

Your Data Governance Dashboard: Grip on your Data- Universe and Infobesity

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Infobesity and mindfulness challenge not only the limits of the human brain but also the limits of our organization ability to collectively comprehend. How do we survive or attempt to thrive in the increasingly complex and challenging data governance universe?

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Infobesitas is a disease that turns its victims into addicts by infecting the individual with the insatiable need for constant, new and more information.

Mindfulness is a type of meditation, which offers an individual a non-reactive approach to being aware of the physical and spiritual sensations and events of the moment. However in practice, most people associate mindfulness not with the pure practice of meditation, but as a vehicle to empty their overloaded heads from meaningless and meaningful data that they are bombarded with on a daily basis.

The information and subsequent triggered overload leads to the need to create order in the chaos; which is an attempt to put things into perspective. This need to create order also means that the individual wants to separate the wheat from the chaff and to devise a strategy which one can use to survive and thrive in an ever increasing complex and challenging data governance universe.

Opportunities and Threats

If this is true for the individual, than it is also true for co-operations among people or organizations; The definition of an organization is “ a group of individuals and methods focused on one or more goals. The brain of the organization struggles with the same challenges related to information addiction or infobesitas, just as the individuals.

The type and the magnitude of the challenges increase exponentially with large, international and complex organizations. The amount, complexity and speed of data creation (information creation) are on one hand opportunities while on the other hand data creation poses enormous threats. If the competition executes better than you, this can lead to potentially to competitive disadvantage for you and ultimately a risk to the existence of the going concern.

Our Data Governance Universe

Organizations invest an enormous effort in their data governance universe and specifically in knowledge exchange, knowledge programs and everything related to this topic. I call this the data

governance universe due to the *comparable extensiveness, complexity and underlying interdependencies also known as the unending universe.*

*Even when we put the “black hole” i.e. the financial business case, out of the checklist of potential benefits, it is still beneficial to go through the exercise of bringing our self and our solar system into perspective. It is worthwhile just to know where we are and how our plant(organization) got created to answer the question; how did we get here? We all know that the moon influences the tide and that the sun is the key determinant of our habitat (organization). It reminds us that gravity doesn't exist everywhere and likewise that we are only a minuscule part of the entire universe. Looking back into our history, we know that the earth is **not** the center of the universe. Another look even further back, we know that the earth is **not** round. And last but not less there is the big bang theory: did it happen or not?*

What does the Data Universe Look Like?

If we attempt to bring your data governance universe in context, we would anticipate that it would look something like this;

- The Why: The Big Bang
- Your Organization: the earth
- Decision Making: Water, fire, and Oxygen
- Revelance: The Sun
- Integrity: The Moon
- Innovation: The Stars
- Infrastructure: The Speed of Light
- Commitment: The Milky Way
- (Dis)Continuity: Comets
- Budget: A Black Hole
- Tooling: Mars
- Culture: Venus
- Storage: Gravity

10 Reflective Steps:

There is an important difference between the unmeasurable universe and the data governance universe. The universe will not let itself be guided. Contrary to that we own a few controls for the data governance universe. Seriously, we often neglect to take stock of how structured and planning influence our universe. Therefore let us look at infobesity and data mindfulness within context. How do you get a handle on your private data universe and the data universe of your organization?

We encourage you to consider these reflective ten steps;

1. Get clarity of your data universe through an assessment of what is.
2. Decide the quality of the individual elements in your universe.
3. Identify the interdependency among those elements.
4. Determine how your data dashboard should look and contemplate on how you would use it to lead your organization.
5. Gauge the ability of the culture to contribute to improve the return on data.
6. Draw and visualize the “what does success look like horizon.”
7. Organize your plan-do-check-act for your data/information assets.

8. Position data as everyone's business.
9. Investigate the uses of technologies, yet in a supportive role not a leading one!
10. Build agility into the process!

The Data Governance Dashboard

Integrated datagovernance dashboardTo demonstrate what a dashboard could look like, here is an example of KPI's in a strategic integrated data governance dashboard.

Relevance: That is what it is all about. An all encompassed Quality as a result of aligned data elements for the benefit of decision making; not to forget the need to achieve a supportive business culture. Everything starts and ends with internal and external data and of course; a financial business case. Compliance, (cyber) security as well as infrastructure and tooling, measure the technology and compliance aspects.

In conclusion: Infobesity and Mindfulness are acute and ad-hoc. Band-aid solutions are insufficient to permanently cure the condition. We plead for integrated data governance that is a holistic approach connecting elements that required structural attention in orchestration not ad-hoc band-aids. The Big Bang is now and upon us.