



Three Questions to Ask Yourself Before Undertaking a Data Governance Initiative

Any CIO undertaking a Data Governance initiative should answer/address the following 3 questions:

1. **Why** – Why are we undertaking a Data Governance initiative?

- a) Are we doing this to support Business/Technology transformation?
- b) Are we doing this to provide consistency across all business units?
- c) Are we doing this to improve Data Quality and help in more effective decisions?
- d) Are we doing this to improve or measure compliance?.

2. **Who** is the sponsor/champion for the Data Governance initiative? We have to ensure that:

- a) Business Executive(s) is the sponsor for the Data Governance project
- b) Full participation from Business users in all the Steering Committees and the decision bodies (Councils)
- c) The Business Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) are helping define and standardize the Business Glossary
- d) The Business users are owning the data and ensuring the data quality.

3. **What** – What is the outcome of Why?

- a) We have to first baseline the awareness and maturity of Data Governance, Business Glossary, and Data Quality
- b) Based on the above findings, and the Why, we need to create a strategy and Roadmap for Establishing and Executing the Data Governance that aligns with the Why.
- c) Put in place a process to continuously measure the progress and report it to the decision-making body
- d) If the driver is Business/Technology transformation, then empower the Data Governance decision-making body, Steering Committees, and the Data Owners/Stewards to be the approvers of the To-Be state.