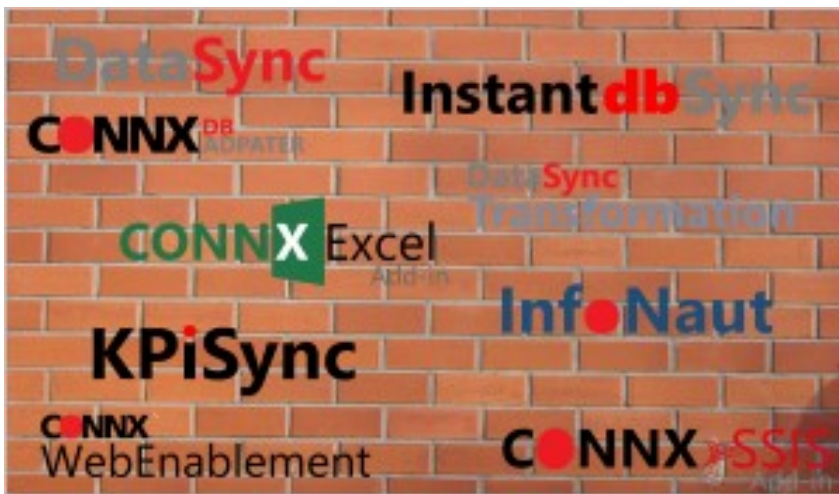# NEWSLETTER

Data Should Know No Boundaries

March-July 2016

Content:

- **Data Virtualization Tech Brief**
- **64 Bit Bridging Tech Brief**
- **Case Study:** CRS 32 to 64-Bit Bridge Technology
- **Case Study:** Fabick uses DataSync for RMS Data
- **PR:** WhereScape and CONNX Announce Strategic Partnership and Global Reseller Agreement

> CONNX is focused on data access, virtualization, and data movement, whether it is for data warehousing, mobile consumption, replication, BI, or other. All this empowers users to support real-time effective decision making across organizations via solutions like our KPiSync. With support to over 150 databases, CONNX can help connect and optimize all the data sources in your business environment.

Harpal Gill
SVP Global Alliances & Sales

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About CONNX
CONNX Solutions is a leader in data access, migration, integration, virtualization, and replication. Their solutions enable quick, secure, and scalable SQL access to legacy, non-relational, relational, and cloud data wherever it resides, however it is structured, without any change to your core systems. CONNX is quick and easy to set up and use and offers easy standards-based tools that are accessible, flexible, and scalable.
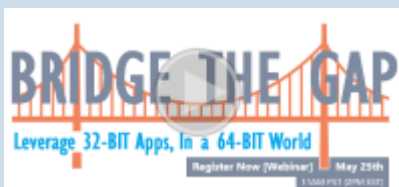
Since 2001, CONNX solutions have been installed in more than 3,200 organizations worldwide and across a range of industries including government, manufacturing, education, technology, human resources, financial services, and telecommunications. CONNX's solutions unleash the power and value of information, providing organizations the ability to make confident, evidence-based business decisions.

Learn more: www.connx.com

WATCH OUR LATEST WEBINAR:

"Bridge the gap: Leverage 32-Bit apps in 64-Bit World"

Harpal Gill
SVP Global Alliances & Sales

Live access to all your data in a single view.

