

Data Mesh or Data Mess? Separating Reality from Hype

Donna Burbank Global Data Strategy, Ltd.

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The Modern Cloud Database Platform for Distributed Applications

March 2023

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The Market: Application and Database Needs Have Changed



Deliver Great Experiences

- Personalized & responsive
- Anywhere & everywhere
- Real time info & inventory
- Ensuring dependable transactions

Develop Efficiently

- Simplify & accelerate development
- Tap my skills (SDKs & SQL)
- Support best practices
- Avoid data sprawl

Deploy Effectively

- Support hybrid clouds, Edge, 5G
- 100% uptime & global scale
- Flexible management options
- Cost effective



Legacy Expectations

- Schema & SQL familiarity
- ACID transactions
- · Consistency and integrity
- Storage efficiency

Modern Demands

- Massive data and dynamic users
- Scale & performance
- Flexibility for agile development
- Microservices architecture
- Web, mobile & IoT experiences

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Performance

Databases are failing modern demands

↔ Flexibility

Significantly improve agility

Mobile/IoT

Deliver incredible experiences









STAPLES

Product catalog, pricing, shopping cart, daily deals, inventory management

> 4,000 stores worldwide

> > 1.6B

rules applied in real-time

Reality: Data Sprawl, Messy Meshes & Management Challenges



Infrastructure layers

Couchbase Capella is a Consolidated Database Platform





Fast

- Memory-first design
- Cloud-native scale
- Geo-replication via XDCR
- HA, DR & backup
- Low latency Cloud to Edge

Flexible

•

- JSON document
- Multimodel services
- Cloud deploy anywhere
- Mobile & Edge ready

Easy

- SQL++ query language
- Dynamic Schema
- ACID SQL Transactions
- Cost-based optimizer
- SDKs for 12+ languages

Affordable

- Elastic scaling, sharding & rebalancing
- Multidimensional scaling
- High-density storage
- Incredible price/performance that lowers TCO

JSON is Flexible, its Structure can be Changed by Everyone

JSON makes changing dynamic user profiles and complex catalog entries very easy

Unlike document databases. RDBMSs store JSON as a column datatype, therefore it is still attached and bound to the schema, and updating JSON values is..."a PITA," and limited

Unlike relational databases, the application developer controls the structure of the data (and its metadata) rather than the DBA who owns the relational schema, thereby dictating the application's structure.

to the JSON extensions added to the vendor's guery language.









Easy as SQL, leveraging skillsets: Developers, Architects, DBAs, Analysts, IT

 Known query syntax 	Relational SQL	Couchbase - SQL++	MongoDB Query Language
 Supporting ANSI standards JOINs Sub-queries Nested objects 	SELECT ac.industry, SUM(CASE WHEN a.activitytype = 'Task' THEN 1 ELSE 0 END) task, SUM(CASE WHEN a.activitytype ='Appointment' THEN 1 ELSE 0 END) appts FROM crm.activity a INNER JOIN crm.account ac ON (a.accid = ac.id) WHERE a.startdate BETWEEN '2018-10-01' AND '2018-12-31' GROUP BY ac.industry	SELECT ac.industry, SUM(CASE WHEN a.activityType = 'Task' THEN 1 ELSE 0 END) task, SUM(CASE WHEN a.activityType = 'Appointment' THEN 1 ELSE 0 END) appts FROM crm a INNER JOIN crm ac ON a.accid = ac.id <i>AND ac.type='account'</i> WHERE <i>a.type='activity'</i> AND a.startDate BETWEEN '2018-10-01' AND '2018-12-31' GROUP BY ac.industry	<pre>db.activity.aggregate({ \$match: { startDate: { \$gt: '2018-01-01',</pre>
 Arrays 	<pre>\$project: { item: 1, task: { \$cond:{if: {\$eq: ["\$activityType", "Task"] }, then: 1, else: 0 } }, appt: { \$cond: { if: {\$eq: ["\$activityType", "Appointment"] }, then: 1</pre>		
 Distributed ACID Transaction 	else: 0 } }		
 User Defined Functions 	<pre>{ \$group: { id: "\$account_docs.industry", tasks: { \$sum: "\$task" }, appointments: { \$sum: "\$appt" } }); </pre>		
 MPP Analytics 			



Field Services



File claim reports, update customer policy information on mobile devices even with no network connectivity

Utility Workers



Access and update task lists, infrastructure maps, inspection reports, etc on handheld devices even with no network connectivity Expedite ordering process and reduce wait times with order entry kiosks in fast food restaurants

Restaurants



Mobile Clinics



Access & update patient health records in rural areas even with no network connectivity How do you guarantee speed and uptime for apps especially when operating in internet dead zones?

