

Xtract IS vs. Xtract Universal

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The following comparison is based on Xtract IS and Xtract Universal.

	Xtract IS	Xtract Universal
Architecture	Xtract IS can be seen as a Plug-In for SQL Server Integration Services (SSIS). It can't be used outside of an SSIS context, so an SQL Server license is necessary even though the SQL Server Database engine is not used.	Xtract Universal is a standalone tool. The only requirement is to be run on a Windows OS. There are no other restrictions.
ETL / ELT	SSIS is an ETL tool for enterprise BI landscapes. Together with Xtract IS it offers a wide variety of transformations and data flow design options.	Xtract Universal is a tool for extracting and loading SAP data in an ELT approach. The SAP data is stored in raw data tables. Transformations and other additional processes are done afterwards through SQL scripts or by an additional transformation tool.
Destination management	Destination tables must be created manually.	Destination tables are generated automatically, however the meta data can be adjusted by the user.
Incremental Loads (only for data that has changed since the last load)	Processing of incremental data has to be designed manually.	Incremental data is processed automatically.
Scheduling	Usually scheduling is done through SQL Server agent.	Scheduling can be done through any 3 rd party tool. Extractions are triggered through web service or command line tool.
Strategy for SQL Server customers	It's a common approach to use Xtract IS + SSIS if the Data Warehouse (DWH) is built with SQL Server.	Xtract Universal is used when no or only few transformations are necessary or SSIS might be oversized for the respective solution.
Strategy for non-SQL-Server customers (e.g. Oracle)	It's possible from a technical point of view to use non-SQL-Server connections as data destinations in SSIS. However, it's not a common approach.	Xtract Universal is ideal to transform SAP data to any destination environment offered by Xtract Universal.

Joining multiple sources (SAP and non-SAP-data)	Possible through a wide variety of data sources.	Not possible through Xtract Universal. Data upload must be done through additional 3 rd party tool.
Download SAP data to non-Database environments	It's possible to store SAP data in destinations like Flat File or XML. However SSIS might be oversized when it's not necessary to apply major transformations.	CSV, OData or XML formats can be accessed through flat files or http data streams.
Target audience	SSIS developers / BI architects	BI architects / power users