

6 Warning signs that your Data Governance program needs work

Data Governance is difficult to get right. 92% of data specialists in a recent TDWI study self-reported that their Data Governance program was not very successful. Too much governance and rigidity leads to inflexibility to change, a "one size fits all" mentality and focus on process at the expense of people and business value. Too little governance leads to multiple approaches that don't connect end to end to drive synergistic value.

Here are some warning signs that Fujitsu Data & AI has identified to show where a Data Governance program is heading out of the value zone.

- **No Inciting Incident:** Every Data Governance program needs a reason why it should change the way the organisation works. Without an inciting incident or strong reason for change, organisational inertia will create drag on the program, resulting in low levels of effectiveness.
- **No funding:** Without a reasonable level of investment (both Capex and Opex), no change is possible. If funds are not allocated either directly or through other business units or projects funding the Data Governance initiatives, no success can be achieved.
- **No dedicated support team:** Parkinson's Law (work expands to fill the time available") applies to everyone and we're all very busy. Expecting staff who have full time jobs to also be responsible for Data Governance programs and projects is not a reasonable approach. A small core group of Data Governance specialists can co-ordinate and engage with business and technology stakeholders and make things happen.
- **No community engagement:** Community engagement drives successful programs. Communities who understand the value of data governance (through good communications programs) will fund more data governance and data uplift activities. Communities who understand how to use data (through good data literacy training) will make better decisions and drive value. Communities who know how to contribute to data governance programs (through good tools and good education programs) will help deliver better data
- **Too much process, not enough value:** Data Governance programs that focus on process tend to work in isolation from the rest of the organisation and in general will deliver less value as a result. If your output is mostly paper and rules and regulations, the rest of the organisation will move on without you, as they have real-world problems to solve.
- **A "Once and Done" mindset:** Organisations who approach Data Governance as a "problem to solve" tend to think in terms of fixed time projects and lose focus after the project "ends". Data Governance is an ongoing process of incremental improvement and getting closer to

the target. Just as business operations do not “end”, data governance has an ongoing role to add value to the organisation.

If you see any of these warning signs, you might want to review and re-shape your Data Governance initiative. Please contact a Fujitsu Data & AI specialist now to see how we can assist you with assessing your current Data Governance program.

Contact

Fujitsu Data & AI
+61 3 9924 3000

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