In today´s world of rapid decision making the concept of data extraction and loading is not always the most efficient way to get the most current data. Data virtualization is the rapid access to live data via solutions that provide a single data management model (Metadata Model) that allows an application to retrieve and manipulate data from one or more data sources without requiring technical details about the data, such as how it is formatted or where it is physically located.
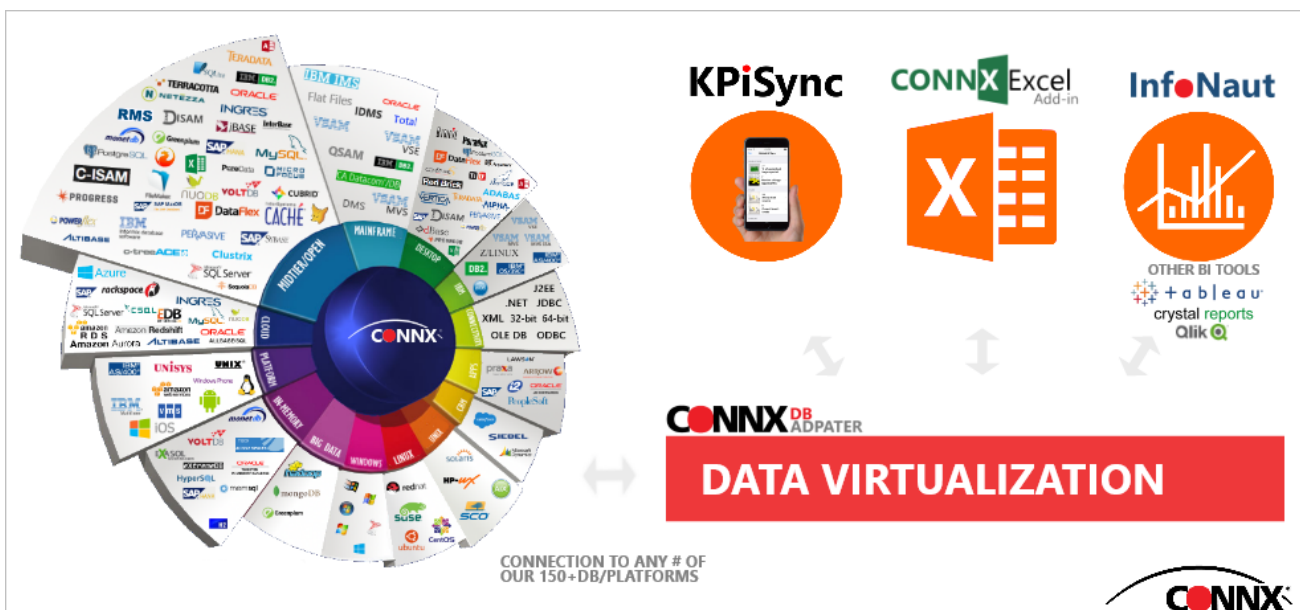
CONNX Data Virtualization uses the CONNX DB Adaptor to create a single view of a single or multiple databases and allow real-time access to consume the as it is being updated in real-time.

Benefits

- Fewer data errors
- Less stress on source systems workload
- Reduced time for development/support
- Less strain on data storage
- Sped up data access with real-time

