ibi Summit 2026

Lab: Master of Metadata - the Art of the ibi Semantic Layer

Anita George, Advanced Technology Strategist



© Copyright 2026 Cloud Software Group, Inc.

ibi Summit 2026

Build It: User Driven Apps, Dashboards & Portals

Anita George, Advanced Technology Strategist



© Copyright 2026 Cloud Software Group, Inc.

Confidentiality & Disclaimer

The information in this document is confidential information of Cloud Software Group, Inc. and/or its affiliates. Use, duplication, transmission, or republication for any purpose without the prior written consent of Cloud Software Group, Inc. is expressly prohibited.

This document (including, without limitation, any product roadmap or statement of direction data) illustrates the planned testing, release and availability dates for Cloud Software Group, Inc. products and services. This document is provided for informational purposes only and its contents are subject to change without notice. Cloud Software Group, Inc. makes no warranties, express or implied, in or relating to this document or any information in it, including, without limitation, that this document, or any information in it, is error-free or meets any conditions of merchantability or fitness for a particular purpose.

The material provided is for informational purposes only, and should not be relied on in making a purchasing decision. The information is not a commitment, promise or legal obligation to deliver any material, code, or functionality. The development, release, and timing of any features or functionality described for our products remains at our sole discretion.

During the course of this presentation, Cloud Software Group, Inc. or its representatives may make forward-looking statements regarding future events Cloud Software Group, Inc.'s future results or our future financial performance. These statements are based on management's current expectations. Although we believe that the expectations reflected in the forward-looking statements contained in this presentation are reasonable, these expectations or any such forward-looking statements could prove to be incorrect and actual results or financial performance could differ materially from those stated herein. Cloud Software Group, Inc. does not undertake to update any forward-looking statement that may be made from time to time or on its behalf.

© Copyright 2024 Cloud Software Group, Inc.

Session Agenda

- Metadata vs Semantic Layer
- Building Blocks of semantic layer
- WebFOCUS Semantic Layer
- Hands-on lab



© Copyright 2026 Cloud Software Group, Inc.

Metadata - Structured information about the characteristics of a resource

Types of Metadata:

1. **Descriptive**: aids in discovery and identification
2. **Structural**: relationships between different tables in a dataset
3. **Administrative**: manage access and preservation of resource. This includes file creation dates, access permissions, usage rights and file formats

© Copyright 2026 Cloud Software Group, Inc.

Semantic layer is an intermediate layer translating raw technical data into standardized, everyday business terms. It is **especially important** in **conversational BI** applications because it connects business language to enterprise data

Using the semantic layer approach, organizations can ensure both data analysts and AI models use the same definitions. An AI agent can now query governed tables directly instead of guessing from text.

© Copyright 2026 Cloud Software Group, Inc.

Anatomy of a Semantic Layer



Dimensions

Categorical context (Who, Where, When)



Metrics

Governed calculations (The single version of truth)



Hierarchies

Navigation paths (Year > Quarter > Month)



Ontology

Logical mapping for LLM grounding



Governance

Access Control (Who can see what)

© Copyright 2026 Cloud Software Group, Inc.

WebFOCUS Semantic Layer

WebFOCUS metadata layer (the Master File and Access File)

1. **The Master File (.mas)**: Describes data source's logical structure
   - Advantage: Extensibility – store non-physical metadata such as help messages, display titles, DEFINE logic (Virtual fields), COMPUTES (calculations on the fly)
2. **The Access File (.acx):** Physical connection details

Leverage WebFOCUS Synonym for AI-augmented analytics

- Provides pre-existing, human readable map of the business data.
- WebFOCUS DSML services use synonyms to ground the NLQ engine
- ** New in WF 938 - AI Assistant

© Copyright 2026 Cloud Software Group, Inc.

Semantic Layer - WebFOCUS Synonym

Semantic Layer Components	WebFOCUS Synonym Features	
Dimension	Base metadata, DEFINES	✓
Metrics	Calculated Fields	✓
Hierarchy	Business Views	✓
Ontology	Join Editor	✓
Governance	DBA Security	✓

© Copyright 2026 Cloud Software Group, Inc.

Hands-on Lab

Build business views and dimensional hierarchies



© Copyright 2026 Cloud Software Group, Inc.

Login Instructions

Login Instructions:

1. Open a browser and navigate to the following web address: https://wfqa.aws-ibcloud.ibi.com/ibi_apps/signin

2. At the sign in to WebFOCUS window, enter your assigned user id (example:
metadata_devn (where n is the number provided to you for the lab session)

© Copyright 2026 Cloud Software Group, Inc.



© Copyright 2024 Cloud Software Group, Inc.