

Four Effective Metadata Strategies



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Peter Aiken, Ph.D.

- I've been doing this a long time
- My work is recognized as useful
- Associate Professor of IS (vcu.edu)
- Institute for Defense Analyses (ida.org)
- DAMA International (dama.org)
- MIT CDO Society (iscdo.org)
- Anything Awesome (anythingawesome.com)
- Experienced w/ 500+ data management practices worldwide
- 13 books and dozens of articles
- Multi-year immersions
 - US DoD (DISA/Army/Marines/DLA)
 - Nokia
 - Deutsche Bank
 - Wells Fargo
 - Walmart
 - HUD ...

\$1,500,000,000.00 USD



<http://anythingawesome.com>



Program Overview

Four Effective Metadata Strategies



- Defining metadata in the context of data management
 - Defining data management
 - What do we mean by the term 'using data as metadata' and why is this important? (Hint: leverage)
 - Specific teachable example (iTunes→Music™/.mp3 player app)
- 1. Metadata is a gerund—do not treat it as a noun
 - Metadata is a **use** of data, not a type of data
- 2. Enforce metadata to be the language of data governance
 - Make metadata the **language** of data governance
- 3. Treat glossaries/repositories as capabilities not technology
 - Cyclic improvements do not **start** with technologies
- 4. Build from metadata building blocks
 - Many many many resources are available to **jump-start** metadata efforts
- Benefits, application & sources
 - Understand that metadata defines organizational interoperability
- Take Aways, References and Q&A



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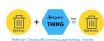
Henri La Fontaine
Nobel Peace Prize, 1913



Paul Otlet

The Mundaneum was an institution which aimed to gather together all the world's knowledge and classify it according to a system called the Universal Decimal Classification. It was developed at the turn of the 20th century by Belgian lawyers Paul Otlet and Henri La Fontaine. The Mundaneum has been identified as a milestone in the history of data collection and management, and (somewhat more tenuously) as a precursor to the Internet.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mundaneum#/media/File:Mundaneum_Triang_Karteikaarten.jpg | <http://www.mundaneum.org/en>



Special thanks to Peter A. Campbell @ Solvay for this contribution



1. **Library** - a place you physically travel to in order to access reference materials and other forms of knowledge
2. You searched manually for potentially useful items by reading abstracts and other information printed on 3 x 5 **index cards** and organized into a **card catalog** (pictured)
3. The cards also contain an **address** in the library where a **physical copy** of the item(s) of interest are located



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Analogy: a Library Card Catalog

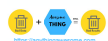
- Identifies
 - What books are in the library, and
 - Where they are located
 - Search by
 - Subject area
 - Author, or
 - Title
 - Catalog shows
 - Author
 - Subject tags
 - Publication date and
 - Revision history
 - Determine which books will meet the reader's requirements
 - Without the catalog, finding things is difficult, time consuming and frustrating
- from *The DAMA Guide to the Data Management Body of Knowledge* © 2009 by DAMA International

PS3557
.R5355
F57 1991
Grisham, John
The firm / John Grisham. 1st. ed.
New York : Doubleday, c1991.
421p. ; 24 cm.
1. Government investigators--Fiction.
2. Organized crime--Fiction.

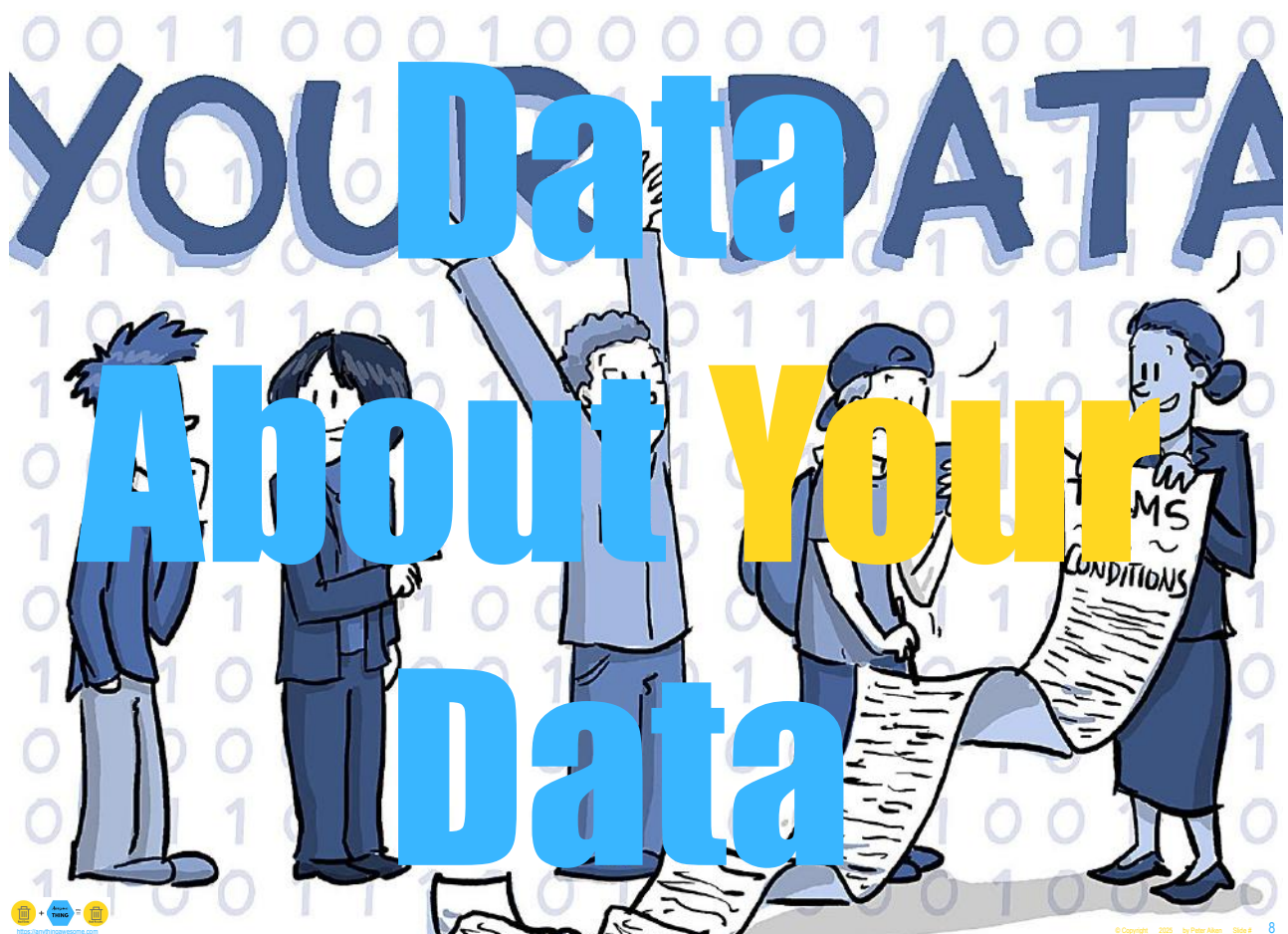
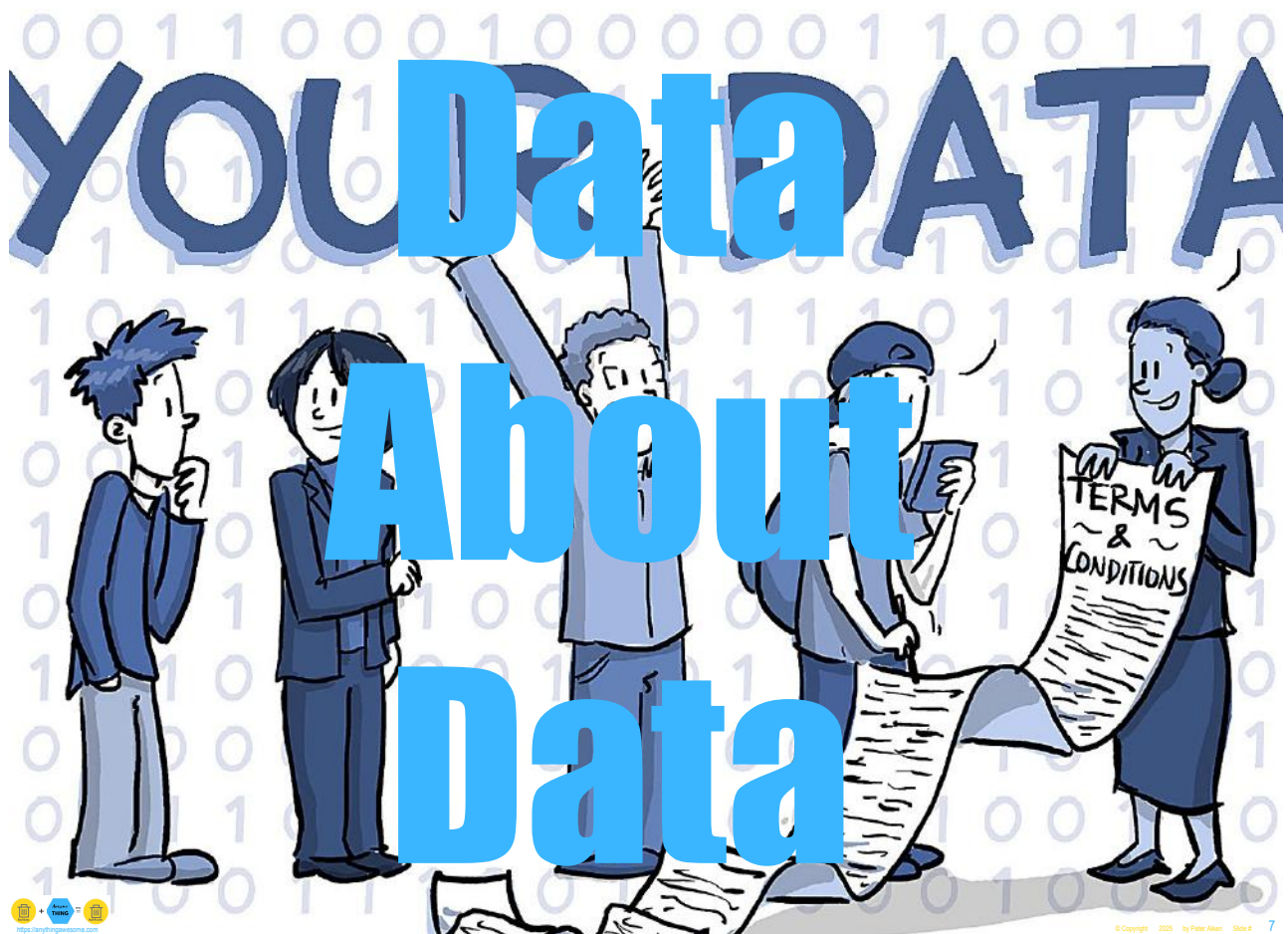
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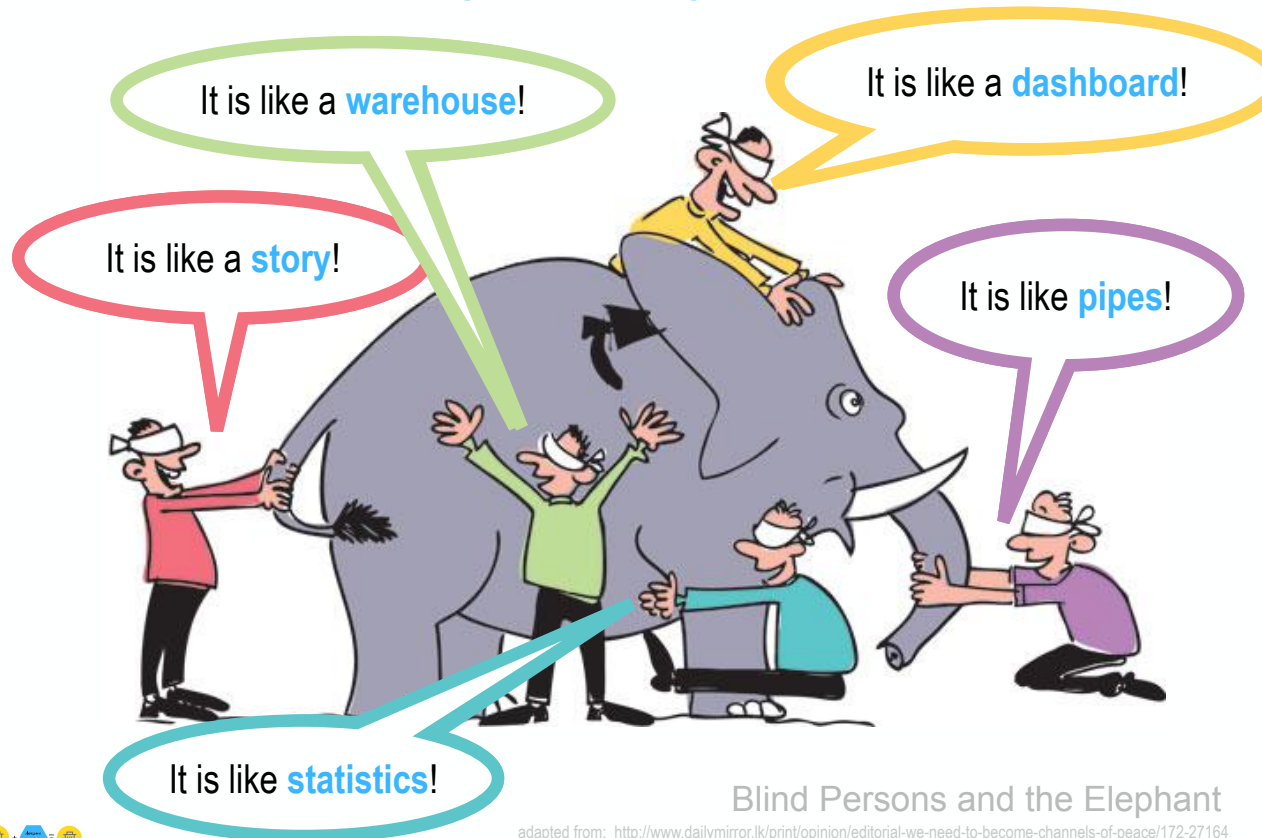




Misunderstanding Data Management

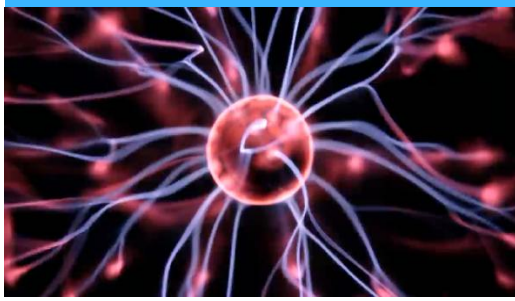


Data Is Not Broadly or Widely Understood



Blind Persons and the Elephant

adapted from: <http://www.dailymirror.lk/print/opinion/editorial-we-need-to-become-channels-of-peace/172-27164>



