



DATA GOVERNANCE FRAMEWORKS

“Note: The information herein is largely derived from the Data Governance Principles Research & Development Project. Please refer to the report for further information data governance in Africa.”



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Introduction

Digitalisation has resulted in increased data collection which forms an integral role in various industries and day-to-day activities thus the need to ensure that the data is managed in a manner that not only protects the integrity and security of that data but the rights and interests of the organisations processing the data and the people whose data may form part of the data sets being processed. Consequently, processes and standards have been developed to ensure the management or governance of that data. As a result of digitisation and the large volumes of data being processed in the digital era and the interdisciplinary nature in which processes and standards need to be applied, there has been an increase in these data governance processes. The interdisciplinary nature of data governance and the three interrelated concepts—Data (Information) Management, Enterprise Information Management and Data (Information) Architecture—resulted in different terms being used to refer to data governance. In this Report we use the term ‘data governance’.

The objective of this research is to provide a baseline understanding of what data governance is, the principles and frameworks applied in the governance of data and examine how these principles and frameworks translate in the

African context. We found that data governance encompasses legal and human rights requirements, technological, security and economical considerations. These aspects inform, not only how data is managed within an organisation but determines the principles that are considered is that governance and the frameworks that are developed. In light of this data governance can essentially be defined as the use of authority combined with policy to ensure the proper management of data assets.

Herein we record the considerations that organizations should contemplate when developing and implementing data governance frameworks.

Data Governance Frameworks

Data governance may best be thought of as a function that supports an organization’s overarching data management strategy. Such a framework provides an organization with a holistic approach to collecting, managing, securing, and storing data.

The table below records some of the broad considerations that are currently being applied and informs data governance frameworks that are eventually adopted by an organization.

Data Governance Considerations	Description
Value & outcomes	That is, aligning data governance with a business or national goal or outcome.
Data governance strategies	Consider the objectives, principles and groups for a new or newly aligned data governance program.
Methods	Consider the people, processes and technologies that will be affected by data governance strategies applied by the organization.
Data management structures & technologies	Consider the underlying concepts and technologies that can help establish and enforce data governance at the application or data level, within the organization.

Data Governance Considerations	Description
Accountability & decision rights	<p>Make sure your team is on board with your data governance strategy, and hold the chief data officer, data stewards, data owners, and employees accountable.</p> <p>Clearly define who can make which decisions about your data.</p>
Trust	<p>Consider the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you trust all of your data sources? • Are you in control of your data throughout its lifetime? <p>A trust model of data governance builds in mechanics to account for a distributed data ecosystem, and you should strive to understand the history and lineage of your data inputs so you can manage expectations and results.</p>
Transparency & ethics	<p>Keep data analytics about data governance — open and visible, with clear established decision-making processes, so it would stand up to external scrutiny.</p>
Risk & Security	<p>Risk and security are two major drivers for organizations to engage in data governance. These should be considered in addition to any business outcomes.</p>
Education & Training	<p>Consider the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you have a program to train employees on the basic principles of data governance? • Do you train new data stewards? <p>Establish an ongoing training program to keep data governance in focus.</p>

Conclusion

Data governance frameworks are determined by the uses of data, processing and storage policies adopted in the organisation, legal and best practise obligations, as well as other considerations that may be unique to an organisation. Accordingly, data governance is not a one size fits all and so the frameworks adopted by organisations are specific to the organisation and its need. Notwithstanding, the key considerations — value & outcomes, data governance strategies, methods, data management structures and technologies, accountability and decision rights, trust, transparency and ethics, risk & security and education and training — have a bearing on the frameworks developed and adopted by the organisation. It is by considering these that an organisation determines the parameters of their framework.



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