Data Mesh at the Edge

- Bring data processing to the near side of the network close to the users who need it
- Embed a database to edge clients, reducing dependencies on distant cloud data centers
- Sync data from the edge to the cloud for consistency and integrity.

The Promise Of Edge Computing

Speed £71

Reliability



Architecture Overview





Embedded Couchbase Lite (Peer-to-Peer Sync)







Innovate Faster & Spend Less

- Faster release cycles
- Less duplication & data sprawl
- Scale more easily

- Less time on maintenance
- Lower operational costs
- Lower infrastructure costs

- Easier data catalog management
- Easier analytic and AI integration
- Happier users

THANK YOU



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Couchbase Capella

A Better, Easier, more Flexible and Affordable Database as a Service

November 2022

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Architecture | Overview

Fully Managed, Secure and Highly Available Infrastructure



Capella Control Plane

- Manages the Cloud Orchestration, Monitoring & Alerting, Security & Access, Billing & Support
- Is the Access Point for Organization Web UI Users
- Allows Infrastructure as Code Tools such as Terraform

Organization Account (Data Plane)

- Account Isolation: 1 Account per Organization
- **Cluster Isolation**: 1 VPC per Couchbase Database
- Multiple Clouds: AWS, Google and Azure

Applications

- **Connect** directly to Databases (Data Plane)
- Multiple connectivity options Over Public
 Connection, through VPC Peering or PrivateLink
- All communications are encrypted





Cloud Advantages

- OPEX vs CAPEX
- Add servers as needed
- Centralized management

Single Platform

- Reduce license & hardware
- Less to learn, code, integrate
- Leverage SQL skillsets

Performance at Scale

- Optimize services
- Easy scale up/down/in/out
- Dollar for dollar winner

Industry-Leading Price Performance: Cost of 1B Operations

Third party YCSB benchmarks



Capella Delivers on Average

- 2-12X faster throughput
- 10-50X lower latency
- 50-500% cost savings

(Node for Node)

"At BroadJump, we help healthcare providers control expenses, lower service costs, and operate efficiently."

With Couchbase we were able to dramatically improve our own TCO by reducing our storage needs by over 50%."

Philip Lupercio, VP of technology at BroadJump



Flexibility of NoSQL fused with strengths of RDBMS



- Familiar and flexible: SQL for JSON
- **Structured**: Multi-level data controls
- **Dependable:** Transaction support
- Programmable: 10 SDKs and UDFs
- Fast: In-memory design
- Multi services: Build more, faster
- Distributed: Mobile, geographic & edge

A simple platform to design sophisticated, scalable applications



- Multi services: Improve time to market
- Dependable: ACID transactions
- **Structured**: Multi-level data organization
- High performance & high availability
- Cloud-native: Kubernetes
- Deployability: However, Wherever

Rapidly develop, test and deploy via cloud-native automation



- Self-managed in the cloud
 - Very high degree of control
 - Flexibility
- Fully-managed in the cloud
 - For convenience
 - Speed to start
 - Smaller teams

Architecture Overview with Multidimensional Scaling





Capella App Services





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Peer-to-Peer Sync at the Edge





Data Observability

Unlocking the Power of Your Data

Shane Murray



Shane Murray

Field CTO @ Monte Carlo (2022-) SVP Data & Insights @ The New York Times (2013-2021)

MONTE CARLO



\$236m in funding by backers of the world's best enterprise companies,

including Accel, GGV, Redpoint, ICONIQ, and IVP



Fundamentals Creator of the Data Observability category A Practitioner's Guide to Building Trustworthy Data Pipelines jetBlue^{*} FOX Shipt 🖞 affirm HubSpot Roboť MERCARI PagerDuty THREDUP *d*asics SONOS **INTERCOM** RIVIAN



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Data Quality

Why is data downtime a problem?



How we started:

Manual tests were the only means to ensuring data quality



Common tests

- Column must have 0% nulls
- Transaction price must be >\$0
- ...and other predictable anomalies

Why testing falls short

- Can't test what you can't predict
- Can't see downstream
- Direct queries become costly
- Data and stack are constantly changing
- Doesn't scale

Consequences of data downtime range from trivial to existential



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~70

high severity events each year per every 1k tables ¹

30-50%

data engineering time spent on fire drills ²

12-27%

avg. annual revenue lost for companies resulting from poor data quality ³

1. Benchmark data based on Monte Carlo customer production deployments

2. Monte Carlo market research and customer-reported benchmarks

3. Experian Data Quality; MC research via Wakefield Research Survey

Data downtime looks similar at all companies

- Is this data up-to-date?
- Why does this data size look off?
- Isn't this value suspiciously high?
- Why are there so many nulls?
- Why do we have duplicate IDs?
- What reports will I break with this schema update?
- Why are there 0s on tiles that usually show 100s?