Unrefined
data management
definition

Sources

Data Management

Uses

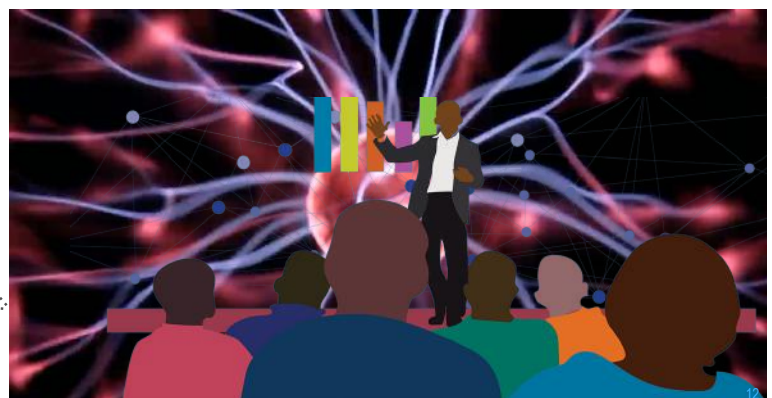


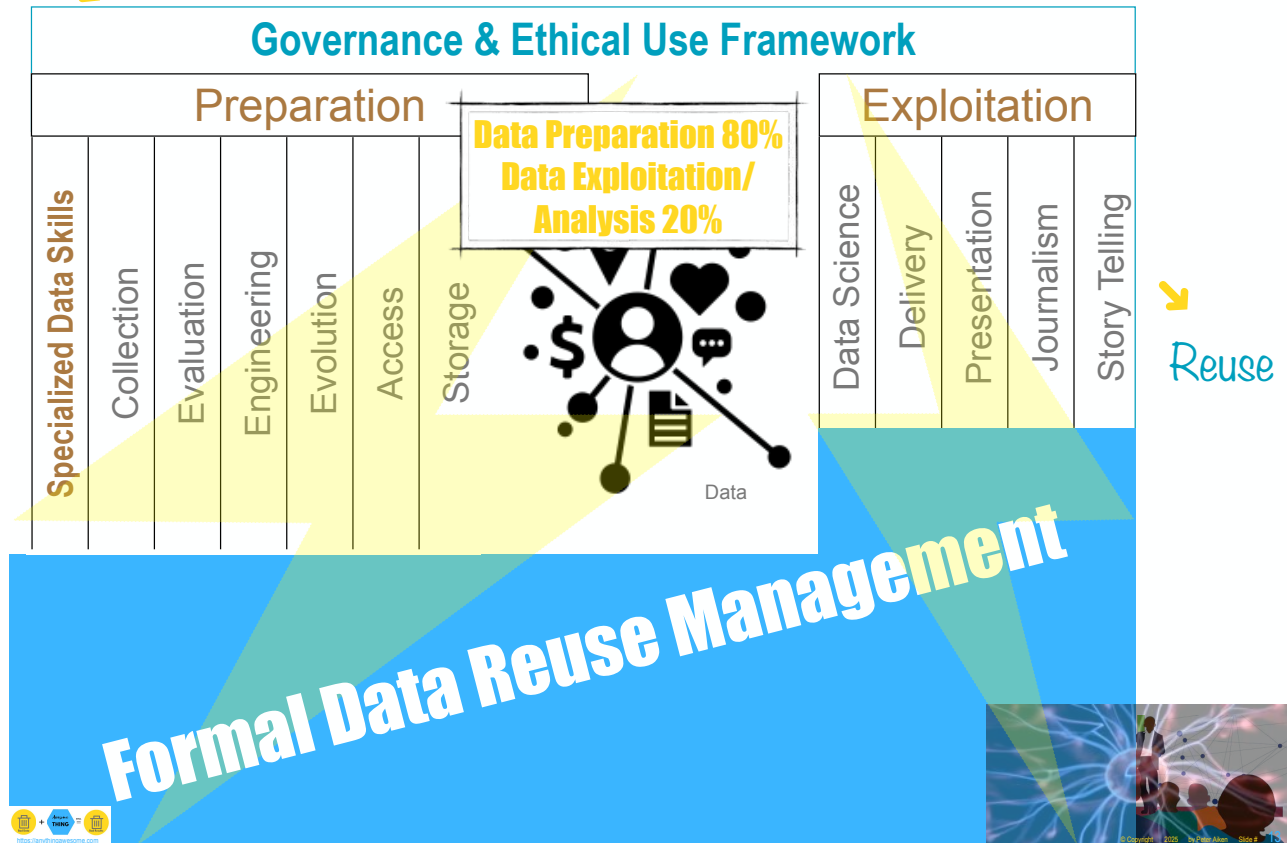
More refined
data management
definition

Sources

→
Data Management

→
Reuse





The Prefix Meta-

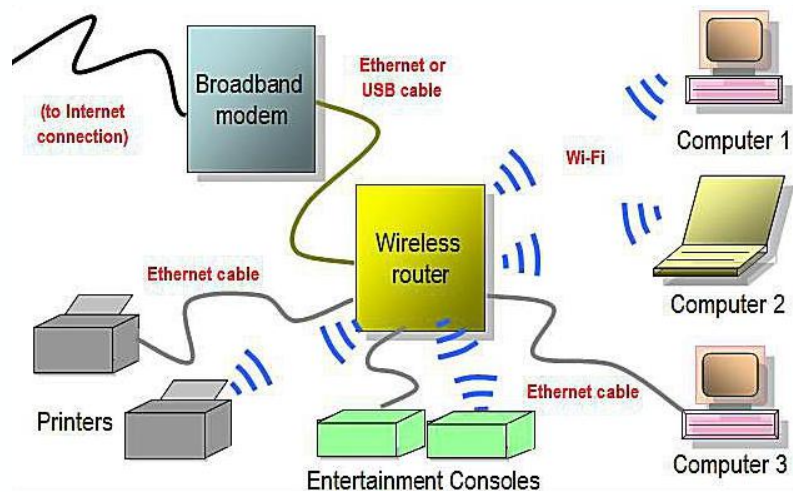
Meta

1. Situated behind: metacarpus.
2.
 - a. Later in time: metestrus.
 - b. At a later stage of development: metanephros.
3.
 - a. Change; transformation: metachromatism.
4.
 - a. Beyond; transcending; more comprehensive: metalinguistics.**
 - b. At a higher state of development: metazoan.**
5. Having undergone metamorphosis: metasomatic.
6.
 - a. Derivative or related chemical substance: metaprotein.
 - b. Of or relating to one of three possible isomers of a benzene ring with two attached chemical groups, in which the carbon atoms with attached groups are separated by one unsubstituted carbon atom: meta-dibromobenzene.

Definition of the prefix *meta-* (Emphasis added – source: *American Heritage English Dictionary* © 1993 Houghton Mifflin).

The Most Likely Managed Metadata in Your Organization

- Tracking network users and access points is metadata
- Your organization's networking group allocates the responsibility for knowing (at least):
 - All the devices permitted to logon to your network
 - Locations of all permitted access points
- This responsibility belongs to a named individual(s)



Meta Data, Meta-data, Metadata

- In the history of language, whenever two words are pasted together to form a combined concept initially, a hyphen links them
- With the passage of time, the hyphen is lost. The argument can be made that that time has passed
- So, the term is "metadata"
- By-the-way, there is a copyright on the term "metadata," but it has not been enforced

Check Status (TARR contains current status, correspondence address and attorney of record for the return to TESS)

Typed Drawing

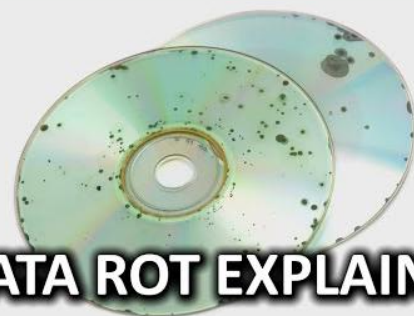
Word Mark	METADATA
Goods and Services	IC 009, US 038, G & S: COMPUTER PROGRAMS, FIRST USE: 1981092
Mark Drawing Code	(1) TYPED DRAWING
Serial Number	73561844
Filing Date	October 7, 1985
Current Filing Basis	1A
Original Filing Basis	1A
Published for Opposition	June 24, 1986
Registration Number	1409260
Registration Date	September 16, 1986
Owner	(REGISTRANT) MEGADYNE INFORMATION SYSTEMS CORPORATION BOULEVARD SANTA MONICA CALIFORNIA 90401 (LAST LISTED OWNER) METADATA INC. LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY BRENTWOOD TENNESSEE 37027
Assignment Recorded	ASSIGNMENT RECORDED
Attorney of Record	RICHARD L. BERNACCHI
Type of Mark	TRADEMARK
Register	PRINCIPAL
Affidavit Text	SECT 15, SECT 8 (6-YR).
Live/Dead Indicator	LIVE



Separating the Wheat From the Chaff



Is well organized data worth more?



DATA ROT EXPLAINED

Pre-Information Age Metadata



- Examples of information architecture achievements that happened well before the information age:

- Page numbering
- Alphabetical order
- Table of contents
- Indexes
- Lexicons
- Maps
- Diagrams



"While we can arrange things with the intent to communicate certain information, we can't actually make information. Our users do that for us."

Example from: *How to make sense of any mess* by Abby Covert (2014) ISBN: 1500615994



DATA ROT EXPLAINED



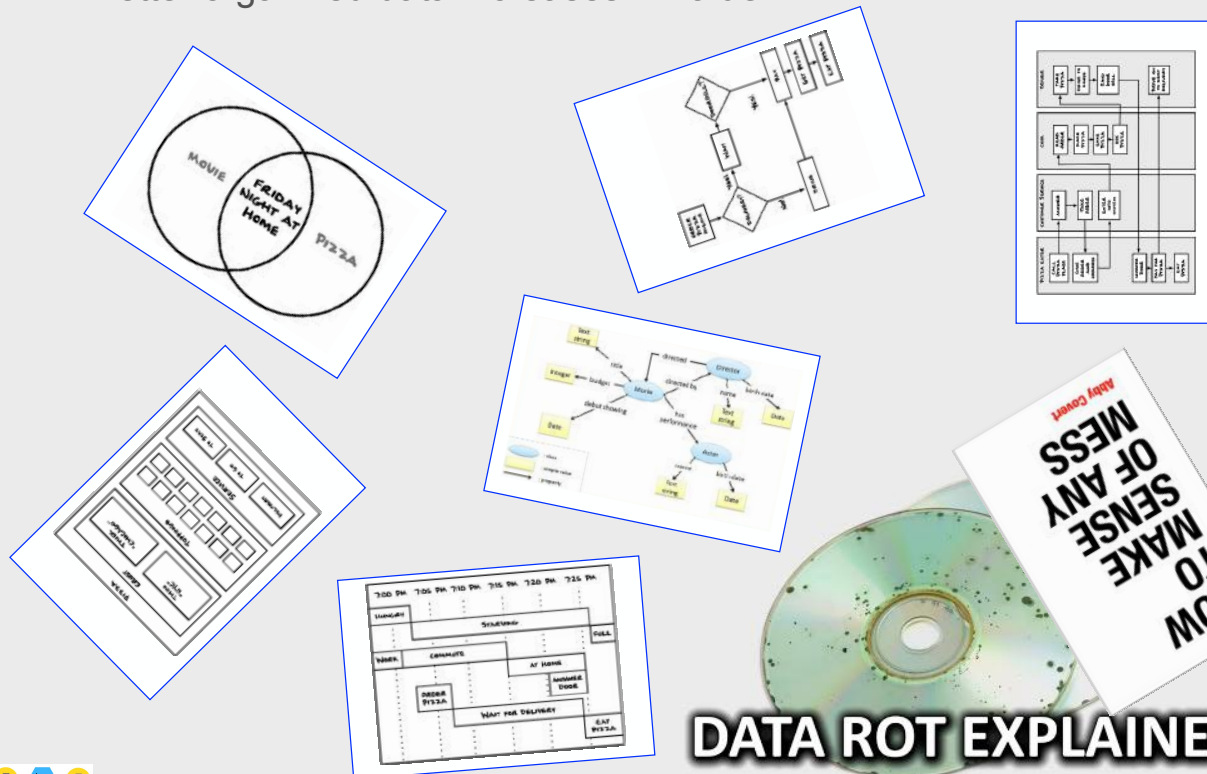
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Remove the Structure and Things Fall Apart Rapidly



- Better organized data increases in value



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Separating the Wheat From the Chaff

- Better organized data increases in value
- Poor data management practices are costing organizations money/time/effort
- 80% of organizational data is **ROT**
 - **R**edundant
 - **O**bsolute
 - **T**rivial
- The question is which data to eliminate?
 - Most enterprise data is never analyzed

Metadata:

- Is required for valid identification of data assets
- Focuses organizational attention on repairing common data elements
- Permits value to be ascribed to data at a necessarily granular level

DATA ROT EXPLAINED

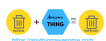


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Leverage Is an Engineering Concept

