THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A method of selecting source data as part of a process of source data extraction, the method being executed by one or more computer processors and including the steps of:

selecting at least a first portion of the source data; and

assigning a variable to the first portion of the source data to enable the first portion of the source data to be referred to and extracted using the variable by the one or more computer processors.

2. A method of selecting source data accessible to a source application for use in a data migration generating target data accessible to a target application, the method being executed by one or more computer processors and including the steps of:

selecting at least a first portion of the source data; and

assigning a variable to the first portion of the source data to enable the first portion of the source data to be referred to using the variable by the one or more computer processors in generating the target data.

3. A method of generating target data accessible to a target application from source data accessible to a source application as part of a migration from a source application to a target application, the method being executed by one or more computer processors and including the steps of:

selecting at least a first portion of the source data; and

assigning a variable to the first portion of the source data to enable the first portion of the source data to be referred to using the variable by the one or more computer processors in a subsequent generation of further target data from the source data.

4. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the step of selecting the at least a portion of the source data includes one or both of:

receiving definition data defining data entries within a source data store; and

receiving characteristic data defining data characteristics, wherein the characteristic data is used by the one or more computer processors to select data entries within a source data store.

5. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the step of receiving definition data includes the step of receiving one or more sub-variables, wherein each of the one or more sub-variables represents one or more of:

a second portion of the source data; and

one or more further sub-variables.

6. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the one or more further sub-variables may include one or more variables or sub-variables.

7. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1-3, wherein the step of selecting at least a portion of the source data includes selecting a hierarchy of sub-variables, wherein each of the sub-variables represents a portion of the source data.

8. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims further including the step of generating a set of source entries, wherein each source entry corresponds to a data entry within the source data store, and is associated with one or more variables, sub-variables or further sub-variables.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8, further including the steps of:

receiving one or more respective target data entries generated from corresponding data entries within the source data store; and

associating each of the one or more respective received target data entries with the one or more variables, sub-variables or further sub-variables to which the corresponding source entry is associated.

10. A method as claimed in claim 8, further including the steps of:

receiving one or more failure data entries associated with corresponding data entries within the source data store, the failure data being generated as a result of an unsuccessful extraction, validation or migration of the data entries within the source data store;

associating each of the one or more failure data entries with the one or more variables, sub-variables or further sub-variables to which the corresponding source entry is associated.

11. A method as claimed in claim 8, further including the steps of:

attempting to generate one or more respective target data entries from each corresponding data entry within the source database; and

if one or more respective target data entries is successfully generated from a corresponding data entry within the source data store, associating the one or more respective target data entries with the one or more variables, sub-variables or further sub-variables to which the corresponding source entry is associated; and

if one or more respective target data entries is not successfully generated from a corresponding data entry within the source data store:

generating failure data representing a migration failure; and

associating the failure data with the one or more variables, sub-variables or further sub-variables to which the corresponding source entry is associated.

12. A method as claimed in claim 9 or 11, wherein each corresponding data entry within the source data store is associated with a source value, and each respective target data entry is associated with a target value, the method further including the step of associating the source value with the one or more variables, sub-variables or further sub-variables, and for each successfully generated corresponding target data entry, associating the target value with the one or more variables, sub-variables or further sub-variables.

13. A method as claimed 12, wherein each of the source values and target values corresponds to financial value.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein each of the source values and target values corresponds to one of:

the quantum of an outstanding claim; or

an insurance premium.

15. A method of generating comparison result data, the method being executed by one or more computer processors and including the steps of:

receiving a source data entry within a source data store, the source data entry being associated with a source value;

receiving a first target data entry generated from the source data entry, the first target data entry being associated with a first target value;

receiving a second target data entry generated from the source data entry, the second target data entry being associated with a second target value;

comparing the first target value and second target value to generate comparison result data.

16. A method as claimed in claim 15 wherein the step of comparing the first target value and second target value includes the step of comparing the first target value and second target value with a respective source value.

17. A method of generating target data from source data, the method being executed by one or more computer processors and including the steps of:

receiving data entries within a source data store, wherein one or more source data entries is associated with a source value;

generating a first target data entry from each of the one or more source data entries, wherein each of the respective first target data entries is associated with a first target value;

generating a second target data entry from each of the one or more source data entries, wherein each of the respective second target data entries is associated with a second target value;

comparing each of the respective first target values and second target values to generate comparison result data.

18. A method as claimed in claim 17 wherein the step of comparing each of the respective first target values and second target values includes the step of comparing each of the respective first target values and second target values with a respective source value.

19. A method as claimed in any one of claims 15-18, wherein the source value, first target value and second target value correspond to a financial value.

20. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein each of the source values and target values corresponds to one of:

the quantum of an outstanding claim; or

an insurance premium.