. . .

What is Data Observability?

Detect

- ML-powered anomaly detection
- Rule-based detection
- Targeted alerts to impacted owners & downstream users

Resolve

- Automated field-level lineage
- Impact radius assessment
- Code, data, and operational diagnostics

Prevent

- Auto-generated and on-demand insights
- Schema change notifications
- Automated circuit breakers



Freshness | Volume | Quality | Schema | Lineage



Observability equips your team with automated monitoring across 100% of production tables and critical fields



Triage, find root cause, and manage incident workflows

Click on each button to view metric details Automated table- & field-level lineage BI 🛈 **Triage incidents** ② 18 2 9 Monitors Dashboard Incidents Catalog Pipelines Settings May 9th 2022 14:44 PDT ✓ All domains ✓ Logged in as: Jon So ☐ 🔂 1K+ ENDING [snowflake] analytics:prod insights 1d 3d 5d 1w 2w 3w Today insight_key_assets (# 149 Incidents (10+) Fields Past incidents for the table Field-level health Custom monitors (0) Active monitors for the tab Upstream Downstream Manage workflows dbt Model ANALYTICS | PROD ANALYTICS | PROD KEY ASSETS raw_table_metrics table_metrics insight_key_ Name: 2 2 ★ Path: insights/insig ANALYTICS | PROD ANALYTICS | PROD OWNER No owner Last run: May 9th 2022 ~ account metrics raw accounts SEVERITY SEV-0 Reports affected SELECT Clause Lineage Q 2 Downstream effects on BI LINKS # #mcd-alerts account_updates account_active # #demo-monte-carlo-incidents # #demo-incidents-dimension clean_client_id Report type: Looker Da Non-SELECT Lineage Q 23 Name o Monte Carlo - Insigh 23 fields linked via non-SELECT clauses Find root cause % insight_key_asset 6 insight_key_asset ò **O** Chat query logs MC

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O'Reilly's Data Quality Fundamentals Learn what it takes to build more reliable data pipelines at scale.



https://www.montecarlodata.com/oreilly-data-quality-fundamentals-early-release/



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Donna Burbank



Donna is a recognised industry expert in data management with over 25 years of experience in data strategy, data governance, data modeling, metadata management, and enterprise architecture. Her background is multi-faceted across consulting, product development, product management, brand strategy, marketing, and business leadership.

She is currently the Managing Director at Global Data Strategy, Ltd., an international data management consulting company that specializes in the alignment of business drivers with data-centric technology. In past roles, she has served in key brand strategy and product management roles at CA Technologies and Embarcadero Technologies for several of the leading data management products in the market.

As an active contributor to the data management community, she is a long time DAMA International member, contributor to the DMBOK 2.0, Past President and Advisor to the DAMA Rocky Mountain chapter, and was awarded the Excellence in Data Management Award from DAMA International.

She has worked with dozens of Fortune 500 companies worldwide in the Americas, Europe, Asia, and Africa and speaks regularly at industry conferences. She has co-authored several books and is a regular contributor to industry publications. She can be reached at donna.burbank@globaldatastrategy.com Donna is based in Boulder, Colorado, US.



DATA

RCHITECTURE ISTRATEGIES

DATAVERSITY Data Architecture Strategies

This Year's Lineup



• January	Emerging Trends in Data Architecture – What's the Next Big Thing?
• February	Building a Data Strategy - Practical Steps for Aligning with Business Goals
March	Data Mesh or Data Mess? Separating the Reality from the Hype
• April	Master Data Management - Aligning Data, Process, and Governance
• May	How do Data Governance & Data Architecture Support Each Other?
• June	Why You Need Data Management – Getting Executive Buy-In
• July	Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning – Building the Right Architectural Foundation
August	Data Quality Best Practices (with Nigel Turner)
September	Best Practices in Metadata Management
October	Designing Data for Business Intelligence & Analytics – Where the Star Schema Fits in a Modern Data Architecture
December	Enterprise Architecture vs. Data Architecture

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What We'll Cover Today





- Discussions around **data mesh and data fabric** are ubiquitous in the data industry, and data mesh is often touted as the next "Big Thing"
- Are these promises well founded?
- How does a data mesh approach fit into today's modern Data Architecture, and how does it align with more fundamental approaches such as Master Data, Data Quality, and Data Governance.
- This webinar will provide a practical, real-world approach to data mesh and its alignment with other disciplines.



