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Data Interoperability Strategy Seminar
Management

Abstract:

Many organizations commonly face vexing data interoperability problems. For example:

A VP demands a consolidated customer sales report across product lines across different divisions. He wants it by the end of the week. Energetically you dig into the request just to discover that a sale is defined differently across the different products and across the divisions. Some have it as gross, some net before taxes, some after taxes. Worse yet, there are codes everywhere. Some have the same code name but there are different value sets with different meanings. Worse even still, you find that some record average daily sales, some by the sale, and some others you just cannot figure out. Of course the VP also wants it consolidated by customer. Right, what's a customer?

This problem is squarely faced by the Data Interoperability Strategy seminar and also by the Data Interoperability Workshop. This brochure describes the Data Interoperability Strategy for Managers seminar. There is also a full-day and a half-day *technical* version of this seminar. The full day Data Interoperability Strategy seminar is considerably more detailed than the half day version.

This Data Interoperability for Managers seminar essentially covers the same material as the technical presentations except that the technical detail is left out and is replaced the time, resources, and costs associated with accomplishing this approach either across the entire enterprise or within on significant functional area.

This approach, by the way, when compared to the traditional approach, delivers way more, in a much shorter time frame, at 10x less the cost. There is no down-side to this approach.

The Data Interoperability Strategy for Managers seminar introduces the key topics and scenarios involved in creating interoperable data environments. When the seminar is followed up with the Data Interoperability Workshop, attendees apply the strategy by proceeding through formal work-shop based processes that discover shareable data across a collection of legacy schemas, store these in a metadata repository, and, at the end, using these shared data specifications to build a shared data system.

The key topics of the Data Interoperability Strategy seminar include the characteristics of data interoperability and the two classes of data interoperability errors that commonly occur. Identified as well are the problems that commonly occur such as complexity and latency. Each of these are defined and illustrated.

The seminar then presents the overall infrastructure for data interoperability which includes the Knowledge Worker Framework, key technological components of any really first-class interoperable data environment, and finally, a description of the metadata repository environment critical component to a

success strategy. Described as well is the necessary governance for a data interoperability environment.

The seminar then details the various scenarios that must occur to achieve a data interoperability environment including enterprise architectures, information systems plans, data model engineering, and then both reverse and forward engineering. Collectively these scenarios cause the creation of and enable the maintenance and evolution of data interoperability environments. Each of these scenarios includes What, Why, How Long, and How Much. The example employed for costing is appropriate for an organization that has 100 legacy database schemas and desires to build 50 new database schemas, as well as an information systems plan to provide structure and sequence to the entire IT effort.

The seminar then concludes with a comparison between the Whitemarsh approach an the traditional approach. The cost, time and resource differences are profound. Simply put, the Whitemarsh approach is more than 10 times faster than the traditional approach. In addition, the Whitemarsh approach delivers more, leverages past work, and engineers a metadata database that can be queried, reported, updated, and evolved. There is no down-side to the Whitemarsh approach. It is faster, better, dramatically cheaper, and lowers risk. the key measures and returns on investment, and an overall summary and "way ahead."

Topical Outline (with page numbers)