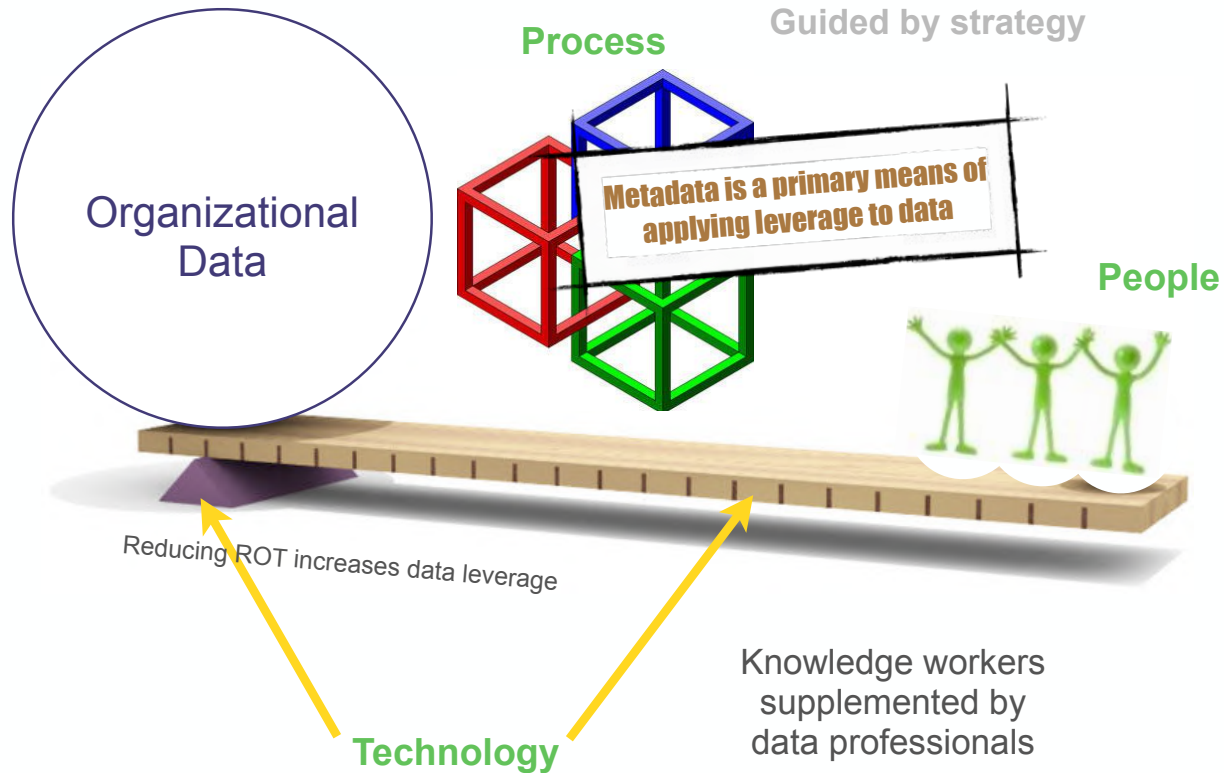
- Using proper engineering techniques, a human can lift a bulk that is weighs much more than the human



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A Wholistic Approach to Obtaining Data Leverage



<https://www.computerhope.com/jargon/f/framework.htm>

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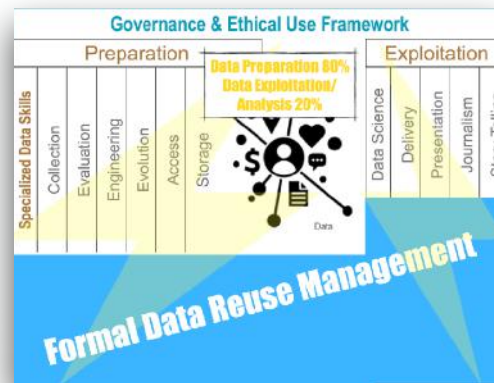
Data Leverage Is a Multi-Use Concept

- Permits organizations to better manage their data
 - Within the organization, and
 - With organizational data exchange partners
 - In support of the organizational mission
- Leverage is enabled by metadata
 - Obtained by implementation of data-centric technologies, processes, and human skill sets
 - Focus on the non-ROT data
 - The bigger the organization, the greater potential leverage exists
- Treating data more asset-like simultaneously
 - Lowers organizational IT costs and
 - Increases organizational knowledge worker productivity



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Metadata Yields ...



Valuable information about your data assets:

- Do we have these specific (or this class of) data assets? **Yes!**
- What is the quality of ... **Not suitable!** **35¢/apiece**
- What will be the cost to improve this class of data assets?
- Can these data assets be provided more granularly? **Not easily!**
- ... (increasing insight)



Data Management Body of Knowledge (DM BoK V2)



Practice Areas



Metadata Management

Definition: Planning, Implementation, and control activities to enable access to high quality, integrated metadata

Goals:

1. Provide organizational understanding of business terms and usage.
2. Collect and integrate metadata from diverse sources.
3. Provide a standard way to access metadata.
4. Ensure metadata quality and security.



(P) Planning, (C) Control, (D) Development, (O) Operations

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Business Drivers



(P) Planning, (C) Control, (D) Development, (O) Operations

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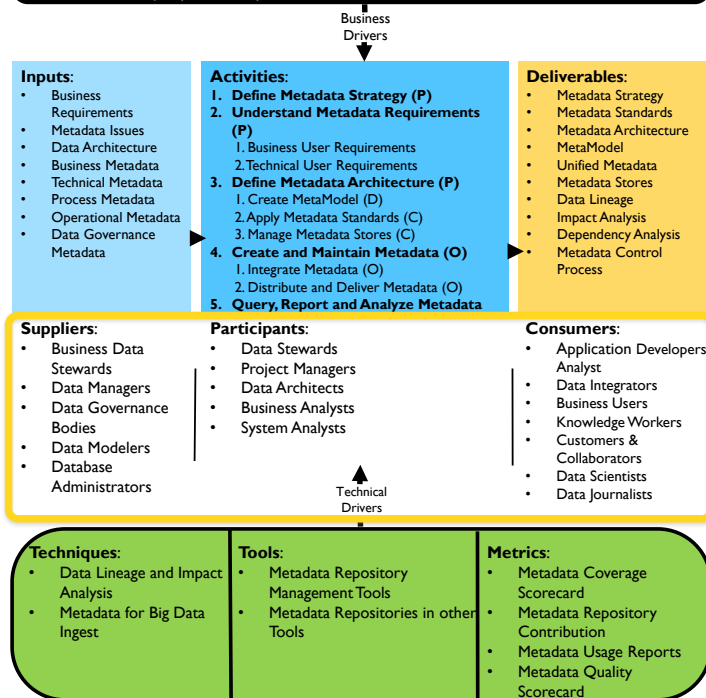
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(P) Planning, (C) Control, (D) Development, (O) Operations

Example:
iTunes → Music™/.mp3 player app

Name	Time	Artist	Album	Genre
Track 01	2:34			
Track 02	3:14			
Track 03	3:20			
Track 04	3:12			
Track 05	2:36			
Track 06	2:49			
Track 07	3:10			
Track 08	3:02			
Track 09	3:07			
Track 10	2:18			
Track 11				
Track 12				
Track 13				
Track 14				
Track 15				
Track 16				
Track 17				
Track 18				
Track 19				
Track 20				
Track 21				
Track 22	4:24			
Track 23	4:49			
Track 24	3:47			
Track 25	4:23			

25 songs, 1.3 hours, 801.7 MB

- Example:
 - Music Metadata
- Insert a recently purchased CD
- Music can:
 - Count the number of tracks (25)
 - Determine the length of each track

Example:
Music Metadata

Name	Time	Artist	Album	Genre
Move	2:34	Miles Davis	The Complete Birth Of The Cool	Jazz
Jeru	3:14	Miles Davis	The Complete Birth Of The Cool	Jazz
Moon Dreams	3:20	Miles Davis	The Complete Birth Of The Cool	Jazz
Venus De Milo	3:12	Miles Davis	The Complete Birth Of The Cool	Jazz
Budo	3:26	Miles Davis	The Complete Birth Of The Cool	Jazz
Deception				
Godchild				
Boplicity				
Rocker				
Israel				
Rouge				
Darn That Dream				
Birth Of The Cool...				
Symphony Sid Ann...				
Move (Live)				
Why Do I Love You...				
Godchild (Live)				
Symphony Sid Intr...				
S'il Vous Plait (Live)				
Moon Dreams (Live)				
Budo (Hallucinatio...				
Darn That Dream [...]				
Move (Live)				
Moon Dreams (Live)				
Budo (Hallucinatio...				

25 songs, 1.3 hours, 801.7 MB

- When connected to the Internet the Music app connects to the Gracenote(.com) Media Database and retrieves:
 - CD Name
 - Artist
 - Track Names
 - Genre
 - Artwork
- Sure would be a pain to type in all this information
(How many of your knowledge workers are suffering?)

iTunes

Importing "Boplicity"

STORE

- iTunes Store
- Ping
- Purchased
- Purchased on Cathy's iPad
- Purchased on Peter's iPad
- Purchased on Peter's i4

DEVICES

- Peter's i4
- The Comp

SHARED

- CGL's Musi

PLAYLISTS

- Acoustic
- Lists (Manu

Name	Time	Artist	Album	Genre
1 ✓ Move	2:34	Miles Davis	The Complete Birth Of The Cool	Jazz
2 ✓ Jeru	3:14	Miles Davis	The Complete Birt	Jazz
3 ✓ Moon Dreams	3:20	Miles Davis	The Complete Birt	Jazz
4 ✓ Venus De Milo	3:12	Miles Davis	The Complete Birt	Jazz
5 ✓ Budo	2:36	Miles Davis	The Complete Birth Of The Cool	Jazz
6 ✓ Deception	2:49	Miles Davis	The Complete Birth Of The Cool	Jazz
7 ✓ Godchild	3:10	Miles Davis	The Complete Birth Of The Cool	Jazz

Smart Playlist

☒ Match the following rule:

Artist contains Miles Davis

☐ Limit to 25 items selected by random

☐ Match only checked items

☒ Live updating

Cancel OK

Example: Music Metadata

To organize my Music library

- I create a "New Smart Playlist" for Artist's containing "Miles Davis"

25 songs, 1.3 hours, 801.7 MB

iTunes

more East (March 7, 1970) - It's About That Time

1:07 -6:54

DEVICES

- Peter's i4

SHARED

- CGL's Music Library

PLAYLISTS

- Acoustic

Smart Playlist

☒ Match all of the following rules:

Artist contains Miles Davis

Album contains The Complete Birth Of The Cool

☐ Limit to 25 items selected by random

☒ Match only checked items

☒ Live updating

Cancel OK

Example: Music Metadata

Notice I didn't get the desired results

I already had another Miles Davis recording, "Live at the Fillmore East"

Must fine-tune the smart playlist request to get the desired results

- Now specify that Album must also contain "The complete birth of the cool"

Now I can move the smart playlist "Miles Davis" to a folder

Or not?

Name	Time	Artist	Album	Genre
14 ✓ Darn That Dream				
15 ✓ Rouge				
16 ✓ Israel				
17 ✓ Rocker				
18 ✓ Boplicity				
19 ✓ Godchild				
20 ✓ Deception				
21 ✓ Budo				
22 ✓ Venus De Milo				
23 ✓ Moon Dreams				
24 ✓ Jeru				
25 ✓ Move				
26 ✓ Bitches Brew	8:01	Miles Davis	Live at the Fillmore East	Jazz
27 ✓ Directions (First Set)	8:46	Miles Davis	Live at the Fillmore East	Jazz

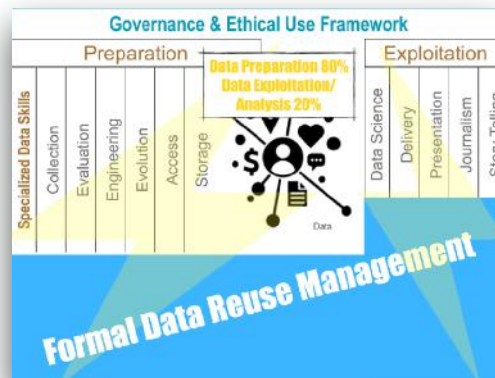
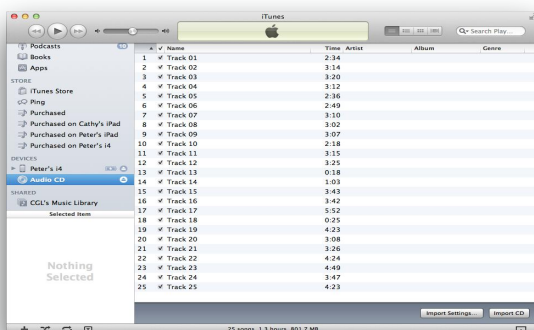
32 songs, 2.3 hours, 133.2 MB

Example: Music Metadata

- Your knowledge of metadata:
 - Interface
 - Processing
 - Data Structures
- are applied to
 - Podcasts
 - Movies
 - Books
 - .pdf files
- Economies of scale are enormous

21 TV shows, 14.7 hours, 12.51 GB

Metadata Yields ...



Valuable information about your Music™ assets:

- Do we have these specific Miles Davis recordings?
- Most my played Miles Davis recording
- What will be the cost to acquire more of this class of data assets?
- Can I listen to the entire album before dinner?

Yes!

Bitches Brew

\$1.29/each

Not easily!

Program overview

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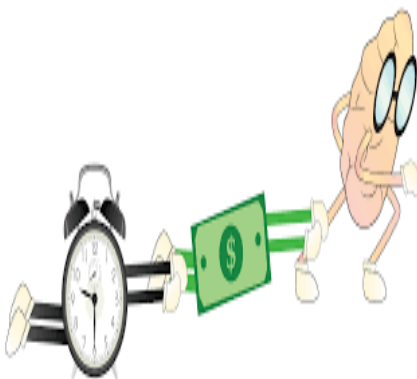


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 - Defining data management
 - What do we mean by the term 'using data as metadata' and why is this important? (Hint: leverage)
 - Specific teachable example (iTunes→Music™/.mp3 player app)
- 1. Metadata is a gerund—do not treat it as a noun
 - Metadata is a **use** of data, not a type of data
- 2. Enforce metadata to be the language of data governance
 - Make metadata the **language** of data governance
- 3. Treat glossaries/repositories as capabilities not technology
 - Cyclic improvements do not **start** with technologies
- 4. Build from metadata building blocks
 - Many many many resources are available to **jump-start** metadata efforts
- Benefits, application & sources
 - Understand that metadata defines organizational interoperability
- Take Aways, References and Q&A



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Comprehension by others is critical!