Let's Start with some Core Definitions

Data Mesh

Data mesh is a **cultural and organizational shift** for data management focusing on federation technology that emphasizes the authority of **localized data management**. Data mesh is intended to enable easily accessible data by the business.

Data assets are analyzed for usage patterns by subject matter experts, who determine data affinity, and then the **data assets are organized as data domains**.

Domains are contextualized with business context descriptors. **Subject matter experts use the patterns and domains to define and create data products.** Data products are registered and made available for reuse relative to business needs.

- Gartner IT Dictionary

Data Fabric

A data fabric is an **emerging data management design** for attaining flexible, reusable and augmented data integration pipelines, services and semantics.

A data fabric **supports both operational and analytics use cases** delivered across multiple deployment and orchestration platforms and processes.

Data fabrics support a combination of different data integration styles and leverage active metadata, knowledge graphs, semantics and ML to augment data integration design and delivery.

- Gartner IT Dictionary

Word Salad or Buzzword Bingo?

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Keep it Simple







Data Mesh: Four Core Principles



Data mesh's objective is to create a foundation for getting value from analytical data at scale





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Federated Computational Governance





Data Mesh: Domain Ownership



A Primary principle that data (particularly analytical data) is better organized and managed in Domains

• A domain can be:

- An organizational unit (e.g. Human Resources, Sales)
- Business function (e.g. Production, Supply Chain Management)
- A logical data domain, as identified in a Business / Conceptual data model
- Each domain should have a formal Domain Data Owner
 - Enshrines the concept of devolved data ownership
 - Places data ownership on data producers
- A Domain should manage:
 - Operational Data (e.g. supplier details, customer name & address etc.)
 - Analytical Data (e.g. historical data, aggregated data etc.)
 - Metadata (e.g. business metadata, technical metadata etc.)
 - Computational capability needed to store, process and provide access to the data

Data Mesh definition of Domain:

" An aggregation of people organized around a common functional business purpose "

Potential Data Domains







Domains deconstruct areas of the business...which is a loosely-defined concept.



"Instead of flowing the data from domains into a centrally owned data lake or platform, domains need to host and serve their domain datasets in an easily consumable way."

– Zhamak Dehghani





DATA PRODUCT IS the ARCHITECTURE QUANTUM



Always historical and read only access to data

Architectural quantum, as defined by Evolutionary Architecture, is **the smallest unit of architecture that can be independently deployed with high functional cohesion**, and includes all the structural elements required for its function.







- Data is not seen as a by-product of operational processes but data is the product
- Data should therefore be managed via a **Product Management Lifecycle**
- Data consumers and users should be treated as **customers** so their needs are paramount
- Domain customers can be internal or external (e.g. Open Data)
- Taking a Product Management approach will ensure each Domain produces data that is:
 - Well understood in terms of its scope, scale and lineage
 - High quality
 - Trusted by its customers
 - Accessible and discoverable through standard interfaces and publish & subscribe models
 - Meaningful, with appropriate business and technical context and metadata
 - Secure





DATA

STRATEGIES

JRE



Data Mesh: Self-Serve Data Platform

- Each domain should develop a data platform to support its data products and ensure its autonomy
- The platform connects to existing operational and analytical platforms to source its data, but hides complexities from its data customers
- It should be specifically designed to allow its customers to search, access and process its data via a "digital storefront"
- Data customers should be able to self-serve data from the platform
- The platform consists of three primary layers, known as planes:
 - **Data Infrastructure** file storage, access control, query engines etc.
 - **Data Product Developer** workflow, code generation etc.
 - Data Supervision knowledge graph of data products and relationship to connected products



DATA

Data Mesh: Federated Computational Governance



- Data Mesh requires a balance between:
 - The need for the domains to operate autonomously but cooperate when required
 - The need for the domains to interoperate to enable customers to:
 - Create data joins and unions for analytics and data science
 - Discover data intersections that derive wider insights and knowledge
- Its key principles for delivering this are:
 - Decentralization and self sovereignty
 - Information quality managed at the domain level
 - Automated execution to minimize manual efforts
 - Some cross-domain standardization to allow interoperability, e.g. APIs, data standards (format & content) etc.
- Data Mesh claims a new Federated data governance paradigm is needed as:
 - Traditional data governance is too centralized and stifles innovation and change
 - Does not meet the needs of its data product customers as focused mainly on operational data

Data Governance with Data Mesh





Source: Data Monolith to Mesh, Zhamak Dehghani

Global Governance & Standards

- "The key for an effective correlation of data across domains is following certain standards and harmonization rules."
- "Such standardizations should belong to a global governance, to enable interoperability between polyglot domain datasets."
- "Common concerns of such standardization efforts are field type formatting, identifying polysemes¹ across different domains, datasets address conventions, common metadata fields, etc."
- Enterprise Data Stores
 - "Where does the data lake or data warehouse fit in this architecture? They are simply nodes on the mesh."