21. A method as hereinbefore described with reference to the Figures.

22. A computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions for executing a method as claimed in any of the preceding claims.

23. A system for generating target data compatible with a target computing software application from source data compatible with a source computing application as part of a migration from a source computing application to a target computing application, the system comprising:

a source data store storing the source data;

one or more computer processors which:

select at least a first portion of the source data stored in the source data store; and

assign a variable to the first portion of the source data to enable the first portion of the source data to be referred to using the variable by the one or more

computer processors in a subsequent generation of further target data from the source data.

24. A system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the one or more computer processors:

extract data from the source data store;

transform data extracted from the source data store; or

load data extracted and transformed from the source data store into a target data store using the assigned variable.

25. A system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the one or more computer processors select data entries from within the source data store using one or both of:

definition data defining data entries within the source data store; and

characteristic data defining data characteristics of data entries within the source data store.

26 A system as claimed in claim 25, wherein the one or more computer processors resolve the characteristic data to select data entries within the source data store for subsequent extraction, transformation or loading.

27. A system as claimed in claim 25 wherein the one or more computer processors assign to the first portion of the source data a variable that is part of a variable hierarchy.

28. A system as claimed in claim 27, wherein the variable hierarchy comprises one or more sub-variables and further sub-variables.

29. A system as hereinbefore described with reference to the Figures.

THE CLAIMS DEFINING THE INVENTION ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. A method of selecting source data as part of a process of source data extraction, the source data including a plurality of data entries, each data entry including one or more values corresponding to respective attributes, the method being executed by one or more computer processors and including the steps of:

selecting at least a first portion of the source data, the first portion consisting of one or more data entries; and

assigning a variable to the first portion of the source data to enable the first portion of the source data to be referred to and extracted using the variable by the one or more computer processors,

wherein the selecting and the assigning is performed before any of the source data is extracted.

2. A method of selecting source data accessible to a source application for use in a data migration generating target data accessible to a target application, the source data including a plurality of data entries, each data entry including one or more values corresponding to respective attributes, the method being executed by one or more computer processors and including the steps of:

selecting at least a first portion of the source data, the first portion consisting of one or more data entries; and

assigning a variable to the first portion of the source data to enable the first portion of the source data to be referred to using the variable by the one or more computer processors in generating the target data,

wherein the selecting and the assigning is performed before any of the source data is extracted for the migration.

3. A method of generating target data accessible to a target application from source data accessible to a source application as part of a migration from a source application to a target application, the source data including a plurality of data entries, each data

entry including one or more values corresponding to respective attributes, the method being executed by one or more computer processors and including the steps of:

selecting at least a first portion of the source data from a source data store, the first portion consisting of one or more data entries; and

assigning a variable to the first portion of the source data to enable the first portion of the source data to be referred to using the variable by the one or more computer processors in a subsequent generation of further target data from the source data,

wherein the selecting and the assigning is performed before any of the source data from the source data store is extracted for the migration.

4. The method of any one of the preceding claims, wherein the step of selecting the at least a portion of the source data includes one or both of:

receiving definition data identifying data entries within the source data store; and

receiving characteristic data defining data characteristics, wherein the characteristic data is used by the one or more computer processors to select data entries within the source data store.

5. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the step of receiving definition data includes the step of receiving one or more sub-variables, wherein each of the one or more sub-variables represents one or more of:

a second portion of the source data, the second portion consisting of one or more data entries; and

one or more further sub-variables.

6. A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the one or more further sub-variables includes one or more variables or sub-variables.

7. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1-3, wherein the step of selecting at least a portion of the source data includes selecting a hierarchy of sub-variables, wherein each of the sub-variables represents a portion of the source data.

8. A method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims further including the step of generating a set of source entries, wherein each source entry corresponds to a data entry within the source data store, and is associated with one or more variables, sub-variables or further sub-variables.

9. A method as claimed in claim 8, further including the steps of:

receiving one or more respective target data entries generated from corresponding data entries within the source data store; and

associating each of the one or more respective received target data entries with the one or more variables, sub-variables or further sub-variables to which the corresponding source entry is associated.

10. A method as claimed in claim 8, further including the steps of:

receiving one or more failure data entries associated with corresponding data entries within the source data store, the failure data being generated as a result of an unsuccessful extraction, validation or migration of the data entries within the source data store;

associating each of the one or more failure data entries with the one or more variables, sub-variables or further sub-variables to which the corresponding source entry is associated.

