

[0323] Referring now to FIG. 8, there is illustrated a schematic block diagram of an exemplary computing environment 800 in accordance with the present invention. The system 800 includes one or more client(s) 802. The client(s) 802 can be hardware and/or software (e.g., threads, processes, computing devices). The client(s) 802 can house cookie(s) and/or associated contextual information by employing the present invention, for example. The system 800 also includes one or more server(s) 804. The server(s) 804 can also be hardware and/or software (e.g., threads, processes, computing devices). The servers 804 can house threads to perform transformations by employing the present invention, for example. One possible communication between a client 802 and a server 804 may be in the form of a data packet adapted to be transmitted between two or more computer processes. The data packet may include a cookie and/or associated contextual information, for example. The system 800 includes a communication framework 806 (e.g., a global communication network such as the Internet) that can be employed to facilitate communications between the client(s) 802 and the server(s) 804. Communications may be facilitated via a wired (including optical fiber) and/or wireless technology. The client(s) 802 are operably connected to one or more client data store(s) 808 that can be employed to store information local to the client(s) 802 (e.g., cookie(s) and/or associated contextual information). Similarly, the server(s) 804 are operably connected to one or more server data store(s) 810 that can be employed to store information local to the servers 804.

[0324] What has been described above includes examples of the present invention. It is, of course, not possible to describe every conceivable combination of components or methodologies for purposes of describing the present invention, but one of ordinary skill in the art may recognize that many further combinations and permutations of the present invention are possible. Accordingly, the present invention is intended to embrace all such alterations, modifications and variations that fall within the spirit and scope of the appended claims. Furthermore, to the extent that the term “includes” is used in either the detailed description or the claims, such term is intended to be inclusive in a manner similar to the term “comprising” as “comprising” is interpreted when employed as a transitional word in a claim.

What is claimed is:

1. A system that facilitates representing a relational database in a different format, comprising a declarative description component that facilitates generating data that represents the relational database.
2. The system of claim 1, the data is generated from relational database schema information.
3. The system of claim 2, the schema information is in the form of metadata.
4. The system of claim 1, the description component derives logical and physical information from the relational database.
5. The system of claim 4, the physical information is harvested directly from schema information of the relational database.
6. The system of claim 4, the logical information is generated with annotation information associated with the relational database.

7. The system of claim 6, the annotation information is obtained at least one of manually by a user and automatically by the system.

8. The system of claim 6, the logical information describes a relationship between at least two tables of the database.

9. The system of claim 1, the declarative description component is based upon an XML syntax.

10. The system of claim 1, the data is segmented into smaller data portions.

11. The system of claim 1, the data is segmented to allow logical extensions thereof.

12. The system of claim 1, the data is a logical view of metadata of the relational database.

13. The system of claim 1, the description component generates the data with sufficient metadata to allow generation and/or execution of create, read, update, and delete operations against the relational database.

14. The system of claim 1, the description component derives physical information from the relational database to generate the data, which physical information is regenerated each time the description component executes against the database.

15. The system of claim 1, the data is updated by executing the description component against the database to overwrite the data.

16. The system of claim 1, the updated data preserves user-supplied extensions.

17. The system of claim 1, an application using the data initiates an update process of the data.

18. The system of claim 1, further comprising a classification component that performs an automated function.

19. The system of claim 18, the automated function determines at least one of when the data will be updated and what location will be updated.

20. The system of claim 18, the classification component is a support vector machine.

21. The system of claim 18, the automated function includes annotating physical information representative of the database to generate logical information.

22. The system of claim 21, the automated function further includes returning a degree of certainty that annotation of the physical information is correct.

23. A computer operating in accordance with the system of claim 1.

24. A system that represents a relational schema of a relational database in a different format, comprising a declarative description component that receives the relational schema in the form of metadata and generates a data file representative of a logical view thereof.

25. The system of claim 24, the description component derives logical and physical information from the metadata, which physical information is derived directly from the metadata, and which logical information includes annotations of the physical information.

26. The system of claim 25, the annotation information is added incrementally.

27. The system of claim 24, the data file is segmented into smaller data files to allow logical extensions thereof.

28. The system of claim 24, the data file is stored local to the database.

29. The system of claim 24, the declarative description component runs against the relational database from a location remote from the relational database.