- If others do not understand what you do then you are perceived with a **cost** bias
- If others understand what you do then you can be perceived with a **value** bias



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-



- aka
 - data dictionary
 - data item dictionary
 - data directory
 - data catalog
 - data repository
 - metadata repository
 - data resource dictionary
 - data asset dictionary
 - data definition dictionary
 - data structure dictionary
 - data element dictionary
 - enterprise repository
 - term bank
- Start of Enterprise Taxonomy
- Defines Initial Entities for Conceptual Data Model
- Engages the Business Community to Validate Entities and provide meaningful, agreed upon business definitions

Entity	Description	Domain Area
Donor	Funder	Business Development
Solicitations	Need for Work	Business Development
Solicitations Proposal	Response to Need for Work	Business Development
Pre-Positioning	Intelligence Gathering	Business Development
Award/Sub-Award	Funding Vehicle	Business Development
Terms Conditions	Details about a Funding Vehicle	Business Development
Budget	Amount of Money Available	Business Development
Work Plan	Set of Activities to Complete	Business Development
PMP	Monitoring Plan for Activities	Business Development
Award	An NGO Project is defined as a self-contained set of interventions or activities with the following characteristics:	
Work Plan	a) an external client;	
Work Plan	b) purchase order, contract or agreement;	
Work Plan	c) expected deliverables, outcomes and results;	
Work Plan	d) a beginning and end date of implementation;	
Work Plan	e) an approved budget; and	
Work Plan	full and/or part time NGO staff	Project Management
Geographic Area		Project Management
Office Locations	Location in which a Central Office resides	Project Management
Project Roles		Project Management
Project Artifacts		Project Management
Project Budget		Project Management
Project Work Plan		Project Management
Milestones	Schedule of completed activities	Project Management
Monitoring	Plan to measure Activities	Project Management
Evaluation	Assessment of Activities	Project Management
Indicators	Target of Outcome	Project Management
Outcomes	Statement of what needs to be accomplished	Project Management
Acct Receivable	Payments to NGO	Financial Management
Chart of Accounts	Defined Accounts	Financial Management
Payroll	Process to Pay Worker	Financial Management
Supplier	Provider of Goods or Service	Financial Management
Contract	Binding Agreement	Financial Management
Purchase Order	Statement of Good or Service	Financial Management
Performance	Level of Success	Talent Management
Benefits		Talent Management
Skills		Talent Management
Worker	Person who has been hired by NGO	Talent Management
Candidate	Potential hire of NGO	Talent Management

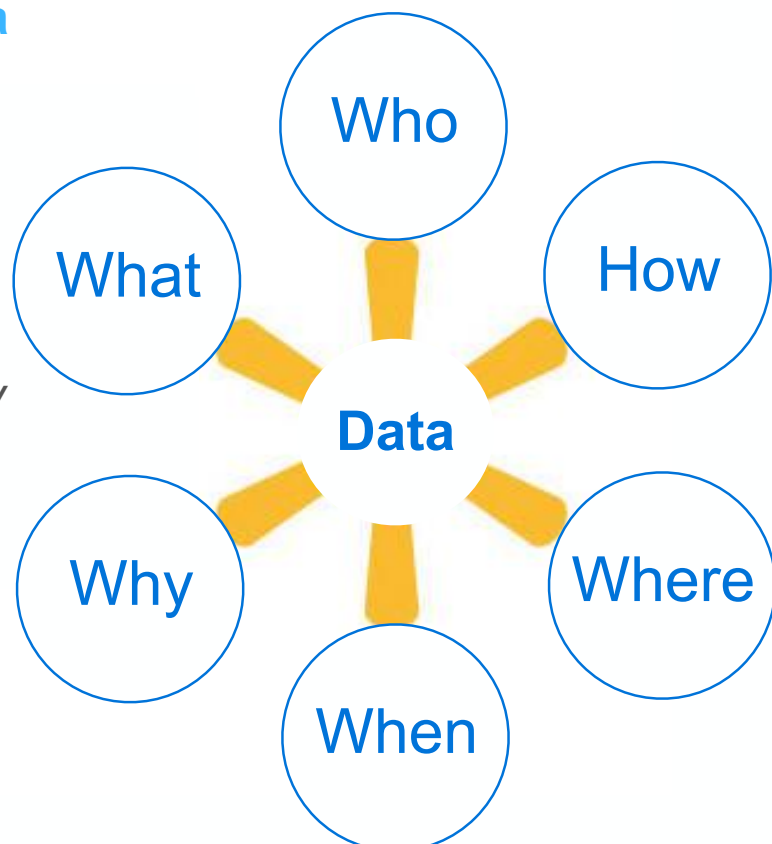


Your **spark** makes us
Walmart



Defining Metadata

Metadata is any combination of any circle and the data in the center that unlocks the value of the data!



InBox Use of Metadata

Metadata is used to
navigate/manage email

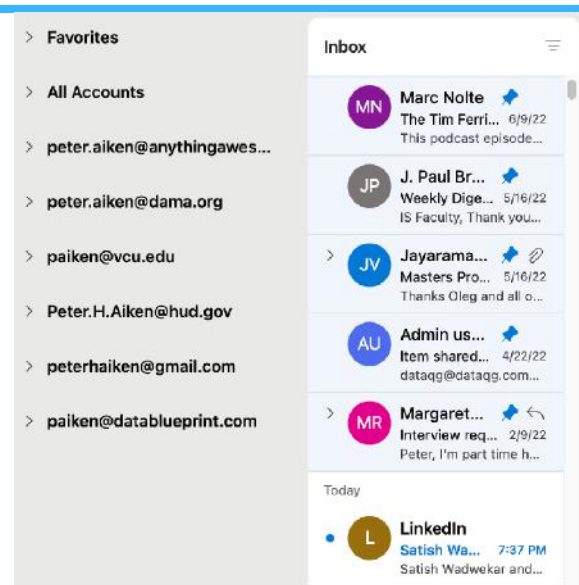
What: "Subject"

How: "Priority"

Where: "USERID/Inbox",
"USERID/Personal"

Why: "Body"

When: "Sent" & "Received"



- Find the important stuff/weed out junk
- Organize for future access/outlook rules
- *Imagine how managing e-mail (already non-trivial) would change if Outlook did not make use of metadata Who: "To" & "From?"*

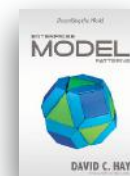
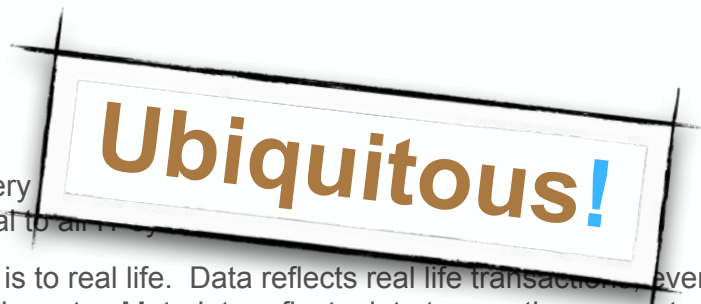


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Definitions

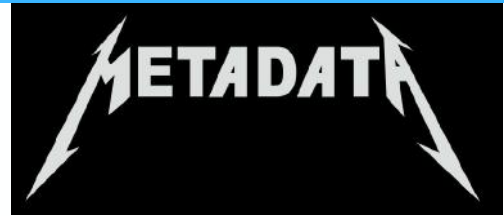
- Metadata is
 - Everywhere in every activity and integral to all things
 - To data what data is to real life. Data reflects real life transactions, events, objects, relationships, etc. Metadata reflects data transactions, events, objects, relations, etc.
 - The data that describe the structure and workings of an organization's use of information, and which describe the systems it uses to manage that information.
[quote from David Hay's book, page 4]
 - Data describing various facets of a data asset, for the purpose of improving its usability throughout its life cycle [Gartner 2010]
 - **Metadata unlocks the value of data, and therefore requires management attention**
[Gartner 2011]
- Metadata Management is
 - The set of processes that ensure proper creation, storage, integration, and control to support associated use of metadata



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Metadata ...



- Isn't
 - Is not a noun
 - One person's data is another's metadata
- Is more of a verb?
 - Represents a use of existing facts, rather than a type of data itself
- It is a **gerund**
 - a form that is derived from a verb but that functions as a noun
 - e.g., the word **asking** in do you mind my **asking** you?
- Therefore, metadata describes a use of data, not a type of data
 - The use of some attributes of data to understand or manage that same data from a different (usually higher) level of abstraction

ger·und
/ˈjerənd/ 
noun GRAMMAR



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IEEE Software  March/April 1999

Case Study

Reverse-engineering a commercial client-server system from PeopleSoft yielded a valuable resource and proved to be cost-effective. The authors describe the motivations for, approach to, and results of this project, commissioned by the Commonwealth of Virginia's government.

Reverse-Engineering New Systems for Smooth Implementation

Peter Aiken and Ojelanki K. Ngwenyama, Virginia Commonwealth University
Lewis Broome, Innovative Business Solutions

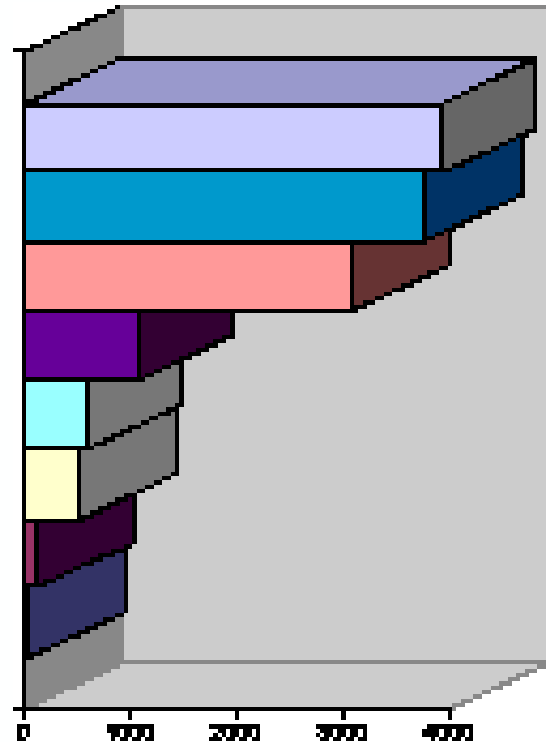


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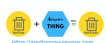
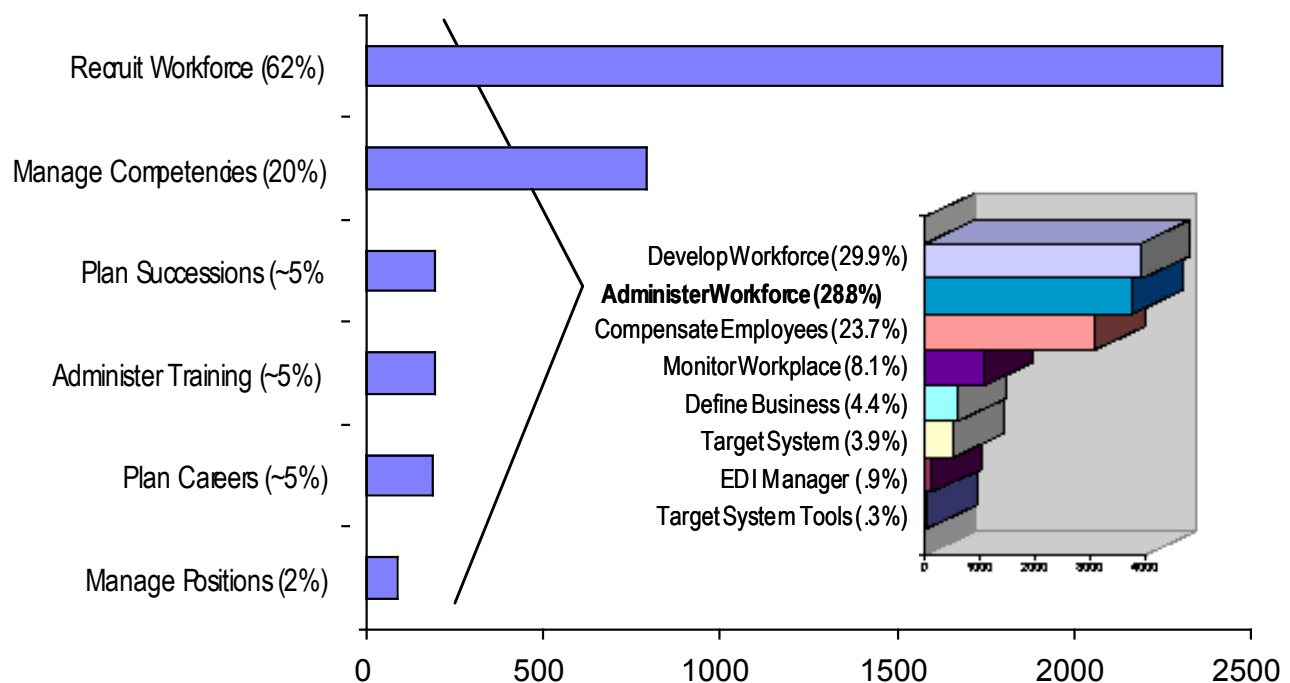
Metadata Uses

Develop Workforce (29.9%)
Administer Workforce (28.8%)
 Compensate Employees (23.7%)
 Monitor Workplace (8.1%)
 Define Business (4.4%)
 Target System (3.9%)
 EDI Manager (.9%)
 Target System Tools (.3%)



Metadata Uses

Administer Workforce



Line	Student Name	Student ID	Col	Cls	Maj	Registration Status
1	AKHTAR, HASINA		BUS	JR	ISY	Enrolled
2	BATDORF, MARK A.		BUS	JR	BFO	Enrolled
3	BOWKER, ASHLEY		BUS	UC	ISY	Enrolled
4	BRINKLEY, STEPHEN C		BUS	UC	ACC	Enrolled
5	DANIELSEN, ANTHONY		BUS	UC	ISY	Enrolled
6	DAUGHTRY, DAVID L		BUS	UC	ISY	Enrolled
7	DAWSON, STEFANI P		BUS	SR	FIN	Enrolled
8	DEBERRY, CHERYL M		BUS	UC	ISY	Enrolled
9	DIDDEN, CHRISTOPHER		BUS	UC	ISY	Enrolled
10	DIGGS, SAMUEL		DUO	US	DHU	Enrolled
11	DIXON, BRIAN		BUS	UC	ISY	Enrolled
12	GRANT, JAMES T		BUS	SR	ISY	Enrolled
13	HAAS, MICAH P		CHS	SR	MAS	Enrolled
14	HAMILTON, GARY M		BUS	UC	ISY	Enrolled
15	HOLICKY, JOSEPH J, III		BUS	UC	ISY	Enrolled