11. A method as claimed in claim 8, further including the steps of:

attempting to generate one or more respective target data entries from each corresponding data entry within the source database; and

if one or more respective target data entries is successfully generated from a corresponding data entry within the source data store, associating the one or more

respective target data entries with the one or more variables, sub-variables or further sub-variables to which the corresponding source entry is associated; and

if one or more respective target data entries is not successfully generated from a corresponding data entry within the source data store:

generating failure data representing a migration failure; and

associating the failure data with the one or more variables, sub-variables or further sub-variables to which the corresponding source entry is associated.

12. A method as claimed in claim 9 or 11, wherein each corresponding data entry within the source data store is associated with a source value, and each respective target data entry is associated with a target value, the method further including the step of associating the source value with the one or more variables, sub-variables or further sub-variables, and for each successfully generated corresponding target data entry, associating the target value with the one or more variables, sub-variables or further sub-variables.

13. A method as claimed 12, wherein each of the source values and target values corresponds to financial value.

14. A method as claimed in claim 13, wherein each of the source values and target values corresponds to one of:

the quantum of an outstanding claim; or

an insurance premium.

15. A computer-readable medium storing computer-executable instructions for executing a method as claimed in any of the preceding claims.

16. A system for generating target data compatible with a target computing software application from source data compatible with a source computing application as part of

a migration from a source computing application to a target computing application, the source data including a plurality of data entries, each data entry including one or more values corresponding to respective attributes, the system comprising:

a source data store storing the source data;

one or more computer processors which:

select at least a first portion of the source data stored in the source data store, the first portion consisting of one or more data entries; and

assign a variable to the first portion of the source data to enable the first portion of the source data to be referred to using the variable by the one or more computer processors in a subsequent generation of further target data from the source data,

wherein the selecting and the assigning is performed before any of the source data from the source data store is extracted for the migration.

17. A system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the one or more computer processors:

extract data from the source data store;

transform data extracted from the source data store; or

load data extracted and transformed from the source data store into a target data store using the assigned variable.

18. A system as claimed in claim 16, wherein the one or more computer processors select data entries from within the source data store using one or both of:

definition data identifying data entries within the source data store; and

characteristic data defining data characteristics of data entries within the source data store.

19. A system as claimed in claim 18, wherein the one or more computer processors resolve the characteristic data to select data entries within the source data store for subsequent extraction, transformation or loading.

20. A system as claimed in claim 18 wherein the one or more computer processors assign to the first portion of the source data a variable that is part of a variable hierarchy.

21. A system as claimed in claim 20, wherein the variable hierarchy comprises one or more sub-variables and further sub-variables.

22. A computer readable medium containing computer-executable instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause it to execute operations for generating target data compatible with a target computing software application from source data compatible with a source computing application as part of a migration from a source computing application to a target computing application, the operations including the steps of:

selecting at least a first portion of the source data from a source data store, the source data including a plurality of data entries, each data entry associated with one or more values corresponding to respective attributes, the first portion consisting of one or more data entries; and

assigning a variable to the first portion of the source data to enable the first portion of the source data to be referred to using the variable by the one or more computer processors in a subsequent generation of further target data from the source data,

wherein the selecting and the assigning is performed before any of the source data from the source data store is extracted for the migration..

23. A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 22 wherein the computer-executable instructions include instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to execute the steps of:

receiving definition data identifying data entries within a source data store; and

receiving characteristic data defining data characteristics, wherein the characteristic data is used by the one or more computer processors to select data entries within a source data store.

24. A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 23, wherein the step of receiving definition data includes the step of receiving one or more sub-variables, wherein each of the one or more sub-variables comprises one or more of:

data identifying a second portion of the source data, the second portion consisting of one or more data entries; and

one or more further sub-variables.

25. A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 24, wherein the one or more further sub-variables comprises one or more variables or sub-variables.

26. A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 25 further comprising instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause it to execute the step of generating a set of source entries, wherein each source entry corresponds to a data entry within the source data store, and is associated with one or more variables, sub-variables or further sub-variables.

27. A computer readable medium as claimed in claim 26, further including instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause the processor to execute the steps of:

generating one or more respective target data entries of said target data store from corresponding data entries within the source data store; and

associating each of the one or more respective received generated target data entries with the one or more variables, sub-variables or further sub-variables to which the corresponding source entry is associated.

28. A computer-readable medium as claimed in claim 25, further comprising instructions which, when executed by the processor, cause it to execute the steps of:

attempting to generate one or more respective target data entries of said target data store from each corresponding data entry within the source database; and

if one or more respective target data entries is successfully generated from a corresponding data entry within the source data store, associating the one or more respective target data entries with the one or more variables, sub-variables or further sub-variables to which the corresponding source entry is associated; and

if one or more respective target data entries is not successfully generated from a corresponding data entry within the source data store:

generating failure data representing a migration failure; and

associating the failure data with the one or more variables, sub-variables or further sub-variables to which the corresponding source entry is associated.