DEFINING DATA GOVERNANCE Data governance is a framework encompassing the people, policies, processes, and technology that ensure high quality data, data management, and data security throughout an organization. It facilitates effective communication of insights derived from data, while also establishing a foundation to challenge inaccurate narratives or inappropriate use of court data that can occur from ambiguity and incorrect assumptions.

THE DATA LIFE CYCLE Data governance covers the entire data lifecycle, from deciding what data to collect through data creation and acquisition to archival and deletion. It establishes processes for data retention, archival, and disposal, which helps organizations avoid accumulating unnecessary data and manage storage costs effectively.

DATA OWNERSHIP Roles and responsibilities regarding data must be clearly defined. Data governance establishes data owners or stewards who are responsible for maintaining the quality, accuracy, and accessibility of specific data sets. Designating data stewards ensures that data are managed properly and used responsibly and should be a formal part of the individual's job description.

DATA QUALITY One of the primary goals of data governance is to maintain data quality and consistency. This involves establishing data standards, data definitions, and data validation rules to ensure that data are accurate, complete, and reliable. Poor data quality limits the useability of data and has significant impacts on decision-making and operations. Identifying and correcting data quality issues throughout the data life cycle must be a continuous process of learning and improvement by the court.

DATA SECURITY Data governance encompasses safeguarding data from unauthorized access, breaches, and loss, as well as establishing incident management policies. A proactive approach to data security involves a well-designed data distribution model to ensure that the right data are readily available to meet the needs of authorized users while preventing access by unauthorized individuals. A strong data governance framework helps mitigate the impact of breaches and unauthorized access by enabling a swift and decisive response from the court.



EXPLORE MORE DATA GOVERNANCE RESOURCES FROM NCSC, INCLUDING:

- Data Governance Policy Guide
- National Open Data Standards
- Just Horizons: Embracing a Data-Driven Mindset



Data Dives

THE FIRST STEP FOR GROWTH: DATA GOVERNANCE

Successful Data Use Starts with Strong Roots



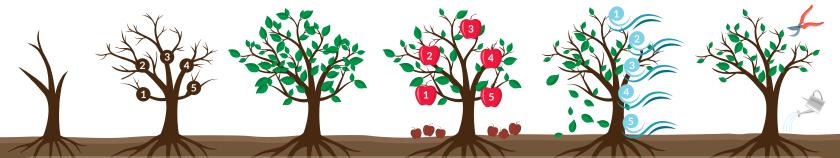




ROOTS

Core Components of Data Governance

- Clearly Defined Roles and Responsibilities for Data Ownership
- 2 Established Data Governance Team/Committee
- 3 Established Policies to Maintain High Data Quality
 - Data Standards
 - Clear and Consistent Data Definitions
 - Data Validation Rules
- 4 Established Policies Covering the Entire Data Life Cycle
 - Deciding What Data to Collect
 - Data Creation and Acquisition
 - Data Storage
 - Data Archival
 - Data Disposal/Deletion



Just as soil is essential to tree growth, IT also plays an integral role in supporting data efforts by implementing and supporting the necessary technologies, services, and tools.

TRUNK

Growing a Data-Driven Mindset in the Courts

BRANCHES

Ways that Data can be Used within the Courts

- 1 Case Flow Management
- 2 Court Operations
- 3 Court Leader/Justice Partner Data Requests
- 4 Public Data Requests
- 5 Al/Predictive Analytics

LEAVES

The Information or Insights Gained from Data

FRUIT

The Outcomes of Effective Data Use

- 1 Improved Case Processing
- 2 Effective Resource Management
- Consistent and Timely Response to Data Requests
- Increased Trust and Confidence in the Judiciary
- 5 Improved Case Outcomes

Note: Not all fruit will be viable. Some will fall to the ground but will break down and enrich the soil (i.e., the lessons learned will be invaluable).

EXTERNAL FORCES (WIND)

Strong Data Governance Roots Mitigate Damage and Decrease Impact from External Events

- Inaccurate Narratives about Courts/Court Data
- 2 Data Breaches
- 3 Misuse of Court Data
- 4 Legislative or Rule Changes that Impact How Data are Shared/ Handled
- Advancements in Technology

PRUNING AND MAINTENANCE

Data Governance Needs to be Maintained and Revised



Prune dead branches to make room for new areas of data use that can also result in new root growth (aka data governance policies).



Water soil with lessons learned and feedback from court staff and impacted groups like court users, stakeholders, and community members to encourage continued growth.

© 2023 NATIONAL CENTER FOR STATE COURTS



Learn more at ncsc.org/datadives

