

How to become a data governance leader





Why do we need data governance?

Data is the new currency – leading organizations are finding new and innovative ways to use their data to increase revenue and best their competitors.

In the hands of the right business leadership, trusted data provides a look under the hood of the business, leading to insightful business decisions, adjustments, and improvements.

Data governance is the application of rules and processes that make your data accurate, applicable, compliant, and accessible, ensuring the right users can get to and use data they trust.



Modernizing your organization's approach to data

To get the most out of their wealth of data, organizations must modernize their approach. This starts with the data mesh – the technologies and processes that form your data architecture.

Your data architecture must provide the scalable and adaptable infrastructure that will adjust and evolve to make the most of the exponentially growing amount of data as it becomes available.

To best manage the flow of data within your organization, you must align your IT and systems requirements with your business requirements and goals.

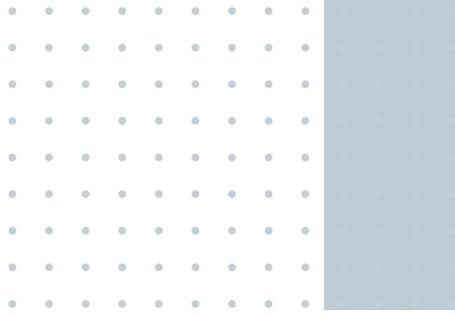


Data democratization makes your data available

Inaccessible data has no inherent value. It needs to find its way into the hands of the people who can analyze and interpret it.

By enabling secure data access to everybody in your organization that should have it, you democratize your data. By giving business leaders the ability to access and understand data instantly, you create a more agile and informed team and give them a powerful competitive edge.

Data democratization enables leaders to make informed and insightful business decisions, but only if the data they get is trustworthy.



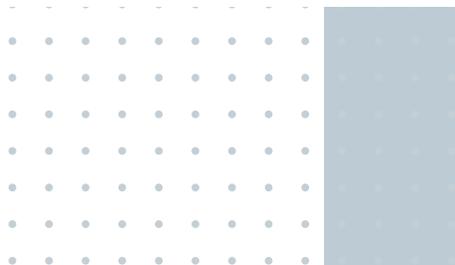
Data governance makes your data trustworthy

The basic challenge for data governance is easily defined – securely store and protect data to meet corporate and regulatory standards, catalog and categorize it to make it consistent and meaningful, and enable widespread secure access to it.

The comprehensive management of data and the processes that facilitate collaboration, consistency and compliant access is the goal. A responsive, scalable, and adaptive data governance strategy drives business value.

Where data governance had once been viewed as a defensive strategy to protect the data, market leaders are moving to offensive options that adapt to the changing data landscape, driving excellence in business decisions through the dynamic incorporation of data analysis.

The business advantages available for those who master adaptive data governance are expansive.



A man with long dark hair, glasses, and a goatee is sitting at a wooden table in a meeting. He is wearing a green and white checkered button-down shirt and a gold chain necklace. He is holding a silver pen in his right hand and looking down at it. In the background, another person with long dark hair is partially visible. The setting appears to be a modern office or meeting room with large windows and a grid pattern in the background.

Become a data governance leader

To become a leader in data governance, there are several key steps you need to take:

1. **Understand your organization's goals and objectives for data governance**
2. **Build your governance team**
3. **Identify the right tools and processes you need to support your data governance project**
4. **Engage with other data governance leaders**



Understand your organization's goals and objectives for data governance

A solid and successful data governance plan must map the organization's business goals with the policies and processes that will build and manage the data environment.

This synchronization drives the building of your data governance approach, the rules for data selection and categorization, and the controls on access.

To manage your data, you must have a strong grasp on how the business wants to use the data, so that you can ensure the data is categorized, defined, and accessed to meet those use cases.

The data tools you build or provide to your organization must reflect their needs and be flexible so that you can easily respond and adapt to their feedback.





Build your governance team

There is no “I” in governance! A top-notch team is critical to planning, building, and managing your data governance policies and processes.

- Seek out the Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) that understand and own the data. They can help you categorize and catalog the data in a manner that will produce stellar results.
- Find your Data Stewards who can help ensure that the established policies and standards are maintained in practice.
- Identify and understand the data consumers, so you can provide the tools they want and need to make the most of the data available to them.

Your challenge is gathering the best players from across departments and business units to help you make your data governance efforts successful.



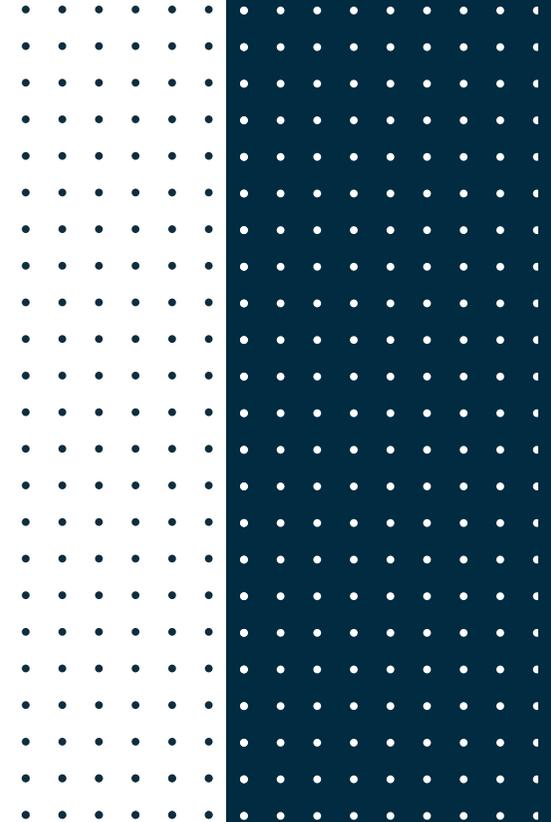
Identify the right tools and processes

Determine the tools and processes you need to support your data governance project.

You need a tool that lets you view all your metadata in one place. This will help you add the clarity and consistency you need to understand the linkages and lineage that provide meaningful context and drive access policies.

Look for a data catalog and governance solution that integrates seamlessly with your data infrastructure and lets you track the quality of your data throughout its lifecycle.

Select a solution with a data policy manager that helps you easily manage privacy and compliance to meet corporate and regulatory requirements.



Engage with other data governance leaders

A data governance leader is always learning. Stay engaged and informed by joining relevant governance organizations and communities.

Attend talks and conferences regarding data governance. Learn broadly about business drivers, challenges and opportunities.

The annual Collibra **Data Citizens Conference** is the world's largest gathering of data professionals focused on transforming their organizations through data governance and Data Intelligence.

Read and explore key blogs and develop your own! Some good current blogs include:

- [The Collibra blog](#)
- [DAMA International's DMBOK \(Body of Knowledge\)](#)
- [Dataversity's Data Blogs | Information from Enterprise Leader](#)

Look for free online courses to build your knowledge and understanding. [Collibra University](#) offers training and certifications from industry practitioners and has thousands of users every month.

Conclusion

Becoming a data governance leader takes time and dedication. It also requires a willingness to engage with all Data Citizens. To be the data governance leader your organization needs, you must be a change agent and empower all Data Citizens in your organization.



To learn more, please visit collibra.com.

