Data Governance

Analytic Data Solutions

Access to accurate and actionable information has been on organizational "wish lists" for quite some time, but in today's knowledge economy, it is fast becoming a requirement. Often times, the demand for trusted information becomes the catalyst for initiating or formalizing a data governance program. The discipline of managing or governing enterprise data, assures the availability, integrity, usability and security of the data that is ultimately used for decision-making. By managing or "stewarding" data as a key enterprise asset, organizations are empowered to make timely, informed decisions.

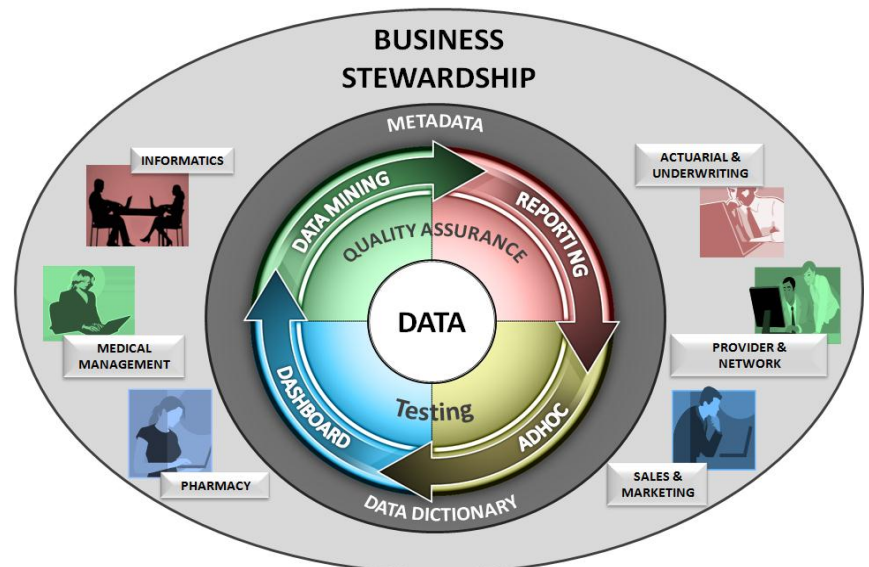| DATA | INFORMATION | KNOWLEDGE | INFORMED DECISION-MAKING |

Many organizations have come to view data governance as both a tactical and a strategic investment. Data governance is collaborative, assisting both business and IT by empowering each of them to do their jobs more efficiently and effectively, while strengthening the business/IT partnership.

Effective data governance:

➢ Simplifies overly complex environments

➢ Minimizes siloed systems

➢ Increases speed-to-market

➢ Resolves inconsistencies and inaccuracies

➢ Reduces redundant work effort

Benefits can include:

➢ Operational savings and efficiencies

➢ Strengthened privacy, compliance and security

➢ Better customer service and marketing effectiveness

➢ Improved understanding of the business

Although governance is sometimes mistakenly viewed as a method to control or limit, the true purpose of a data governance program is to empower an organization with appropriate access to shared, actionable information and knowledge. There are a variety of approaches to implementing a data governance program and careful consideration should be given to the corporate culture and placement on the governance maturity model.

Whether an organization is initiating a governance program or formalizing an existing one, it can be non-invasive.

- *Work within the corporate culture or environment, being flexible and customizing*
- *Begin with a core set of people who already have formal or informal data or information accountability reducing the need for additional staff*
- *Put structure around existing processes and procedures, while streamlining and formalizing current behaviors*
- *Look to initially utilize available tools (i.e. Access, Xcel, Word) minimizing investments in new products*
- *Support and enhance communication around shared data and information*

The need for a governance program can be initiated by a number of events; a new data initiative (datamart, warehouse, system, application), regulatory, privacy or contractual requirements, or quality and usability needs. Programs can be implemented incrementally beginning with smaller efforts that serve as a prototype for future efforts. Focus can be placed on specific data domains, applications, data stores, business units or new applications. Governance can evolve, showing value along the way.

Deliverables customized to suit your needs and environment:

- **Assessment and roadmap**
- **Governance framework**
- **Stewardship**
- **Policies and procedures**
- **Roles and responsibilities**
- **Metadata management**
- **Quality**

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