Sun 05 Sep 11:13

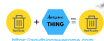


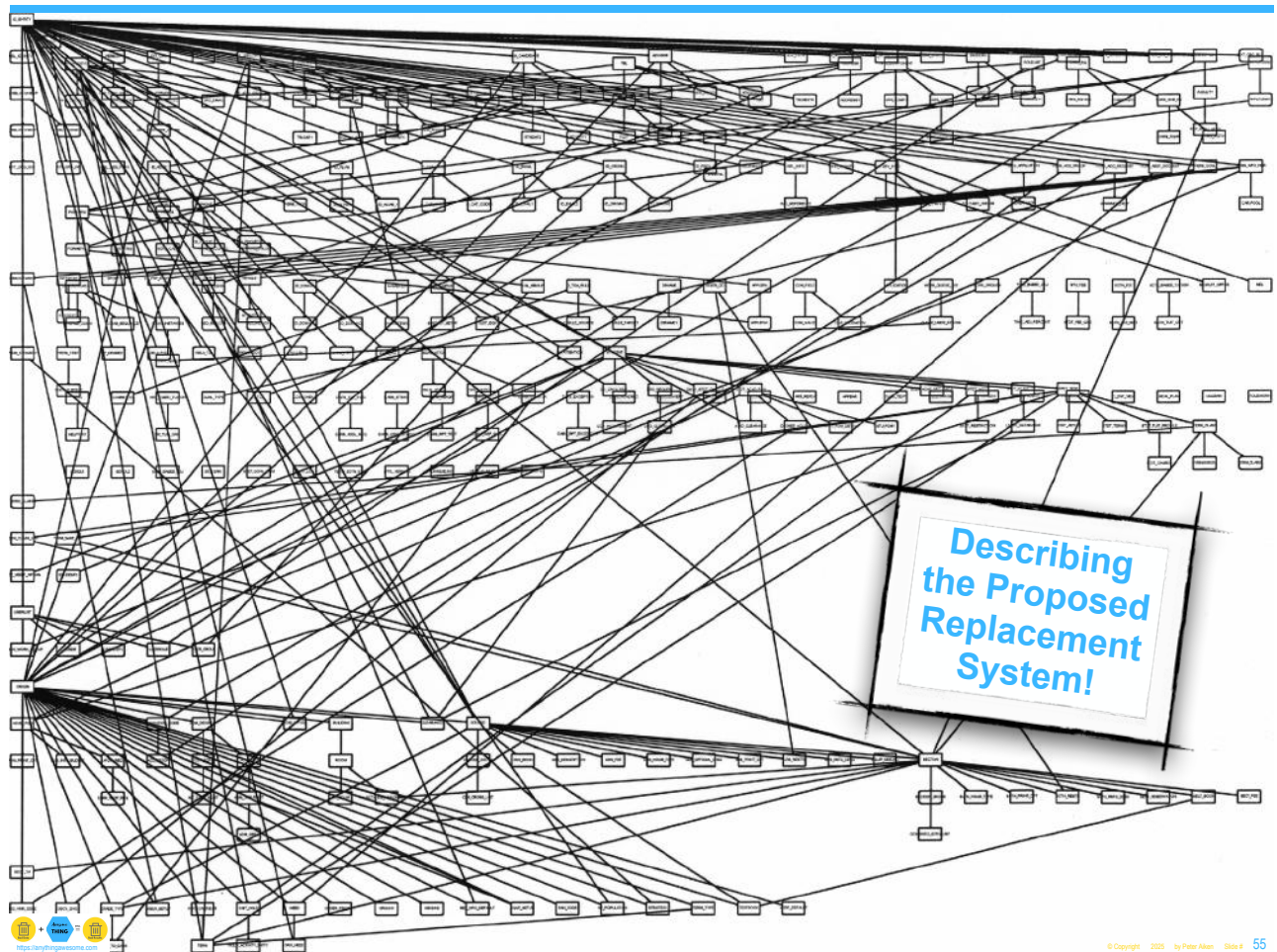
Parent

Student
Data
Base
Master

1. Hierarchical Databases
 2. Network Databases
- Both types are 10x faster than relational databases

Children





Keep the Proper Focus

- Wrong question:
 - Is this metadata?
- Right question:
 - Would we obtain value if we include it in the scope of our metadata practices?
- Value proposition
 - Is this aspect of our data worth including within the scope of our metadata practices?



Program Overview

Four Effective Metadata Strategies

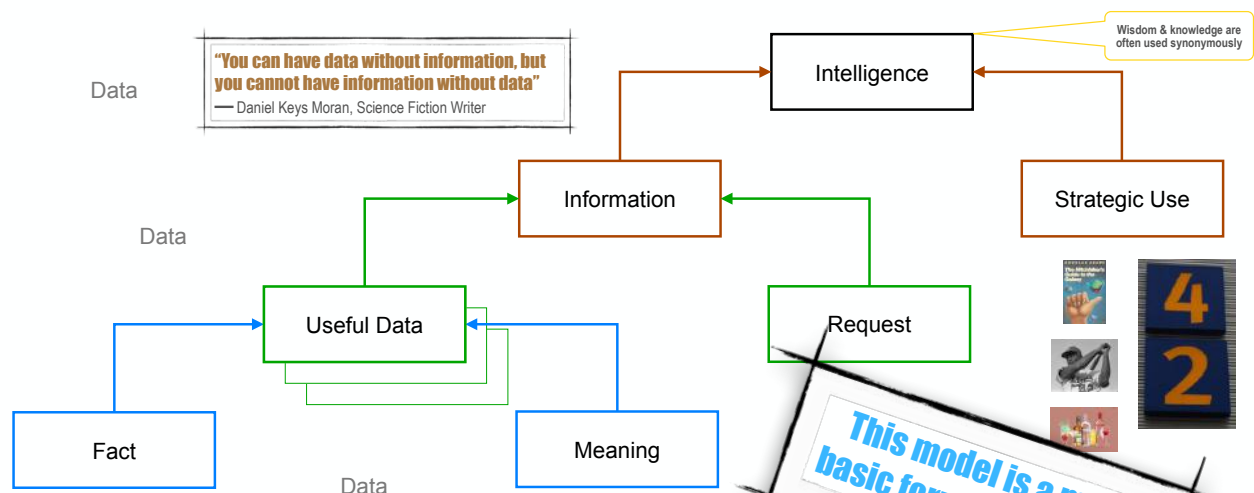


- Defining metadata in the context of data management
 - Defining data management
 - What do we mean by the term 'using data as metadata' and why is this important? (Hint: leverage)
 - Specific teachable example (iTunes→Music™/.mp3 player app)
- 1. Metadata is a gerund—do not treat it as a noun
 - Metadata is a **use** of data, not a type of data
- 2. Enforce metadata to be the language of data governance
 - Make metadata the **language** of data governance
- 3. Treat glossaries/repositories as capabilities not technology
 - Cyclic improvements do not **start** with technologies
- 4. Build from metadata building blocks
 - Many many many resources are available to **jump-start** metadata efforts
- Benefits, application & sources
 - Understand that metadata defines organizational interoperability
- Take Aways, References and Q&A



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A Model Precisely Defining 3 Important Concepts



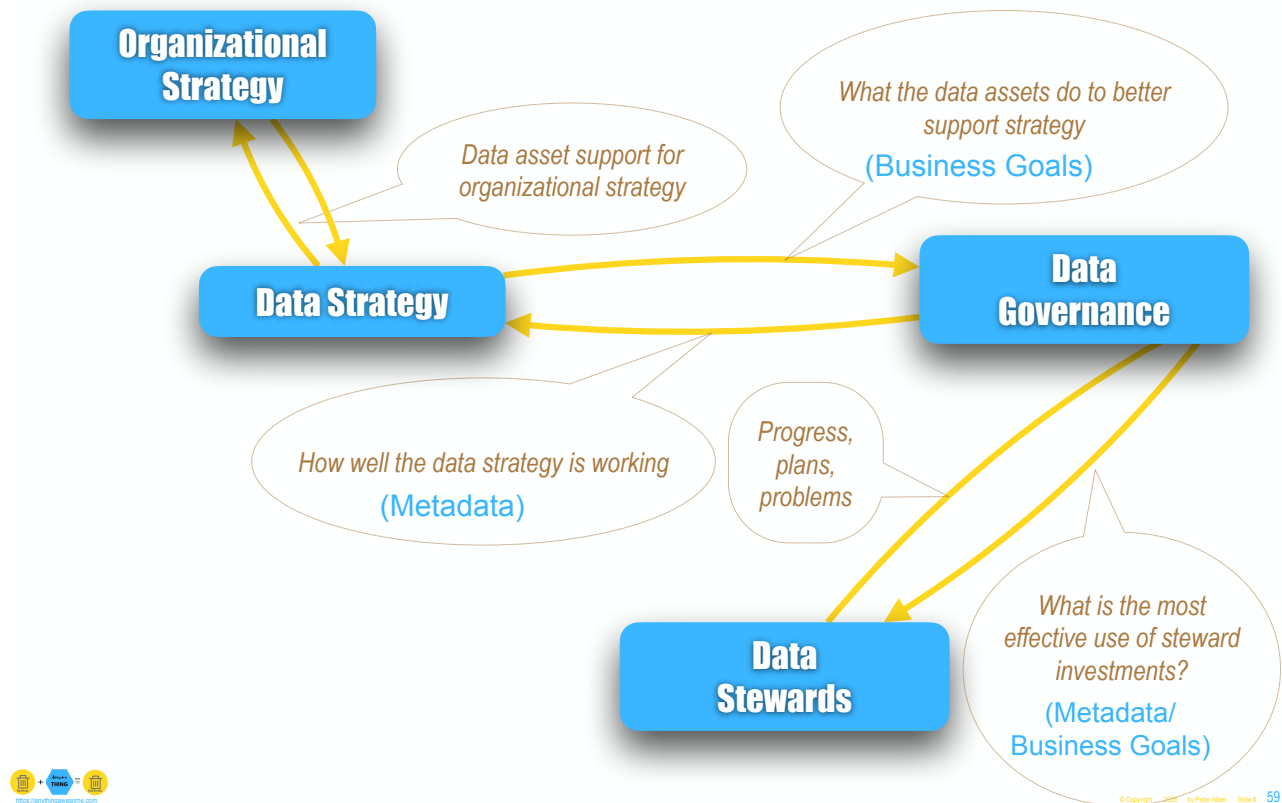
- Each FACT combines with one or more MEANINGS.
- Each specific FACT and MEANING combination is referred to as a DATUM.
- An INFORMATION is one or more DATA that are returned in response to a specific REQUEST.
- INFORMATION REUSE is enabled when one FACT is combined with more than one MEANING.
- INTELLIGENCE is INFORMATION associated with its STRATEGIC USES.
- DATA/INFORMATION must formally arranged into an ARCHITECTURE.



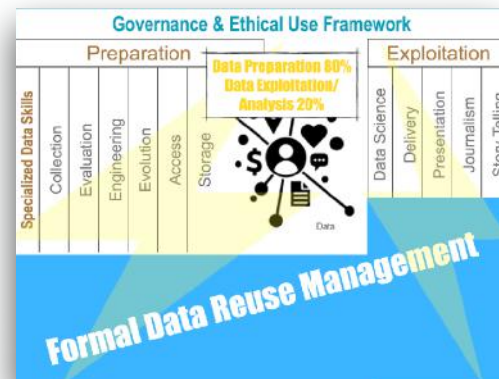
[Built on definitions from Dan Appleton. 1983]

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Data Strategy and Governance in Strategic Context



Metadata Yields ...



Valuable information about your data governance assets & processes:

- Do we have a shared understanding of our goals? **Yes!**
- Are we and IT focused on similar goals **Yes**
- How cost effective are we being? **2¢/each**
- What kind of metadata do we find most valuable?
- ... (increasing insight)

Supply Chain

Program Overview

Four Effective Metadata Strategies



- Defining metadata in the context of data management
 - Defining data management
 - What do we mean by the term 'using data as metadata' and why is this important? (Hint: leverage)
 - Specific teachable example (iTunes→Music™/.mp3 player app)
 - Metadata is a gerund—do not treat it as a noun
 - Metadata is a **use** of data, not a type of data
 - Enforce metadata to be the language of data governance
 - Make metadata the **language** of data governance
 - Treat glossaries/repositories as capabilities not technology
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 - Build from metadata building blocks
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 - Understand that metadata defines organizational interoperability
- Take Aways, References and Q&A





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Paiken

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Article **Talk** Read Edit View history

Search Wikipedia

Bed

Definition of Bed

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

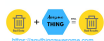
For other uses, see [Bed \(disambiguation\)](#).

A **bed** is a piece of **furniture** which is used as a place to **sleep** or **relax**.^{[1][2]}

Most modern beds consist of a soft, cushioned **mattress** on a **frame**, the **base**, the **inner-mattress**, and the **spring**.

Bedroom on the **Detmold Open-air Museum** premises

- All data models are incomplete without definitions
- Purpose statements are generally better than definitions
- All is metadata



Purpose Statement Incorporates Motivational Metadata

Entity: BED

Data Asset Type: Principal Data Entity

Purpose: Beds are the primary means to be used to track patients within the Facility. Each bed will track exactly 1 patient.

Source: Maintenance Manual for File and Table Data (Software Version 3.0, Release 3.1)

Attributes: Bed.Description
Bed.Status
Bed.Sex.To.Be.Assigned
Bed.Reserve.Reason **Bed.Id**

Associations: >0-+ Room

Status: **DRAFT**



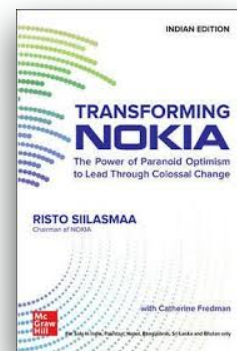
A purpose statement describing

- Why the organization is maintaining information about this business concept;
- Sources of information about it;
- A partial list of the attributes or characteristics of the entity; and
- Associations with other data items(read as "One room contains zero or many beds.")

