

Data Model and Standards Management Assessment



The goal of an effective data modeling infrastructure is to provide a streamlined method for achieving model component reusability and integrity across all models, and to provide a repeatable model development life cycle. A modeling infrastructure ensures reduced redundancy of data structures and measurable return on investment for the modeling process. A principle component of this infrastructure is a readily available, consistent set of data object and data model standards and accompanying processes, as applicable, to all parts of the data model life cycle.

Modeling Infrastructure Goals & Strategy

An organization's modeling infrastructure goals and strategy are a part of and are determined by the larger Data Architecture principles; they are affected, implemented, and supported by the teams responsible for the varied work that is required. This work is ultimately made possible by the choice and technical requirements of the organization's data modeling tools. A detailed description of the company's data architecture principles and goals is included as well as an evaluation of how well the existing or proposed data modeling tool set will support the chosen architecture.

Team Attitudes and Environment

A detailed description of the current data modeling environment, team member contributions, and attitudes is presented. The purpose of this section is not to find fault, rather it is to evaluate where the team is in regard to understanding the need for a model management infrastructure. Implementing data modeling standards and procedures, even where some already exist, requires a level of change readiness – and change necessitates flexibility. Our goal is to understand current roles and responsibilities and determine how flexible team members may be in adopting and adhering to a modified data modeling structure. We offer recommendations to facilitate any necessary changes in the most efficient and least disruptive way.

Infrastructure Deliverables - Standards, Proce and Metrics

A detailed description of the organization's current standards, procedures, and measures is accompanied by an evaluation of which elements are serving the data modeling environment well, and which existing standards and/or procedures may be missing, incomplete, or inefficient.

Existing Documentation

A detailed description and evaluation of the company's existing documentation will be included. Client's documentation may consist of current data standards and procedures documents, MS Excel spreadsheets, critical data success factors, high level strategy papers, supporting PowerPoint presentations, and so on.

Data Modeling and Model Management Technology Proficiency

Training is essential to ensure that everyone understands the correct use of tools not only from a functionality point of view, but from the specifics of how the organization's infrastructure requires their use. Additionally, the licensing of relevant technology products will be reviewed to ensure that the desired operational capabilities, organizational structure, and training plans are in alignment

Recomendations

Rarely does an organization have in-house resources with the time or experience necessary to write all the required material for a robust and effective Data Model and Standards Management implementation. Sandhill's Data Model and Standards Management Assessment identifies specific actions your organization must take to achieve its stated goals. As an option to your organization internally developing the required materials, Sandhill Consultants offers our Data Model Standards Framework, EM-SOS!™ 2.0 which provides a baseline set of critical standards, procedures, templates, forms, and workflows necessary to fully implement a Data Model Standards Management practice.

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