The concept of Data Virtualization is the ability of an enabling technology to provide, Virtualized Data Access — Connect to one or more (similar or different) data sources and allow the user to consume the data from a single data access point. Use cases of Data Virtualization software may include functions for development, operation, and/or management.
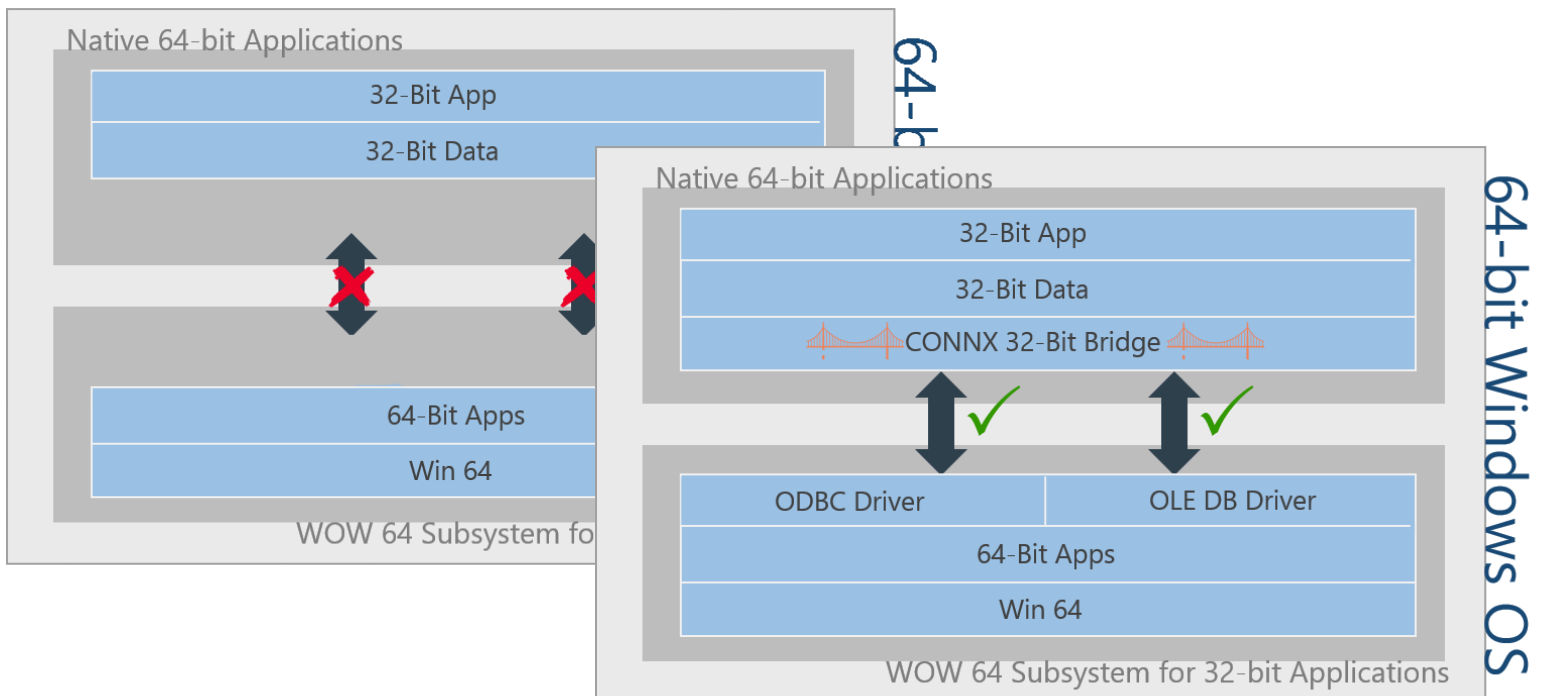
Learn more about Virtualization

Leverage your 32-bit apps, in a 64-bit world.

Industry's Only 64 Bit Data Bridge

If you perform a Google search for a 64 bit ODBC or OLE/DB provider for Microsoft Access, you will find many people posting inquiries about whether one exists, but you will not find any answers. As of the writing of this white paper, a 64 bit OLEDB/ODBC driver does not exist. With the upcoming release of Windows Server 2012 and 2008 R2, the importance of 64 bit drivers is increasing, as this operating system will only have a 64 bit version, and many server applications will also be 64 bit only. The CONNX 64 bit Data Bridge enables any 64 bit aware application to communicate to a 32 bit ODBC or OLEDB provider. This enables SQL Server linked server connections (from a 64 bit instance of SQL Server) to communicate to legacy 32 bit ODBC drivers.

For modern databases such as SQL Server and Oracle, there are already native 64 bit drivers, but for less common systems, or databases where the manufacturer has no plans to create a 64 bit driver, the bridge is a needed component in allowing your systems infrastructure to upgrade, while maintaining access to legacy production data sources. For companies that already have a 32 bit driver to a given data source, the CONNX 64 bit Data Bridge instantly extends it to a 64 bit ODBC Driver, 64 bit OLE DB Provider, and 64 bit .NET Data Provider. For a complete list of our databases, check out our databases page.

Learn more about 32 to 64-Bit **Bridging.**

CRS DATA AND CONNX SOLUTIONS CASE STUDY

Since 1989, CRS Data has worked to connect its customers with powerful, accurate data. Simply put, the company is dedicated to doing data better. CRS Data's innovative suites, robust data, reliable technology and outstanding customer service are why real estate professionals, MLSs, and bankers across the nation turn to CRS Data for their property intelligence.

