A use case in solving data quality management at scale

Tom Loxton 20 August 2024

An urgent need to implement robust data quality management

Mounting regulatory pressure...

An increasing level of regulatory pressure on the organisation - partly related to what is called "Data Issues" ...in a complex Financial Institution

A European financial institution with \$14B market cap, operating in over 15 countries, 40 subsidiaries, 3,000 data sources, 24 000 employees & 6 million customers

Data is key to achieve strategic goals, gain competitive advantage in the market and ensure business continuity in adverse situations. But in order to use it to its full potential we need to consider the trustworthiness of the information we have at hand and to be able to execute corrective measures when is not up to standards.

PREVENT, DETECT, CORRECT Establishing Data Quality Management requires changes to Processes, Technology & Organizational structures



With preventive measures aim to avoid data issues to appear in the first place – ensuring we create fitfor-purpose from the start. This requires Data Management capabilities, but more often other business capabilities Data elements are monitored on Data Quality criteria – ensuring we have an early warning system signalling before Data Quality starts to deteriorate. Empowering the organisation to swiftly act

If data issues start to appear lean processes are in place to facilitate corrective action – ensuring we cleanse, remediate and close the tap timely in a cost-effective manner

- Prevention measures lie in the Data Management domain but heavily relies on strengthening other business capabilities as well. Therefore, collaboration in these areas needs to be strengthened to take the necessary steps
- Examples outside the Data Management where improvement will lead to preventing data issues:
 - Source System Change Management
 - Architecture (control)
 - IT development
 - Business Process Management

Technology



Data Quality Monitoring is a capability that enables Data Owners to create continuous transparency on the trustworthiness of data and to proactively act when it does not meet the expectations agreed between Data Users and Data Owners.

PREVENT	
How does it work? Product developed	
Data Users defines DQ Requirements and reaches agreements on expectations with Data Owners	
Data Owner defines DQ Checks on their Golden Data Elements to monitor the fulfilments of the agreed expectations	
DQ Checks results are used to calculate DQ Scores and measure trustworthiness of data	
Detected DQ Signals (issues) are routed to cleansing parties/processes for correction DQ Signal Manager	
If the amount of signals on certain data element surpasses a threshold, an automated DQ Issue is raised root cause investigation.	





Data Issue Management: To make fit-for-purpose data, we embedded a Data Issue Management process in the bank – ensuring data quality issues are managed and structurally resolved



Data Issues are **raised by anyone encountering an issue**. Correcting issues is coordinated via a process and prioritised in line with timelines of Regulatory themes

Organization

To embed Data Management across the bank **a decisive data organisation is set up** using a **Federated Data Governance Model, adapted from Data Mesh principles**

In a data mesh approach, the organizational structure shifts from a centralized data team to a decentralized model where data ownership and responsibility are distributed across domain specific teams. Each team, aligned with a particular business domain (e.g., marketing, finance, sales), acts as a "data product" owner, responsible for the creation, maintenance, and governance of their domain's data products.







Data quality management is decentralized, with each domain team taking ownership of the quality of their own data products.

Domain Ownership

• **Responsibility**: Each domain team is accountable for the quality of their data products. This includes ensuring data accuracy, completeness, consistency, and timeliness. Since these teams are closest to the source and use of the data, they are best positioned to define and enforce quality standards that meet the specific needs of their domain.

Embedded Data Quality Practices

• **Quality by Design**: Data quality is embedded into the data product development process from the outset. Teams define clear quality metrics and use automated tools to monitor and maintain these standards continuously.

Centralized Support & Standards

- Platform Team: A centralized platform engineering team provides the necessary infrastructure, tools, and guidelines to support data quality management across all domains. This includes providing data quality monitoring tools, standardized metrics, and shared best practices.
- **Global Standards:** While domain teams are autonomous, they adhere to overarching organizational standards for data quality, interoperability, and compliance. This ensures that data products can be effectively integrated and used across the organization