Data Governance Framework

Governing Data Assets and Enabling the Use of Data

Organizations must be data-driven to compete in the 21st century. The journey to data-driven business transformation and innovation requires a continual evaluation of capabilities against established best practices, seeking to build on strengths and close gaps.

Introduction

To compete on analytics and innovate with data, organizations need the ability to leverage data as an asset, govern its use and derive insights from its data. Those activities need to align in support of desired business outcomes, such as customer experience, revenue growth, cost efficiency and risk management. At NewVantage Partners, we see these capabilities in three major areas:

- **Data Governance** (the subject of this paper) – leadership oversight of data assets and analytics.
- Data Management – ability to design, deliver and sustain enterprise data assets for consumption.
- Analytics – enabling a range of analytics, including business intelligence, predictive models, AI, and machine learning.

Whether an organization is just starting its data journey, looking to enhance an existing program or undertake an enterprise data transformation, a Data Governance Framework can guide the development and evolution of a data program. Our experience has proven that a well designed and implemented set of Data Governance Capabilities can improve the overall effectiveness of Data & Analytics programs and their ability to enable innovation and competitive advantage.

Definition of Data Governance

NVP advocates a broader interpretation of the role of Data Governance versus the traditional defensive orientation of Governance as a compliance function. Governance should be viewed as an enabler, not a restriction, which is focused on both the supply side and the demand side of data to enable business use. The benefits of governance are the availability of high-quality data and the tools to use it effectively.

- Alignment with Data strategy, architecture, and roadmap
- Enablement of business use cases and business value
  
  AND

- Compliance with corporate policy, regulations, and contractual agreements
- The mitigation of risk
Framework for Data Governance

NVP has developed a comprehensive Framework for Data Governance based on decades of experience and best practices. The Framework consists of Capabilities which are the foundational building blocks of a data program. Capabilities are organized in three categories:

1. Data Governance Operating Model – the people and processes needed to execute on and sustain a data governance program, including roles and responsibilities for the governance of data.
2. Enterprise Data Policies – a policy articulates the requirements for managing and governing data assets and analytics, reflecting the values and priorities of the company.
3. Data Governance Execution – governance is operationalized through a set of standards, controls and metrics that define and measure how data should be managed. Governance integrates with Data Management and Analytics practices to enable business use cases for the creation of value.

How NewVantage Partners Can Help

Since 2001, NewVantage Partners has helped a blue-chip roster of Fortune 1000 companies and industry leaders leverage data and analytics to drive innovation and business transformation. We serve as thought leaders, trusted advisors, and management consultants to leading companies. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Randy Bean at rbean@newvantage.com or any of the authors below.

About the Authors

John Ahrendt  | Partner  | San Francisco  | jahrendt@newvantage.com
Paul Bergamo  | Senior Partner  | Boston  | pbergamo@newvantage.com
Lisa Wentworth  | Senior Partner  | Boston  | lwentworth@newvantage.com