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Some Issues with the Assumptions of Data Mesh



Data Governance

Assumption: Data Governance is a rigid construct where everything goes through a central committee.

Counterpoint: There are many models of data governance and most successful data governance programs have a successful mix of local vs. global decision-making.

Data Domains

Assumption: Data Domains are loosely-defined components of the business.

Counterpoint: Enterprise Architecture and Data Governance models pay close attention to the definition of domains by:

- Process
 Data Domain
- Organization
 Business Capability

Architectural Quantum

Assumption: Data Products by Domain are the lowest-level architectural quantum.

Counterpoint: Data itself is the architectural quantum, e.g. Master Data objects (Customer, Product), or even critical data elements (customer email, product number).

Analytical Focus

Assumption: Federated data ownership focuses on published analytical data sets.

Counterpoint: True ownership and accountability for data needs to include operational data, where data is created and managed.

Socio-Technical Approach

Assumption: Enterprise Data Management is full of friction. Everyone is unhappy.

Assumption: It takes friction to light a fire. If you're not having the hard, cross-functional conversations to resolve key "polysemes" or "architectural quanta", you're simply avoiding the hard issues that need to be resolved.

"Data is a representation of the real world. If you want your data to be simple, make the world simple and get back to me." - Karen Lopez

Models of Data Governance & Stewardship

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There are diverse ways to implement governance, unique to each organization.

Many implementations have a *Blended approach*.

PROCESS CENTRIC	SYSTEMS CENTRIC	DATA DOMAIN CENTRIC	ORGANIZATION CENTRIC	CAPABILITY CENTRIC
Process owners become the data owner for all data created, amended & deleted by the business process for which they are responsible	System owners become the data owner for all data created, amended & deleted by the IT system for which they are responsible	Business appointed roles accountable for improvement of key data domains used across an organization	Business appointed roles accountable for improvement of key data domains on the basis of departmental boundaries or geographic locations	Business accountability based on core business capabilities , which are separated from organizational hierarchies or departments.
(e.g. Order to Cash, Customer Onboarding, etc.)	(e.g. SAP, Peoplesoft, etc.)	(e.g. Customer, Supplier)	(e.g., Finance, Supply Chain, EMEA Sales)	(e.g., Finance, Supply Chain, Sales)

Another Approach to Data Democratization





The Concept of Data as a Product Exists in Other Areas



Open Data Sets Published for Consumption & Data Democratization



Be Careful of Assumptions



• Data Warehouses and Enterprise Data Management have **had numerous failures** over the past 20 years.



• Data Mesh has none of these failures.

• Michael Phelps has **lost more swimming** races than Donna Burbank.



• Donna has never lost a swimming race.



Summary

• Data Mesh stresses the principles of:

- Domain Ownership
- Data as a Product
- Self-serve Data Platform
- Federated Computational Governance
- Mesh is a combination of people and technology – a Socio-technical approach
- While many of the objectives of Data Mesh are laudable, there are some mis-alignments with core data management principles
 - Data Governance best practices
 - Master Data Management
 - Enterprise focus to include operational, analytical, and cross-functional "friction"



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DATAVERSITY Data Architecture Strategies

Join Us Next Month



- **February** Building a Data Strategy Practical Steps for Aligning with Business Goals
- March Data Mesh or Data Mess? Separating the Reality from the Hype
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- **December** Enterprise Architecture vs. Data Architecture





Who We Are: Business-Focused Data Strategy

Maximize the Organizational Value of Your Data Investment



<image>

Global Data Strategy's shares experience from some of the largest international organizations scaled to the pace of your unique team.

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In today's business environment, showing **rapid time to value** for any technical investment is critical.

But technology and data can be complex. At Global Data Strategy, we help demystify technical complexity to help you:

- Demonstrate the ROI and **business value of data** to your management
- Build a data strategy **at your pace to match your unique culture** and organizational style.
- Create an **actionable roadmap for "quick wins"**, which building towards a long-term scalable architecture.

Global Data Strategy has worked with organizations globally in the following industries: Finance · Retail · Social Services · Health Care · Education · Manufacturing · Government · Public Utilities · Construction · Media & Entertainment · Insurance and more

www.globaldatastrategy.com



Thoughts? Ideas? Questions?