Industry
Computer Processing and Data Preparation Services

Solution
32 to 64-bit Bridge

Linked Servers

Benefits

♦ Improved functionality of source systems

♦ Time and cost savings

♦ Fast to implement

♦ Data abstraction layer

About CRS Data

CRS Data was started in the late 1980's as Courthouse Retrieval System, with the objective of retrieving public records from county government offices to service real estate's leading professionals. Since inception, CRS Data's programs have diversified to respond to the needs of MLSs, investors, lenders, appraisers and bankers, who all rely on the company's intuitive, top-performing solutions to ultimately improve upon their bottom line. From a BBS subscription service, the company has expanded, now offering public records data services to professionals all over the U.S. Today, CRS Data offers property tax data for hundreds of counties across the country.

Part of CRS Data's business involves downloading real estate listings from Multiple Listing Service (MLS) feeds. These feeds use a standard called the Real Estate Transaction System (RETS). RETS feeds are essentially a web service that queries a database. There are a few different options available to programmatically access this data using any number of platforms and languages. Previously CRS Data was using the ODBC driver called ezRETS to connect to the data because it integrated best with SQL server, but a recent server upgrade would cause that client to stop working.

"I would recommend CONNX to any company that needs to bridge a 32-bit data source to a 64-bit client. The CONNX 32 to 64-bit bridge allowed us to continue to use the 32-bit ezRETS ODBC driver with our 64-bit SQL Server Linked Server without much hassle."

- Paul McGowan | DB Administrator at CRS Data

The Problem

The Real Estate Transaction Standard (RETS) is a common language spoken by systems that handle real estate information, such as multiple listing services. A common language enables computers to exchange information about real estate transactions without being specially "trained" to understand the information from each. You can think of RETS a Web Service for real estate: a presentation language and protocol for real estate information access.

Similarly, servers that implement RETS, available from a number of different vendors, can talk to clients that also implement RETS. If you're building a real estate solution that needs to access MLS or other real estate data, building it with RETS is the way to get the widest possible customer base. CRS Data queries over 50 RETS servers daily for MLS listings.

Recently CRS decided it was time to retire the old server that handled importing the listings into their dataset. They were using SQL Server 2008R2 32 bit. There exists an ODBC driver called *ezRETS* which was designed to allow a RETS feed to be accessed using SQL commands. CRS leveraged this to create SQL Server Linked Servers to each rets feed. This way, only minimal dependencies existed between the original data and the CRS copy. The server responsible for performing these data imports was an aging machine that was only still around because the ezRETS driver only came in the 32 bit flavor. In order to natively access a 32 bit ODBC driver, SQL Server must be the 32 bit version.

A solution was required that would allow a 64 bit program to access a 32 bit DSN. This is where CONNX comes in. CRS set up a demo with CONNX to see if it would work without significantly having to rewrite and test the underlying procedures. The main issue with the ODBC driver is that it lacks much of the metadata that a traditional ODBC connection would have. After a little configuration and tweaking, they had a working bridge from a 32 bit ODBC connection to the 64 bit SQL Server. By dropping the CONNX Enterprise Server in the middle of the process, it saved CRS a tremendous amount of time because they did not have to significantly change their processes or create their own in-house RETS client.

