

DATA GOVERNANCE FOR THE EXECUTIVE

BY JAMES C. ORR



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Review

Data is the most unique asset in your organization. Unlike traditional assets, data is exceptionally dynamic and can change its physical characteristics, logical characteristics, value, and ownership at indiscriminate points in time. Additionally, data encounters the broadest range of influencers throughout its lifecycle. The transformations that occur at the hands of these influential factors ultimately determine the usability and value of the information. Perhaps its most distinctive characteristic is that data is fluid. Fluid in the sense that it passes through multiple people, processes, technologies, business units, organization structures, and cultures from the time it originates in the organization until it is consumed for business purposes. During its life cycle, data engages various so-called owners, users, responsible parties, casual bystanders, good intentions, and blurred lines of authority and accountability. In each case, these touch-points have an opportunity to either improve or deplete the value of data based on their actions or inactions. This dynamic ecosystem is what gives data its well-earned designation as a living asset. Much like a living organism its behavior, health, growth, and potential are highly influenced by a number of ongoing environmental factors. This alone makes it arguably the most difficult asset to understand and manage. --Chapter 1

Finding business benefit let alone compelling value can be a daunting task for anyone in the data governance space. The key to uncovering the value of this discipline is to first look at it from a holistic perspective rather than a single project or task. Second is to recognize that while there may be short-term business benefits the greatest value comes with the maturity of the program. Third is to identify with the fact that it delivers both tangible and intangible benefits that flow directly and indirectly to the bottom line. Finally, it is to break this discipline down into manageable parts in order to understand where specific benefits reside and how they reflect in the company financial statements. At a high level, data governance benefits can be found within five primary areas: 1) Data governance program infrastructure (Program) 2) Data management operations 3) Projects 4) Business operations 5) Organization strategy and policy It is within this collection of topics that organizations can expect to find the true value for data governance. However, the depth and breadth of each of these topics is extensive and that is why the next five chapters are dedicated to these very subject matters. --Chapter 3

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About the Author

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Data governance (information asset management) represents the final frontier for many organizations in their effort to drive revenue, cut costs, reduce risk, and achieve compliance in both the public and private sector. Data Governance for the Executive presents a unique perspective to the discipline, its purpose, and its value in terms that business leaders and technology professionals can appreciate. The book examines and builds the case for a holistic approach to data governance across an organization. Based on more than 17 years of leadership experience in the information management and consulting space, Jim Orr guides the reader through various methods of identifying and deriving business value, aligning the organization, measuring performance, and optimizing success. These insights are supplemented with examples from the author's own experiences to help business leaders develop strategies, secure support, mitigate risk, incorporate best practices, and define the role of business and technology entities. Written primarily for upper level management, this book is essential for anyone working in the data governance space: For executives and business leaders this is an ideal way to understand data governance and its importance to the bottom line. For stakeholders, architects, and business and technology leads it is a means for better understanding data governance holistically, the value governance brings to the business, and how to build a compelling business case in the process. For data stewards and other participants it is an excellent way to understand data governance concepts and value and how each individual's role supports the process.

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A must-read ...

By AA

It's rare to find a book written by someone who has been in the trenches that effectively articulates the nuances of governance and the impact specifically of focusing on data governance. Jim Orr does an exceptional job of highlighting the value of data governance in this book. More importantly, it is an easy read for anyone who is in a managerial and executive role.

While companies have made huge investments in their IT infrastructure systems and technology, very few enterprises have focused on how to extract impactful value from the basic asset that these technology investments were meant to harness, manage and govern - DATA. In this book, Mr. Orr lays out practical approaches to data governance. A must-read for executives...

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Makes sense to me

By Chujo

I bought this book because the author is a shirt tail relation(ha). Having worked at the bottom rung of two

major corporations, GM , Home Depot, I have found communication among all players involved to be at best, almost nonexistent. As a future product specialist , it would take me days to get an answer to a simple question because of all the different parties involved. I soon realized that I could get an answer to the same question if I had all parties in the same room at the same time in 15 minutes or less. Go figure. Jims ideas and concepts are clear, and most importantly havr common sense, which in my mind is most important.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Well Done - plain spoken words for one of today's most critical business issues.

By Kevin Quinn

It says for "executives" but it is really for anyone interested in learning about "Data Governance" - one of today's most critical business issues. As an IT professional I have always found it difficult to find the right words to explain important issues that are immersed in technology to business people. James C. Orr does an excellent job at exactly that. If you are like me and enjoy gobbling up books on key issues that affect your organization then don't miss this book.

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