

Do You Trust the Data in Your Enterprise System?

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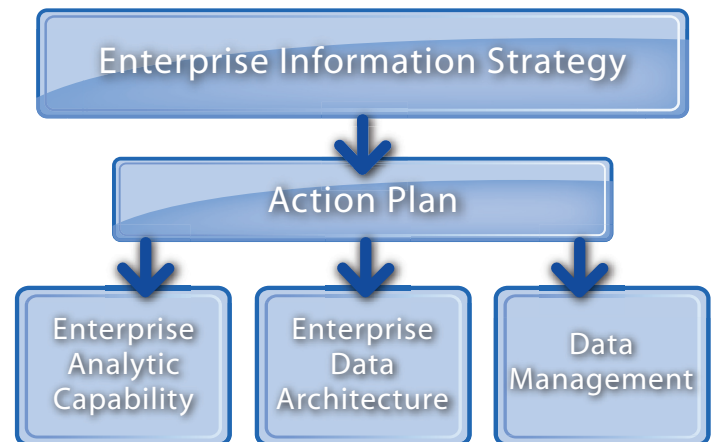
I read recently, "There's nothing more powerful than presenting the right facts at the right time." One cannot argue with that logic! We are, after all, living in the information age so having the right facts at the right time should not present a challenge. Yet, many executives are information challenged because their enterprise system is outdated both in terms of application design and technologies.

An information agenda ensures that your data is leveraged throughout your organization. Do you have instant access to meaningful information? How easily can you share information? How many times have you heard: "That data is no longer in the system;" or "Those numbers aren't sorted that way;" or worse, "We won't have those numbers until the end of the month."? A study published by IBM indicates that 52 percent of companies do not trust their data. Yet every company should be treating their enterprise data as a strategic asset.

An information agenda is an exercise that involves data quality programs and data guide programs. Data quality programs recognize that decisions are only as good as the data on which they are based. One can conclude that improving results requires improving the quality of your enterprise data. Data guides are individuals who provide mentoring so that employees can use relevant data to create knowledge and produce results for the enterprise.

Your enterprise system should allow for quick and easy validation of its data and should contain all of the elements required to allow your organization to produce measurable improvements. As a starting point, your enterprise data must be both accurate and complete. Furthermore, the system architecture that envelops that data must allow for secure, real-time access using any type of device such as PCs, notebooks, cell phones and field service equipment.

Essentially, your enterprise system's data architecture can be a formidable tool in support of your information agenda or can be the stumbling block. Does all of your business data reside in a relational database? Does your enterprise system allow for rich content such as images, videos, PDF files, and links to other applications to complement your business data? Can you reorganize how the data is presented on your screen, or does it require IT expertise and/or third-party tools? Is your business data accessible anywhere, anytime using only a browser? If you answer no to any of these questions, beware! Your company is not equipped to compete and will lose ground to competitors.



An organization that treats its data as a strategic asset will establish a data quality program to ensure that the data is accurate, secure and complete. The data guide program will look to organizing the data to gain insight or to achieve a particular goal.

An information agenda can take your company to the next level provided your enterprise system allows you to unlock your data's potential. Your enterprise system must not only support and optimize transaction processing, it must deliver intelligence that helps steer your business through muddy and turbulent waters.

About TECSYS

TECSYS is a leading supply chain management software provider that delivers powerful enterprise distribution, warehouse and transportation logistics software solutions. The company's customers include hundreds of mid-size and Fortune 1000 corporations around the globe in packaged gas and welding supplies, healthcare, heavy equipment, third-party logistics, and general wholesale high-volume distribution industries.

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