(Pre Microsoft Acquisition)

NOKIA

- Tires, rubber products
- Consumer electronics
- Mobile phones
 - Finns are bilingual (2% of population speaks Swedish)
 - Nokia wanted to play internationally
 - English mandated in all business settings
 - Lots of words were unknown
 - Culturally: Bad to not ask questions
 - Culturally: Good to build common vocabulary
- When an unfamiliar term was used
 - Group: Access NTB to see if there existed a golden definition
 - Group: If not, vote whether to submit it for inclusion in the NTB
 - Weekly: the NTB group reviewed submissions
 - Weekly: the NTB group published new versions of the NTB
 - NTB = Nokia Term Bank



NTB = Trusted Catalog

Unequal Conversations

Very Knowledgeable

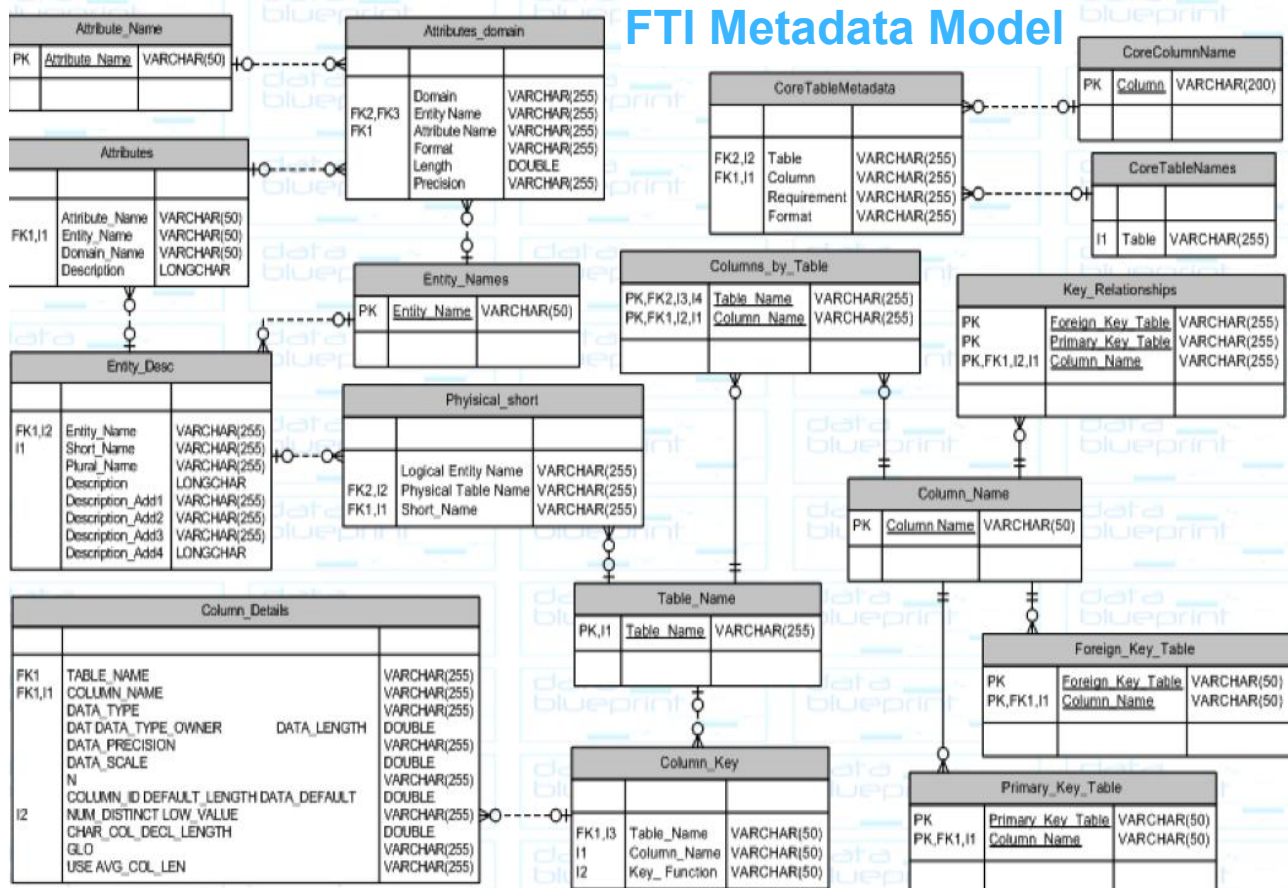
Not Knowledgeable

Customers

Vendors

Do It Yourself

Tech-knowledge Gap



Build Your Own Metadata Repository

Microsoft Access - [Table_Column: Form]

File Edit View Insert Format Records Tools Window Help

FTI METADATA REPOSITORY

Logical Construction

Select... table of interest from the alphabetized drop-down list.

Double-click column name selection for column metadata.

Tables

FT_T_ACCT

Entity to display name and description of associated table.

Domains to display names of entities and attributes for domains of interest.

Return to FTI Metadata Repository selections.

Column Name

Column_Name	Key_Function
ACCT_ID	Primary
BK_ID	Primary
ORG_ID	Primary
BK_ID	Foreign
ORG_ID	Foreign
PLNE_ORG_ID	Foreign
PLNE_PRODLN_ID	Foreign
INSTR_ID	Foreign
ACTP_ACCT_TYP	Foreign
ACTP_ORG_ID	Foreign
LAST_CHG_USR_ID	
LEV_SRVC_MNEM	
ACCT_RST_IND_TYP	
MGRN_DLNCY_IND	
DPSTRY_AFRM_TYP	
THPTY_AFRM_INST_ID	
NAME_SORT_KEY_TXT	
ACCT_NME	
ACCT_DESC	
ACCT_CLS_DTE	
ACCT_CLS_REAS_TYP	
ACCT_OPEN_DTE	

Form View

Sample Low-Tech Repository

Logical Construction

Double-click column name selection for column metadata.

Tables

FT_T_ABDP

Entity to display name and description of associated table.

Column_Details

COLUMN_NAME	ACTG_BAS_ID
DATA_TYPE	CHAR
DATA_LENGTH	4
DATA_PRECISION	
CHAR_COL	4
DECL_LENGTH	
USE AVG_COL_LEN	NO
DATA_SCALE	
GLO	NO
Y/N	N
NUM_DISTINCT	CHAR_CS
LOW_VALUE	
COLUMN_ID	1
DEFAULT_LENGTH	

Primary Key Table Foreign Key Table Table Usage

Column Name

Column_Name	Key_Function
ACTG_BAS_ID	Primary
INC_OWNER_BAS_TYP	
IV_OWNER_BAS_TYP	
LAST_CHG_USR_ID	
ACCRL_BAS_TYP	
CTL_ACCT_OF_IND	
DBL_ENTRY_ACTG_IND	
MULTI_IND	
PRIN_INC_OWN_IND	
MULT_ACCT_POST_TYP	
MAINT_CRVLCOVL_IND	
ACTG_BAS_DESC	
AC	

Foreign_Key_Table

Column Name ACTG_BAS_ID

FTI data tables using this column as key...

Foreign Key Table

Foreign_Key_Table
FT_T_IAIA
FT_T_ITER
FT_T_JECL
FT_T_TEDF
FT_T_TERS
FT_T_VCBP
*

Primary_Key_Table

Column Name ACTG_BAS_ID

FTI data tables using this column as primary key...

Primary Key Table

Primary_Key_Table
FT_T_ABDP
FT_T_TEDF
FT_T_VCBP
*

For Each Column ...

Logical
Construction

Double-click column name
selection for column metadata.

Tables

FT_T_ABDP

Entity to display name and description of associated table.

Column_Details

COLUMN_NAME ACTG_BAS_ID

DATA_TYPE CHAR

DATA_LENGTH 4

DATA_PRECISION

CHAR_COL 4

DECL_LENGTH

USE AVG_COL_LEN NO

DATA_SCALE

GLO NO

YN N

NUM_DISTINCT

LOW_VALUE

COLUMN_ID 1

DEFAULT_LENGTH

Primary Key Table Foreign Key Table Table Usage

Column Name

Column Name	Key_Function
ACTG_BAS_ID	Primary
INC_OWNER_BAS_TYP	
IV_OWNER_BAS_TYP	
LAST_CHG_USR_ID	
ACCRL_BAS_TYP	
CTL_ACCT_OF_IND	
DBL_ENTRY_ACTG_IND	
MULTI_IND	
PRIN_INC_OWN_IND	
MULT_ACCT_POST_TYP	
MAINT_CRVLCOVL_IND	
ACTG_BAS_DESC	

Primary_Key_Table

Column Name ACTG_BAS_ID

FTI data tables using this column as primary key...

Primary Key Table

Primary Key Table
FT_T_ABDP
FT_T_TEDF
FT_T_VCBP
*

Foreign_Key_Table

Column Name ACTG_BAS_ID

FTI data tables using this column as key...

Foreign Key Table

Foreign Key Table
FT_T_IAIA
FT_T_ITER
FT_T_JECL
FT_T_TEDF
FT_T_TERS
FT_T_VCBP
*

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Where Does This Key Function as a Primary Key?

Logical
Construction

Double-click column name
selection for column metadata.

Tables

FT_T_ABDP

Entity to display name and description of associated table.

Column_Details

COLUMN_NAME ACTG_BAS_ID

DATA_TYPE CHAR

DATA_LENGTH 4

DATA_PRECISION

CHAR_COL 4

DECL_LENGTH

USE AVG_COL_LEN NO

DATA_SCALE

GLO NO

YN N

NUM_DISTINCT

LOW_VALUE

COLUMN_ID 1

DEFAULT_LENGTH

Primary Key Table Foreign Key Table Table Usage

Column Name

Column Name	Key_Function
ACTG_BAS_ID	Primary
INC_OWNER_BAS_TYP	
IV_OWNER_BAS_TYP	
LAST_CHG_USR_ID	
ACCRL_BAS_TYP	
CTL_ACCT_OF_IND	
DBL_ENTRY_ACTG_IND	
MULTI_IND	
PRIN_INC_OWN_IND	
MULT_ACCT_POST_TYP	
MAINT_CRVLCOVL_IND	
ACTG_BAS_DESC	

Primary_Key_Table

Column Name ACTG_BAS_ID

FTI data tables using this column as primary key...

Primary Key Table

Primary Key Table
FT_T_ABDP
FT_T_TEDF
FT_T_VCBP
*

Foreign_Key_Table

Column Name ACTG_BAS_ID

FTI data tables using this column as key...

Foreign Key Table

Foreign Key Table
FT_T_IAIA
FT_T_ITER
FT_T_JECL
FT_T_TEDF
FT_T_TERS
FT_T_VCBP
*

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Where Does This Key Function as a Foreign Key?

Logical Construction

Double-click column name selection for column metadata.

Tables
FT_T_ABDP

Entity to display name and description of associated table.

Column Name

Column Name	Key Function
ACTG_BAS_ID	Primary
INC_OWNER_BAS_TYP	
IV_OWNER_BAS_TYP	
LAST_CHG_USR_ID	
ACCRL_BAS_TYP	
CTL_ACCT_OF_IND	
DBL_ENTRY_ACTG_IND	
MULTI_IND	
PRIN_INC_OWN_IND	
MULT_ACCT_POST_TYP	
MAINT_CRVLCOVL_IND	
ACTG_BAS_DESC	
AC	

Column_Details

COLUMN_NAME: ACTG_BAS_ID
DATA_TYPE: CHAR
DATA_LENGTH: 4
DATA_PRECISION:
CHAR_COL: 4
DECL_LENGTH:
USE AVG_COL_LEN: NO
DATA_SCALE:
GLO: NO
Y/N: N
NUM_DISTINCT: CHAR_CS
LOW_VALUE:
COLUMN_ID: 1
DEFAULT_LENGTH:

Primary Key Table Foreign Key Table Table Usage

Primary_Key_Table

Column Name: ACTG_BAS_ID

FTI data tables using this column as primary key...

Primary Key Table

Primary Key Table
FT_T_ABDP
FT_T_TEDF
FT_T_VCBP
*

Foreign_Key_Table

Column Name: ACTG_BAS_ID

FTI data tables using this column as key...

Foreign Key Table

Foreign Key Table
FT_T_IAIA
FT_T_ITER
FT_T_JECL
FT_T_TEDF
FT_T_TERS
FT_T_VCBP
*

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Where Does This Key Function as an Attribute?

Logical Construction

Double-click column name selection for column metadata.

Tables
FT_T_ABDP

Entity to display name and description of associated table.

Column Name

Column Name	Key Function
ACTG_BAS_ID	Primary
INC_OWNER_BAS_TYP	
IV_OWNER_BAS_TYP	
LAST_CHG_USR_ID	
ACCRL_BAS_TYP	
CTL_ACCT_OF_IND	
DBL_ENTRY_ACTG_IND	
MULTI_IND	
PRIN_INC_OWN_IND	
MULT_ACCT_POST_TYP	
MAINT_CRVLCOVL_IND	
ACTG_BAS_DESC	
AC	

Column_Details

COLUMN_NAME: ACTG_BAS_ID
DATA_TYPE: CHAR
DATA_LENGTH: 4
DATA_PRECISION:
CHAR_COL: 4
DECL_LENGTH:
USE AVG_COL_LEN: NO
DATA_SCALE:
GLO: NO
Y/N: N
NUM_DISTINCT: CHAR_CS
LOW_VALUE:
COLUMN_ID: 1
DEFAULT_LENGTH:

Primary Key Table Foreign Key Table Table Usage

Primary_Key_Table

Column Name: ACTG_BAS_ID

FTI data tables using this column as primary key...

Primary Key Table

Primary Key Table
FT_T_ABDP
FT_T_TEDF
FT_T_VCBP
*

Foreign_Key_Table

Column Name: ACTG_BAS_ID

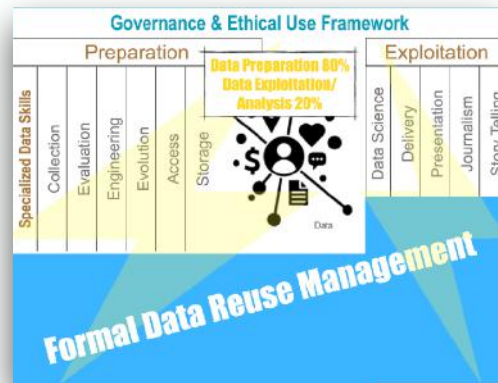
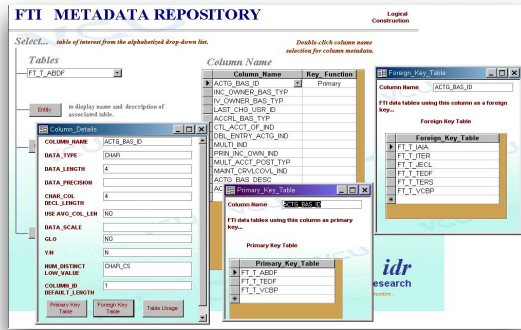
FTI data tables using this column as key...

Foreign Key Table

Foreign Key Table
FT_T_IAIA
FT_T_ITER
FT_T_JECL
FT_T_TEDF
FT_T_TERS
FT_T_VCBP
*

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Metadata Yields ...



Valuable information about your data assets:

- Do we have these specific (or this class of) data assets? **Yes!**
- Is this data item used elsewhere? **Nowhere!**
- What did cost to acquired this set of assets? **35¢/apiece**
- Can these data assets be share securely? **Not easily!**
- ... (a model for how your information should be managed)



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Program Overview

- Defining metadata in the context of data management
 - Defining data management
 - What do we mean by the term 'using data as metadata' and why is this important? (Hint: leverage)
 - Specific teachable example (iTunes→Music™/.mp3 player app)
- 1. Metadata is a gerund—do not treat it as a noun
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 - Make metadata the **language** of data governance
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 - Cyclic improvements do not **start** with technologies
- 4. Build from metadata building blocks
 - Many many many resources are available to **jump-start** metadata efforts
- Benefits, application & sources
 - Understand that metadata defines organizational interoperability
- Take Aways, References and Q&A

Four Effective Metadata Strategies



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Architecture

- Things
 - (components)
data structures
- The functions of the things
 - (individually)
sources and uses of data
- How the things interact
 - (as a system, towards a goal)
Efficiencies/effectiveness

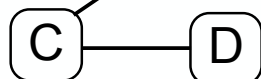
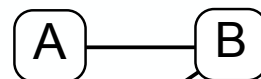
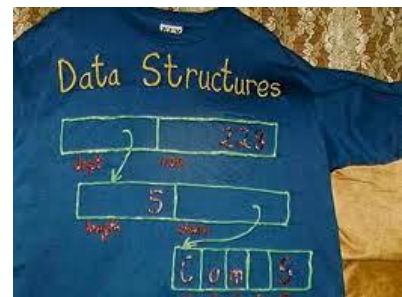


How Are Components Expressed as Architectures?