The Solution

For modern databases such as SQL Server and Oracle, there are already native 64 bit drivers, but for less common systems, or databases where the manufacturer has no plans to create a 64 bit driver, the bridge is a needed component in allowing your systems infrastructure to upgrade, while maintaining access to legacy production data sources. For companies that already have a 32 bit driver to a given data source, the CONNX 64 bit Data Bridge instantly extends it to a 64 bit ODBC Driver, 64 bit OLE DB Provider, and 64 bit .NET Data Provider. For a complete list of our databases, check out our **databases page**.
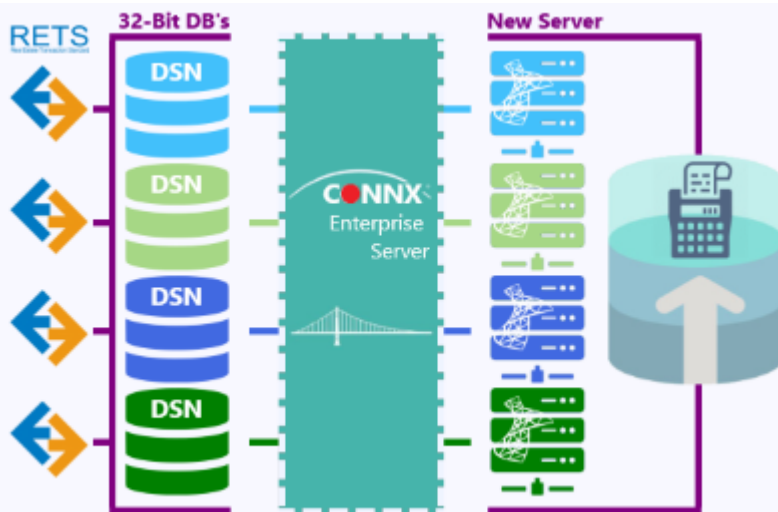
CONNX has a 32 bit Service called the Enterprise Server Service, which is responsible for establishing connections to legacy 32 bit drivers that don't yet have a 64 bit counterpart. The CONNX 32 bit ODBC Driver, OLE DB Provider, .NET Data Provider, and JDBC Server can communicate to the 32 bit Service running under the WOW64 subsystem, and provide seamless access to 32 bit data sources natively from 64 bit applications. See above image.

The Results

CONNX allowed CRS Data to move to SQL Server 2014 and still use old 32-bit RETS ODBC Drivers. Without the CONNX 32 to 64 Bridge CRS could either keep running an old version SQL Server or write their own 64 bit RETS client. CONNX allowed CRS to maintain their existing configuration without having to invest any more time than necessary for the upgrade.

Paul McGowan, a Database Administrator at CRS said, **"***I would recommend CONNX to any company that needs to bridge a 32-bit data source to a 64-bit client. The CONNX 32 to 64-bit bridge allowed us to continue to use the 32-bit ezRETS ODBC driver with our 64-bit SQL Server Linked Server without much hassle."*
"The new setup has been running without issue, relatively untouched since the initial setup. To me, not having to fiddle with something every day makes it worth the expense."

FABICK CAT AND CONNX CASE STUDY

Fabick CAT specializes in the distribution of Caterpillar equipment. The company s product line consists of more than 300 machines. It features articulated trucks, backhoe loaders, compactors, front shovels, hydraulic excavators, motor graders, paving equipment and off-highway trucks. It also offers a wide range of rentals. The company was established in 1917 and maintains a facility in Fenton, Mo.

Industry

Tractor Dealer

HQ

Fenton, MO

Solution

DataSync for RMS

Data Warehousing

Highlights

♦   SQL Server Data Warehouse

♦   Consolidated reporting across multiple business units with different data sources

♦   Index files CDC to SQL Server

DataSync for RMS Data.

When Fabick Cat merged with another Cat dealership, that had its custom written Order Processing system running on OpenVMS with RMS files, they came to CONNX for a solution to provide data warehouse for both systems.

The late John Fabick, Sr., founded the first Fabick Company in 1917, merchandising Cletrac Crawler Tractors and John Deere farm implements. With only three employees and one small store on South Grand Avenue in St. Louis, Mr. Fabick set out to "build the greatest service organization of its kind." To achieve this goal, he adopted as his company creed "to ever serve our customers better."

In 1921, Mr. Fabick expanded his business by including the Model A and Model S Crawler Tractors manufactured by C.L. Best. Four years later, C.L. Best and Holt Manufacturing merged to form the organization that is known today as Cater-

"DataSync is able to perform most syncs in seconds. Only copying the changed data has not impacted the performance on our Open-VMS Server for interactive users."

