# The importance of Data Platform Assessments

"Data! Data! Data! I can't make bricks without clay!" as Sherlock Homes explained in 'The Adventure of the Copper Beeches', highlighting the importance of data. This has now become common knowledge and modern enterprises of all sizes have already acknowledged the catalytic force of the data they create and consume, to optimally analyse and use the data to make informed business decisions.

As data becomes normality, the significance of having the right data strategy is even more important in order to maximise the data-driven capabilities and attain success. At the core of this strategy sits the engine that drives everything - the data platform.

A data platform is the foundation of any data-driven organisation, so it is important to get it right from the start. But often due to numerous factors this never happens, and companies end up having multiple silos of data storage which are fragmented, non-cohesive, sub-optimal and unsecure.

The Data Platform Assessment(s) are the go-to-toolsets and the framework to revisit, revise and refresh the data strategy, and rebuild the data platform for the future. This assessment is based on three major pillars of any organisation - People, Process, and Platform.
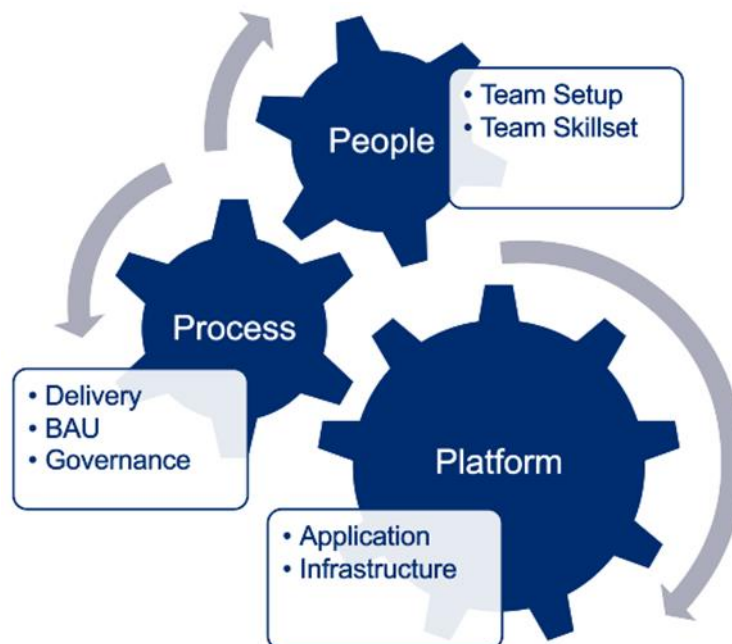
The assessment exercise is usually done in three stages, starting from examining the current status, then, developing a future architecture that is suited to business needs and is scalable, flexible, robust, maintainable, governed, performant and secure. The last step is a roadmap to the future state.

STAGE 1 – Registering the current status

The first stage involves reviewing the application and infrastructure that applies to the data platform. On the application side, you must look into development standards, code management, data quality management, exception handling, orchestration and deployment key metrics. This exercise will also capture current performance and security practices. Next step in platform assessment is focused on the core infrastructure provisioning, management, and security.

Part 2 of the current state evaluation stage is observing processes through which people interact with the platform, around governance framework, BAU activities and project deliveries.

Part 3 is all about people who are producers, consumers, and observers of the data platform. The main part of this exercise is capturing the people personas and key skillset that they bring to the table.

STAGE 2 – Architecting a future proof platform

This stage focuses on addressing the gap between current state and future state. Key to this exercise is standard industry practices and guidelines as well as the feedback that was collected in first stage.

STAGE 3 – Designing the data roadmap

This stage focuses on developing a realistic roadmap that an enterprise can utilise to attain their future state. This usually has multiple milestones which align with the maturity development model of the organisation, core fundamental action items, and business needs.

Data Platform Assessments are critical to the success of any business. If your business needs help with assessing their data platforms, please contact a Fujitsu Data & AI specialist now.

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