- Details are organized into larger components
- Larger components are organized into models
- Models are organized into architectures (composed of architectural components)

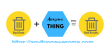
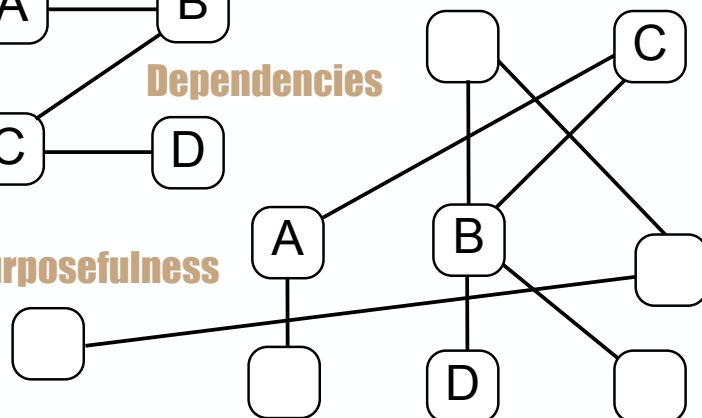


Intricate



Dependencies

Purposefulness



How Are Data Structures Expressed as Architectures?

- **Attributes** are organized into entities/objects

- Attributes are characteristics of "things"
- Entities/objects are "things" whose information is managed in support of strategy
- Example(s)

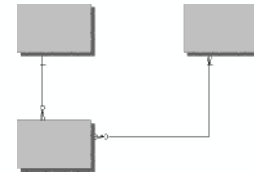
Intricate

THING
Club.Id #
Club.Description
Club.Status
Club.Sex.To.Be.Assigned
Club.Reserve.Reason

- **Entities/objects** are organized into models

- Combinations of attributes and entities are structured to represent information requirements
- Poorly structured data, constrains organizational information delivery capabilities
- Example(s)

Dependencies

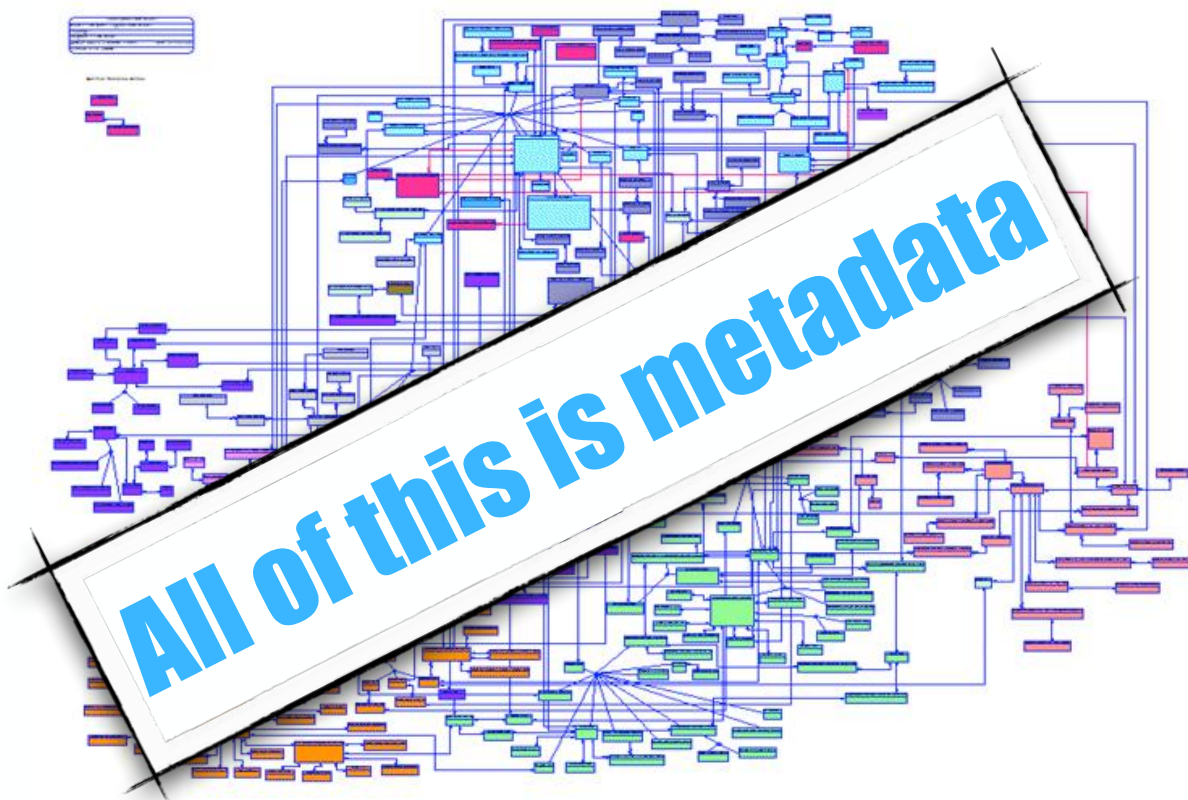


- **Models** are organized into **architectures** **Purposefulness**

- When building new systems, architectures are used to plan development
- More often, data managers do not know what existing architectures are and - therefore - cannot make use of them in support of strategy implementation
- *Why no examples?*

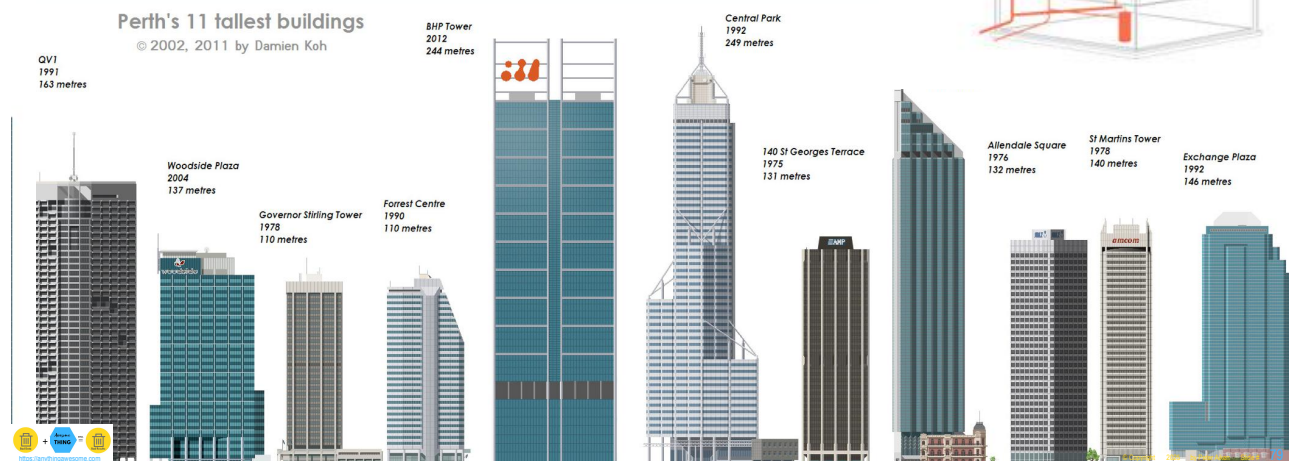


Data Architectures Are Composed of Data Models

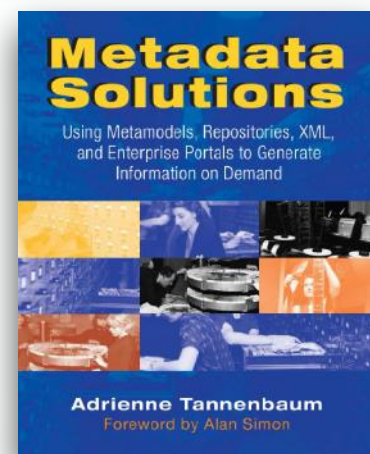
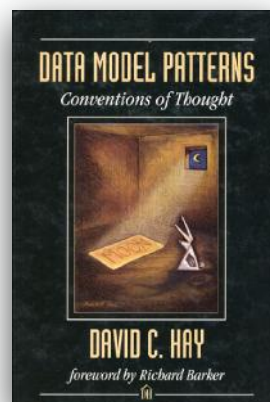
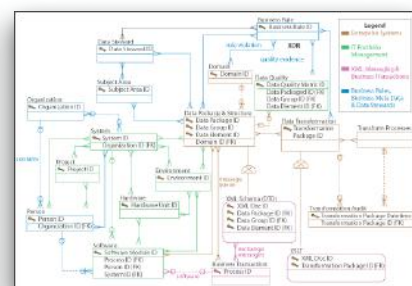
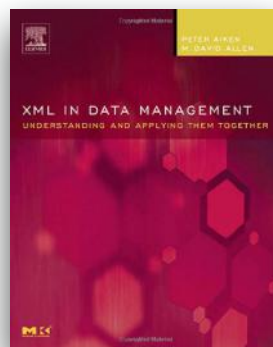
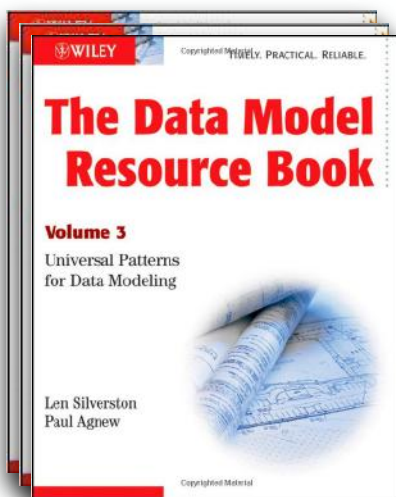


Metadata Specifies Design Patterns

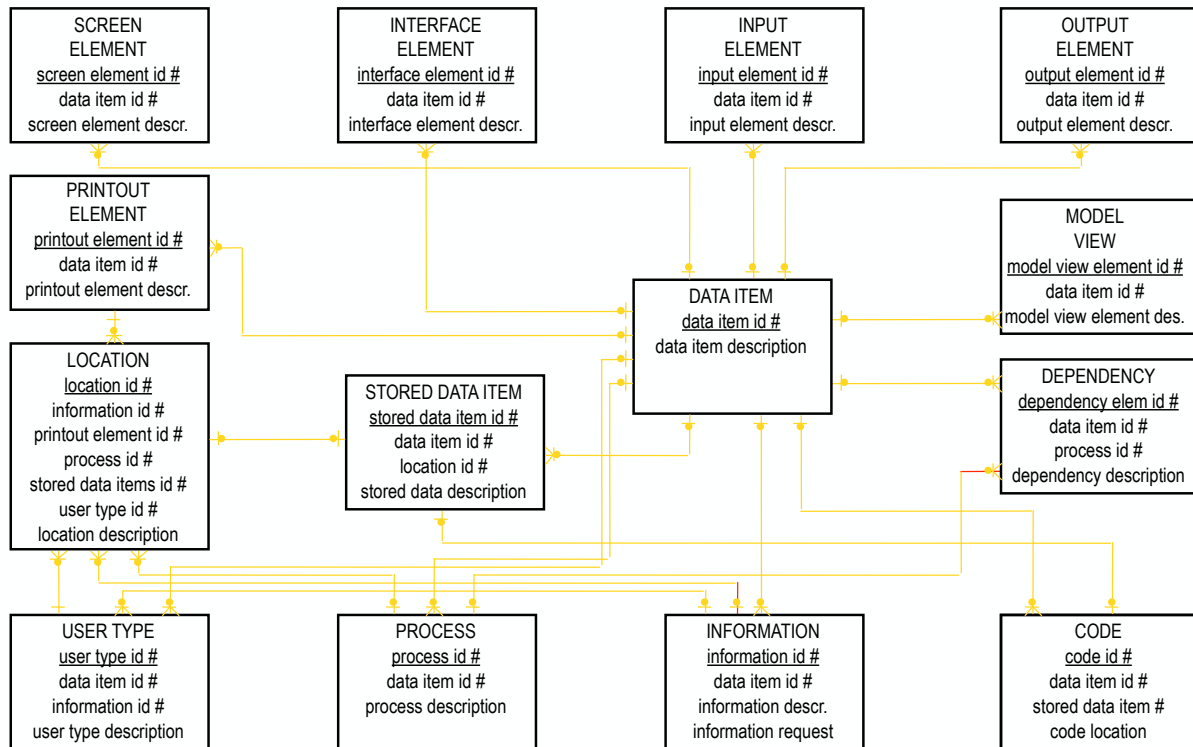
- Why are the restrooms in the same place on each floor?
- What about the electrical wiring?
- HVAC? Floorplans? ...
- Architecture design patterns (spoke and hub, hub of hubs, warehouse, cloud, MDM, changing tires, portal)



Purchasable Metadata Models



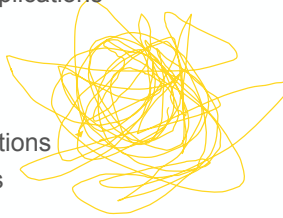
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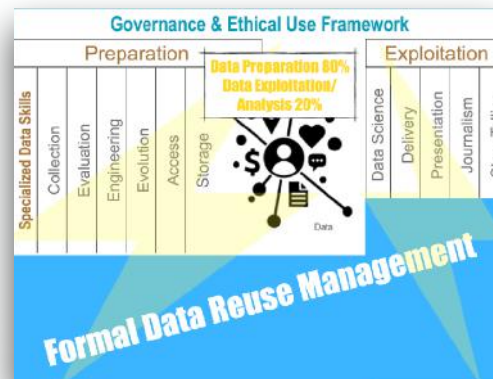
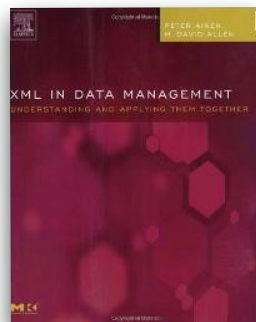
Metadata for Semistructured Data

- Metadata describes both structured and semi-structured data
 - You cannot convert unstructured data into structured data
- Better description
 - Non-tabular data → tabular data
- Semi-structured data
 - Any data that is not in a database or data file, including documents or other media data
- Metadata for semi-structured data exists in many formats, responding to a variety of different requirements
- Examples of metadata repositories describing unstructured data:
 - Content management applications
 - University websites
 - Company intranet sites
 - Data archives
 - Electronic journals collections
 - Community resource lists
- Common method for classifying Metadata in unstructured sources is to describe them as **descriptive** metadata, **structural** metadata, or **administrative** metadata
- Examples of **descriptive** metadata:
 - Catalog information
 - Thesauri keyword terms
- Examples of **structural** metadata
 - Dublin Core
 - Field structures
 - Format (audio/visual, booklet)
 - Thesauri keyword labels
 - XML schemas
- Examples of **administrative** metadata
 - Source(s)
 - Integration/update schedule
 - Access rights
 - Page relationships (e.g. site navigational design)



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Metadata Patterns Yield ...