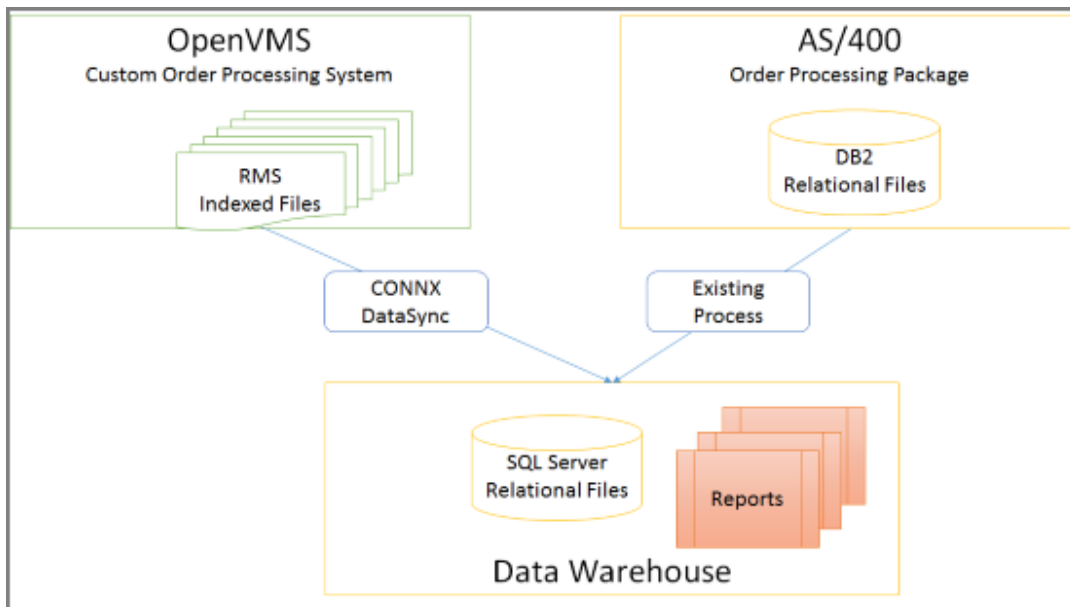**- Arnie Strouse** │ Systems Analyst

-pillar Inc., the world's leading man-ufacturer of construction machin-ery. From this early beginning, the association between Fabick and Caterpillar Inc. has grown hand-in-hand and continues to thrive.

Today, there are more than 1,100 employees including members of the Fabick family's third, fourth, and fifth generations, working together under the active leadership of the founder's great-grandson, Douglas Fabick, as CEO and Dealer Principal along with Jeré Fabick serving as President and co-Dealer Principal. What makes Fabick Cat unique is not only its size, but its outstanding people, support, and facilities

The initial plan was to FTP files from the OpenVMS server and load them into SQL Server. Concerns about the amount of data being down-load every day and the manual na-ture of this approach was causing concerns. Dave Kramer, IT Manager at Fabick, having a positive experi-ence using CONNX previously to access RMS data, decided to give us a call yet again. CONNX had just the solution to meet their demands.

The Solution

DataSync is a micro-batch, low-latency Change Data Capture solu-tion. Keep your data fresh and up-to-date without impacting the per-formance of your data sources with CONNX Data-Sync. DataSync lets you maintain data warehouses with minimal effort or system requirements, delivering near real-time data integration and continuous refreshes by incrementally updating only those records that have changed. Eliminate the need for large and resource-intensive bulk data refreshes with DataSync's highly effi-cient and market-proven de-sign. Arnie Strouse, the lead analyst on the Fabick project said, "DataSync is able to perform most syncs in sec-onds. Only copying the changed data has not impacted the perfor-mance on our OpenVMS Server for interactive users."
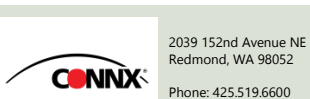

bound together by the single con-cept of total service capability for the equipment owner.

The Problem

Fabick has an AS/400 based system order processing system that is used across many Fabick install-ments. After acquiring a second Cat Dealership an issue arose when they realized the dealership had its own custom written Order Pro-cessing system running on Open-VMS with RMS files. What they wanted was a solution to provide a data warehouse for both systems. This will provide uniform reporting and analytics for both companies.

