



12 Foundational Best Practices For Data and Analytics Governance

Modern day Data and Analytics Governance has come a long way since its conception. However, data and analytics can be used to exploit business opportunities and challenges only if the right foundations for data and analytics governance have been established.

That raises the question: What should be the basis of the foundation for data and analytics governance?

The following questions need to be asked to ensure that we establish the right foundations for data and analytics governance:

1. Who will be accountable and who will have decision rights?
2. What about collaboration and culture, trust, value and outcomes?
3. Who has the right education and training to do the job?
4. What about transparency and ethics? Will CCPA and GDPR compliance be enough?
5. What are the risks involved and is the security enough?
6. Will data governance be a way to protect consumer privacy, or a way to gain a competitive edge or will it be able to strike a balance right enough to allow businesses to profit and grow without causing any fallouts?
7. Who will ensure data quality? Will hiring a Data Steward help? Or will it be everyone's responsibility? The reason being that data quality is always the cornerstone to build a business successfully and to give it a competitive edge.
8. Who will be held accountable for data validation? Data validation ensures data quality and should be completed at the beginning to save cost and time.
9. Values like data integrity and data sanctity have to be inculcated within the organization and legal compliance adopted.
10. Traditional governance tools, like metadata repositories, are IT-centric and difficult for business users to get value from. Hence, new user-friendly tools have to be innovated with the ability to make data easy to find, understand, trust, use and reuse thereby creating a central point for policies and reference for data and how the data should be used. Such tools should also provide enterprises with an easy way to drive more value from self-service analytics while ensuring accurate, compliant data use resulting in a more collaborative and holistic approach to governance.
11. Data curation based on their impact needs to be done.
12. Also, recommendations, deprecations, and warnings need to be sent to analysts to ensure effectively connecting policy to data usage and for them to share apt recommendations with the end-user. With an agile program, the end-user knows why their analysis doesn't fit with policy and can be recommended alternatives that will lead to success. Rather than hitting a wall, they are encouraged to learn and to use data better.

This approach makes the entire organization becomes more data literate, and the resulting data culture encourages everyone to leverage data quality programs to move the business forward with sustainable governance.