Valuable comparisons and 'starting foundations':

- Do we have to create a pharmacy billing system from scratch? **No!**
- Will the proposed software 'fit'? **Yes!**
- Do industry best practices exist? **Yes**
- Has anyone published a model implementing GDPR? **Not yet!**



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Program Overview

Four Effective Metadata Strategies



- Defining metadata in the context of data management
 - Defining data management
 - What do we mean by the term 'using data as metadata' and why is this important? (Hint: leverage)
 - Specific teachable example (iTunes→Music™/.mp3 player app)
- 1. Metadata is a gerund—do not treat it as a noun
 - Metadata is a **use** of data, not a type of data
- 2. Enforce metadata to be the language of data governance
 - Make metadata the **language** of data governance
- 3. Treat glossaries/repositories as capabilities not technology
 - Cyclic improvements do not **start** with technologies
- 4. Build from metadata building blocks
 - Many many many resources are available to **jump-start** metadata efforts
- Benefits, application & sources
 - Understand that metadata defines organizational interoperability
- Take Aways, References and Q&A



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ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION
DEFENDING YOUR RIGHTS IN THE DIGITAL WORLD

Why Metadata Matters

SEARCH

HOME

ABOUT

OUR WORK

DEEPLINKS BLOG

PRESS ROOM

TAKE ACTION

SHOP

- They** know you rang a phone sex service at 2:24 am and spoke for 18 minutes. But they don't know what you talked about.
- They** know you called the suicide prevention hotline from the Golden Gate Bridge. But the topic of the call remains a secret.
- They** know you spoke with an HIV testing service, then your doctor, then your health insurance company in the same hour. But they don't know what you discussed.
- They** know you received a call from the local TV station while it was having a campaign against gun regulation, and then called your senators and congressional representatives immediately after. But the content of those calls remains a secret for your privacy intrusion.
- They** know you called a gynecologist, spoke for a half hour, and then called the local Planned Parenthood's number later that day. But nobody knows what you spoke about.

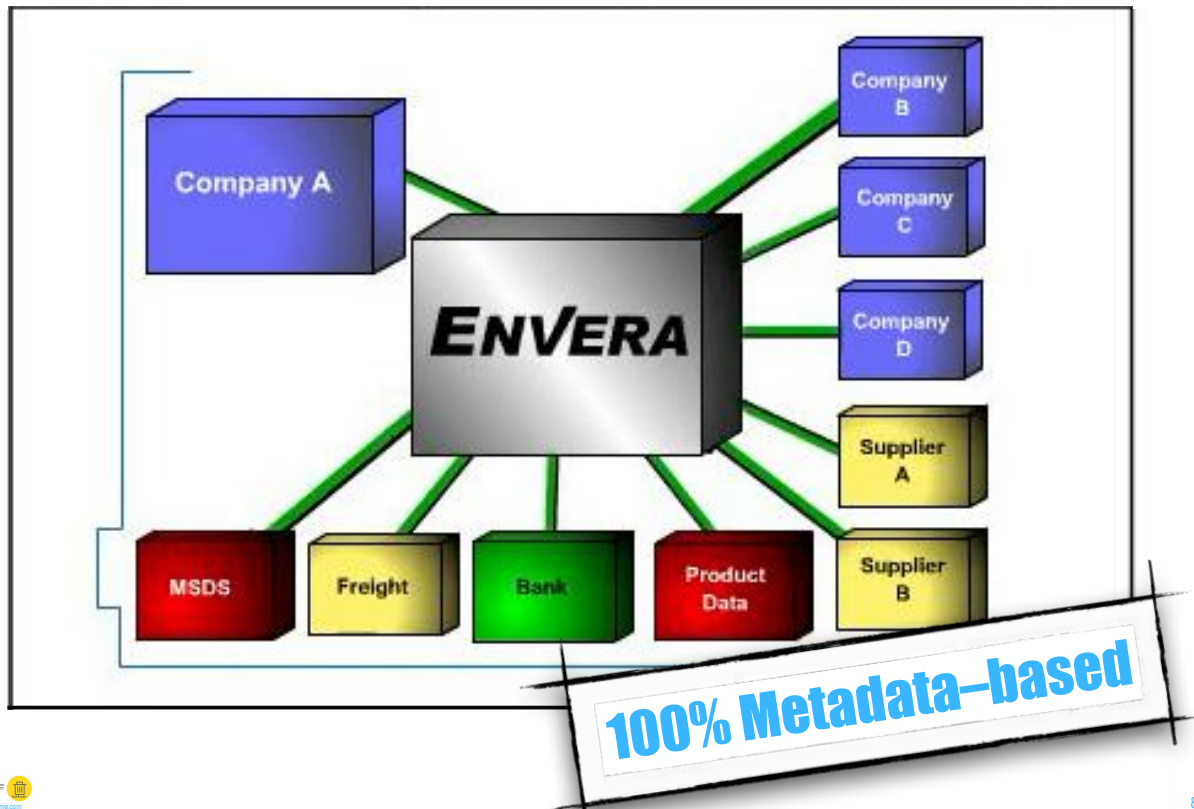


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<https://www.eff.org/deeplinks/2013/06/why-metadata-matters>

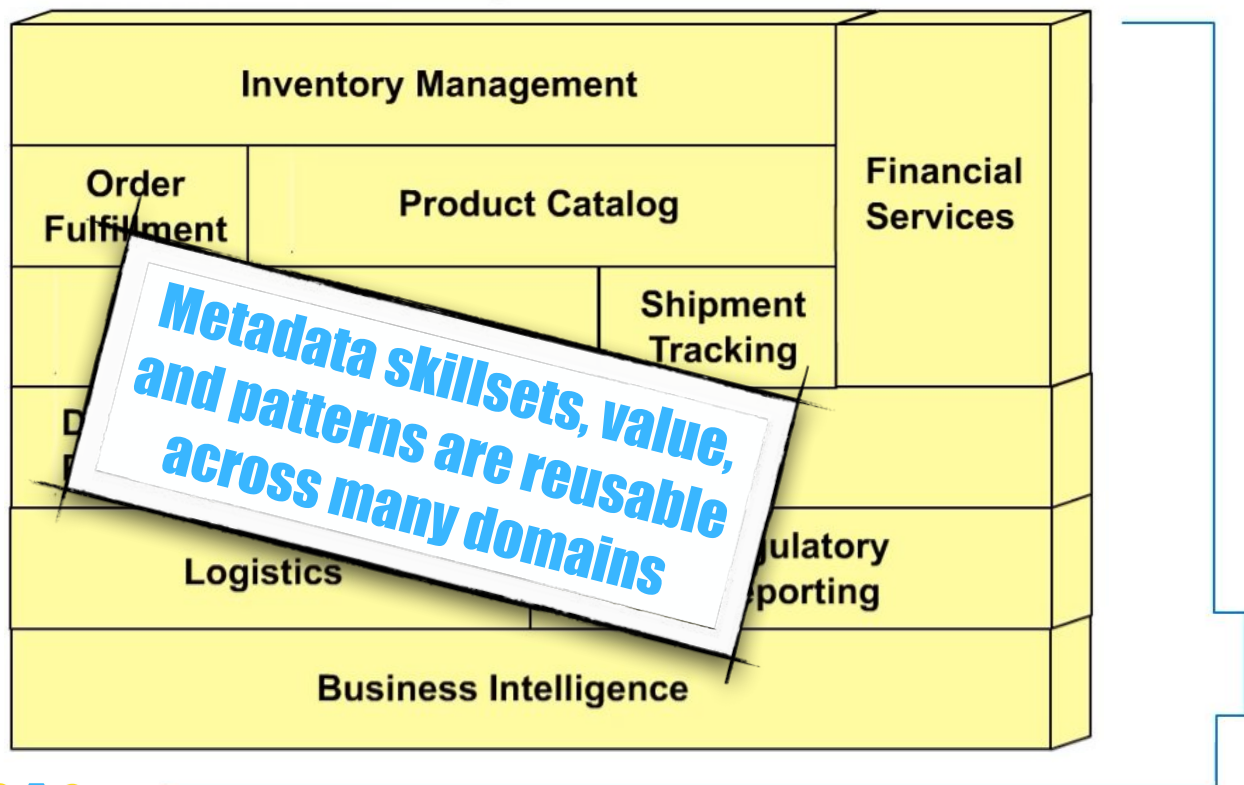
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Envera Business Value Proposition

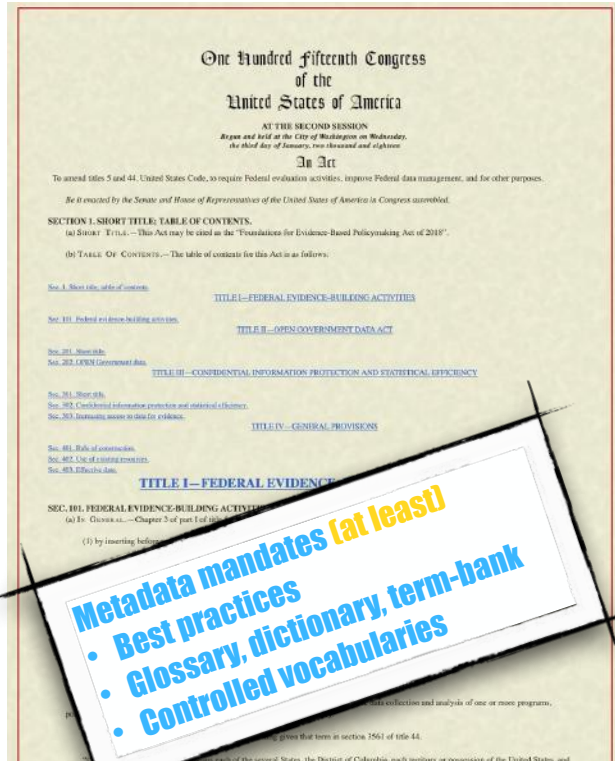


ENVERA Clearinghouse

The Real Value of Metadata



FEPA/OPEN Government Data Act



- Signed on 1/14/19
- Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking (FEBP) Act (H.R._4174,_S._2046)
- Title II, which includes the Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary (OPEN) Government Data Act
 - All federal data is open by default
 - Non-political CDOs are required
 - Use of open data and open models required in policy evolution
 - Penalties are higher than HIPAA

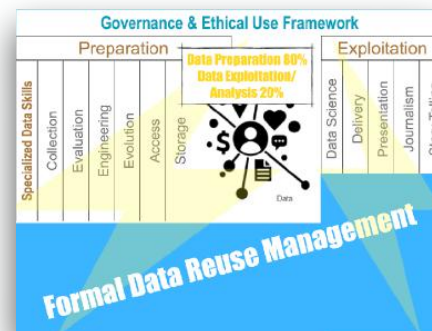


<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/4174/text>

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Metadata Benefits ...

- Increase the value of **strategic information** (e.g. data warehousing, CRM, SCM, etc.) by providing context for the data, thus aiding analysts in making more effective decisions.
- Reduce **training costs** and lower the impact of staff turnover through thorough documentation of data context, history, and origin.
- Reduce data-oriented research time by **assisting business analysts** in finding the information they need in a timely manner.
- Improve communication by bridging the **gap** between business users and IT professionals, leveraging work done by other teams and increasing confidence in IT system data.
- Increased speed of system development's **time-to-market** by reducing system development life-cycle time.
- Reduce **risk** of project failure through better impact analysis at various levels during change management.
- Identify and reduce redundant data and processes, thereby **reducing** rework and use of redundant, out-of-data, or incorrect data.



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Program overview

Four Effective Metadata Strategies

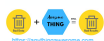
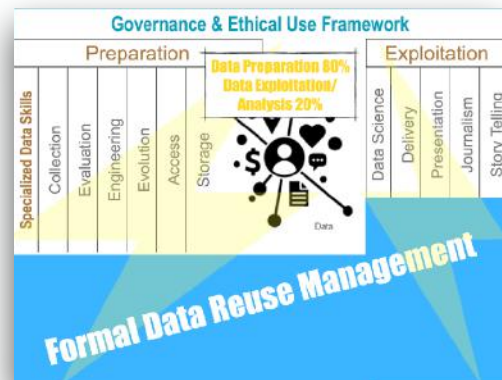


- Defining metadata in the context of data management
 - Defining data management
 - What do we mean by the term 'using data as metadata' and why is this important? (Hint: leverage)
 - Specific teachable example using iTunes/Music™
- 1. Metadata is a gerund—do not treat it as a noun
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- Benefits, application & sources
 - Understand that metadata defines organizational interoperability
- Take Aways, References and Q&A



Metadata Program Take Aways

- 'Data about **your** data'
- Metadata is not a type of data
- Metadata unlocks the value of data, and therefore requires management attention [Gartner]
- Metadata is less about what and more about how
- Metadata must be the language of data governance in order to keep it focused
- Metadata definitions the essence of correctly specifying most organizational challenges
- Should we include this data item within the scope of our metadata practices?



References & Recommended Reading

11.4.1 General Reading

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from *The DAMA Guide to the Data Management Body of Knowledge* © 2009 by DAMA International ⁹³

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11.4.2 Meta-data in Library Science

Baca, Murtha, editor. Introduction to Metadata: Pathways to Digital Information. Getty Information Institute, 2000. ISBN 0-892-36533-1. 48 pages.

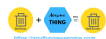
Hillmann, Diane I., and Elaine L. Westbrooks. Metadata in Practice. American Library Association, 2004. ISBN 0-838-90882-9. 285 pages.

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Liu, Jia. Metadata and Its Applications in the Digital Library. Libraries Unlimited, 2007. ISBN 1-291-58306-6. 250 pages.

11.4.3 Geospatial Meta-data Standards

<http://www.fgdc.gov/metadata/geospatial-metadata-standards>.



from *The DAMA Guide to the Data Management Body of Knowledge* © 2009 by DAMA International

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11.4.4 ISO Meta-data Standards

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ISO 704:1987, Principles and methods of terminology.

ISO 1087, Terminology—Vocabulary.

ISO 2382-4:1987, Information processing systems—Vocabulary part 4.

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Upcoming Events

Time: 19:00 UTC (2:00 PM NYC) | Presented by: Peter Aiken, PhD

Engineering Data Quality: A Framework for Effective Data Management

9 September 2025



Data Strategy: Where Data Architecture and Data Governance Collide

14 October 2025



Maximizing the Value of Your Data Warehouse: A Strategic Approach to Business Intelligence and Innovation

11 November 2025

Brought to you by:



[Clicking any webinar title will link directly to the registration page]



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Critical Design Review?



Executive Data Literacy Training?

Collaboration?



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Reverse Engineering Expertise?

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Thank You!

Use your data more strategically?

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