DataSync is a database synchroni-zation software that lets you set the update schedule so you can opti-mize system performance based on your organization's needs. Depend-ing on the demand, you can sched-ule updates for lower-use periods such as after normal business hours, or as frequently as every mi-nute when you need the most up-to-date data available. It's fast to implement, easy to use, versatile, scalable, and minimizes project risk.

WhereScape and CONNX Solutions Announce Strategic Partnership & Global Reseller Agreement

WhereScape will resell CONNX's Change Data Capture and Legacy Data Migration solutions

February 17, 2016 11:00 AM Eastern Standard Time

PORTLAND, Ore.--WhereScape, the data warehouse automation pioneer, and CONNX Solutions, a leader in data access, migration, integration, virtualization, and replication, today announced a strategic partnership and global reseller agreement under which WhereScape will remarket CONNX's change data capture (CDC) and legacy data migration solutions.

WhereScape and CONNX Solutions Announce Strategic Partnership and Global Reseller Agreement

🐦 Tweet this

Using Change Data Capture solutions from CONNX, organizations can build a business-facing data mart or data warehouse with WhereScape RED, WhereScape's flagship automation solution, and keep it fresh and up to date with near real-time data integration and continuous refreshes by incrementally updating only those records that have changed.

CONNX uses a unique distributed SQL Engine to move an organization's enterprise data from source to target, capturing changes from single or multiple data sources. This distributed engine optimizes performance based on available resources at the source and destination, enabling organizations to specify which data to move, when to move it, where to put it and whether to perform a complete or incremental update.

WhereScape will also remarket CONNX's data migration solutions, enabling WhereScape customers to access virtually any legacy, non-relational or relational database. CONNX solutions automate the data extraction, transformation and loading processes, reducing the effort and associated costs of intelligently moving data into new platforms.

"We are pleased to be partnering with CONNX Solutions to make available their industry-leading change data capture and legacy data migration tools," said Mark Budzinski, president of WhereScape. "CONNX solutions will help our customers further accelerate business intelligence and data warehouse deployments, simplify and expedite data change capture, as well as simplify infrastructure management."

"The ability to support faster, more effective decision making across an organization depends on the reliability and accuracy of the data as well as putting fresh, up-to-date information into the hands of decision makers," said Douglas Wright, CONNX co-founder and CEO. "The combination of WhereScape's data warehouse automation profiling and development tools and the CONNX data migration and data movement solutions provide a compelling end-to-end solution for migrating, profiling, developing and updating BI and data warehouse environments without compromising uptime or performance."

CONNX

WhereScape®

Release Summary

WhereScape and CONNX Solutions Announce Strategic Partnership and Global Reseller Agreement. WhereScape will resell CONNX's Change Data Capture and Legacy Data Migration solutions.

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About CONNX Solutions, Inc.

CONNX Solutions is a leader in data access, migration, integration, virtualization, and replication. Their solutions enable quick, secure, and scalable SQL access to legacy, non-relational, relational, and cloud data wherever it resides, however it is structured, without any change to your core systems. CONNX is quick and easy to set up and use and offers easy standards-based tools that are accessible, flexible, and scalable. Since 2001, CONNX solutions have been installed in more than 3,200 organizations worldwide and across a range of industries including government, manufacturing, education, technology, human resources, financial services, and telecommunications. CONNX's solutions unleash the power and value of information, providing organizations the ability to make confident, evidence-based business decisions.

About WhereScape

WhereScape is the data warehouse automation pioneer. WhereScape designs, develops, sells and supports WhereScape 3D, the industry's first data warehouse discovery tool; and WhereScape RED, the industry's first and best integrated development environment for building, deploying, managing and renovating data warehouses and analytic systems. WhereScape's products are used in every kind of today's commercial environment: from normal-form enterprise data warehouses and data vaults, through user access layers and tiers of dependent data marts, to standalone data marts and reporting systems.

"The ability to support faster, more effective decision making across an organization depends on the reliability and accuracy of the data as well as putting fresh, up-to-date information into the hands of decision makers."

– **Doug Wright** | CEO and Co-founder