Best (and worst) practices in data governance.

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What is Data Governance and Why is it Needed/What’s Changed?

In my 30+ years with the Iowa DOT

- Data Governance is a discipline that provides clear-cut policies; procedures; standards; roles; responsibilities; and accountabilities to ensure that data is well-managed as an enterprise resource.
- GPS
  1989 — Magellan introduces NAV 1000, the first hand-held GPS device. First Block II satellite is launched.
  1993 — Constellation of 24 satellite system becomes operational.
  1995 — Full Operational Capability (FOC) declared.
  2000 — Selective Availability discontinued by the U.S. Government.
  2004 — Qualcomm successfully completes test of live assisted GPS on a mobile phone.

- Information Technology
  - Netscape Mosaic - 1994
  - Data Storage Capabilities
  - ETL
  - IOT
  - GIS

- Mobile Devices
  - IPhone, Tablets, Mobile Devices

When you refer to governance, be careful! Depending on the context, “Data Governance” could refer to:

- organizational bodies
- rules (policies, standards, guidelines, business rules)
- decision rights (how we “decide how to decide”)
- accountabilities
- enforcement methods for people and information systems as they perform information-related processes.

The Data Governance Institute
Back to Defining Data Governance

- Financial Records
- PII
- More Diverse sets of Data
Necessities of Good Data Governance

1.) You need to develop your own definition of Data Governance.

- It’s Meaning
- It’s Purpose
- It’s Value to the Organization
2.) You need to develop a strategic and tactical plan that not only considers conventional components but:

- Organizational Culture
- Organizational Structure
- Organizational Readiness
- Organizational Decision Making

Data Governance needs to be woven into the organization
Necessities of Good Data Governance

3.) You need to realize that Data Governance is a Journey

- Technology rapidly changing
  - ML & AI
- Data in motion vs. Data at rest
- Changing role of organization
  - "Construction Co." vs. "Mobility Maximizer"
- Identity
- Data Governance – Prescribed to Distributed to Emergent
- 3rd Party Data
Necessities of Good Data Governance

4.) You need to be adequately resourced/support to succeed

- Given the complexity and long term effort, dedicated staff must be assigned
- Can’t continue to load someone’s plate
- Executive sponsorship/involvement necessary as barriers are encountered or to reinforce guiding Principles.
Necessities of Good Data Governance

5.) You need to be Collaborative and have Good Communication Skills

- First and foremost, this is an enterprise activity
- No one individual has the ability to see the complete “whole”
- The vision for data governance needs to be Communicated in a clear, compelling way
Some Last Thoughts

Data Governance is not an end in itself. It is not only about allowing us to integrate data, but integrating the organization. It also is a powerful force that can align your organization to its mission and vision. One in which you can truly engage your workforce to help create a successful future.