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One can think of a *business space* as a place where **Aware IM** keeps both configuration definitions of an application (such as business objects, processes, business rules etc) and its operational data (data created by the end users of the application). Therefore, business space encapsulates everything related to a data management system in a business.

Business space is secure. Only the parties registered with the business space can get access to the information in the business space, whether in the Configuration or the Operation modes. **Aware IM** can manage multiple business spaces on the same computer, but it keeps such business spaces completely separate from each other. It is impossible to directly access operational data of one business space from another business space. When configuring multiple applications it is possible, however, to re-use configuration information used in one business space and copy it into another business space – see [Copying Elements](#).

Since a business space is designed to cover all information management needs of an organization, most users will only need to manage a single business space. However, some users may need to maintain multiple business spaces, for example if they do it for, or on behalf of, multiple unrelated organizations.

note

Aware IM keeps configuration data completely separate from operational data, which makes it very easy to provide a new version of the configuration data without affecting the operational data.

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