

305. Overview and Architecture

Overview

The IDRT Import and Mapping Tool (IMT) is a client application that allows you to **import data into existing i2b2 projects** and **make changes to the i2b2 navigation ontology** from your local computer without using the i2b2 workbench or the i2b2 web client.

The process of getting data into a data warehouse is often called **ETL**: **Extraction, Transformation, Loading**. Extraction means that data is gathered from a data source by parsing, therefore, an understanding of the underlying data model is required. Transformation is the process of mapping the source data model to the target data model, in this case i2b2's database schema for every data instance. Loading is a feature to persist the transformation by adding the data to the target (the i2b2 database).

Architecture

The IMT operates on two levels. As shown in the big picture below, it provides basic ETL for various data sources and formats by using dedicated "extractors". Additionally, it allows for modifying the i2b2 ontology. For more information see the [IDRT Platform Architecture](#) page.

