

# Maximize the value of your data: a checklist for better data governance

When data governance is done well, business and data analysts can spend more time creating value for your organization. They can spend less time trying to find and understand the data. Data governance can help with compliance, access and risk issues. It allows teams to build trust in data so everyone can quickly and reliably make better decisions using reliable, trusted data.

**So, where should you start?** We have developed this readiness checklist with questions that you and your stakeholders should ask about every data governance use case. If you can answer “yes” to these questions, you are on the right track.

- Do you have a data help desk to improve trust in data quality by addressing, managing and resolving issues with the appropriate stakeholders?
- Does your data management system reconcile information across different systems to ensure accurate analysis and reporting?
- Does your company have a business glossary to define its metadata?
- Does your data dictionary document organizational metadata, including its use, origin, format and relationship to other data?
- Do you use a metadata graph that combines machine learning and human intelligence to continually improve the context for information stored in the data ecosystem?
- Can you use machine learning and automatic data classification to add context to new data and guide its stewardship by identifying data classes?
- Can you use one interface to inventory and organize your enterprise data assets?
- Can you provide a user-friendly and consistent interface to help business users connect IT with the business?
- Can people who don't know SQL search for and understand data, reports and data relationships?
- Can users follow the data from its source to the report and see how semantic, logical and physical layers are connected?
- Do you have permissions based on roles to control how users access data assets, resources and capabilities?
- Can users follow data from its source to the report and see the connections between semantic, logical and physical layers?
- Do you use role-based permissions to control user access to data, resources and capabilities?

The checklist is just the start of your data governance journey. To better understand, collaborate and lower data risk, you'll need a framework guided by a complete enterprise data governance plan.



To learn more, download a copy of [Five key elements of successful data governance](#), our step-by-step guide that outlines the critical components of a successful data governance solution, and walks you through the key considerations for getting there.