

Business Analysis and Source System Analysis for the Data Ocean

Business analysis and source system analysis play a crucial role in the success of the Data Ocean solution.

Business Analysis

Business analysis plays a vital role in the successful implementation of any Data solution.

It involves a systematic approach to understanding the organization's business processes, identifying data requirements, and aligning them with the goals and objectives of the Data Ocean initiative.

The key aspects of business analysis in the context of the Data Ocean solution:

- Understanding Business Processes:
 - Business analysis begins with a thorough understanding of the organization's business processes. This involves identifying the key activities, stakeholders, and interactions within the organization.
 - By analyzing these processes, business analysts can determine the critical data elements required to support decision-making and operational activities.
- Data Requirements Identification:
 - Once the business processes are understood, the next step is to identify the data requirements necessary to support those processes. This involves collaborating with stakeholders and business users to determine the specific data elements needed for analysis, reporting, and decision-making.
 - Business analysts engage in requirements gathering techniques such as interviews, workshops, and document analysis to elicit and document these data requirements.
- Data Modeling and Mapping:
 - Business analysts work closely with data architects and subject matter experts (BW, SAP, SF and business experts) to develop data models that capture the structure, relationships, and attributes of the required data. This includes entity-relationship diagrams, data flow diagrams, and other modeling techniques.
 - Data mapping is then performed to establish the correspondence between the data requirements and the existing source systems.
- Data Profiling and Quality Assessment:
 - As part of the business analysis process, data profiling and quality assessments are conducted to ensure the reliability and accuracy of the data.
 - Data profiling involves analyzing the content, structure, and quality of the data, identifying patterns, anomalies, and potential data quality issues. This step helps business analysts understand the characteristics and quality of the data being integrated into the Data Ocean.
- Business Rules and Data Governance:
 - Business analysis also involves identifying and documenting business rules that govern the interpretation and usage of data within the organization. These rules ensure consistency, accuracy, and compliance with regulatory requirements.
 - Business analysts collaborate with data governance teams to establish data governance frameworks, define data ownership, and enforce data policies and standards.
- Requirements Validation and Documentation:
 - Throughout the business analysis process, requirements are validated with stakeholders to ensure alignment with business needs and objectives.
 - Business analysts document the requirements in a clear and concise manner, using techniques such as use cases, user stories, and requirement specifications. These documents serve as a foundation for the design and development of the Data Ocean solution.
- Continuous Improvement and Adaptation:
 - Business analysis is an iterative process that continues throughout the lifecycle of the Data Ocean solution.
 - As the organization's business needs evolve, business analysts play a critical role in identifying new data requirements, analyzing changes in business processes, and adapting the Data Ocean architecture accordingly.
 - Continuous improvement and adaptation ensure that the Data Ocean solution remains aligned with the evolving needs of the organization.

System Analysis

These activities provide the initiatives with a comprehensive understanding of the supporting source data model, ensuring the reliability and accuracy of the data being integrated into the Data Ocean.

The importance of performing a source analysis and how it contributes to effective decision-making:

- Source System Analysis:
 - Performing a source system analysis is essential for obtaining a comprehensive understanding of the supporting source data model. This analysis involves examining the data models, relationships, keys, and cardinalities within operational applications that act as the source for data integration.

- By analyzing these factors, the initiatives and in particular Data Architects, gain insights into how data is structured and related within the source systems.
- Data Profiling and Quality Assessments:
 - Data profiling and quality assessments are critical components of source system analysis. Data profiling involves analyzing the content, structure, and quality of the data in the source systems. It helps identify data anomalies, inconsistencies, and potential data quality issues.
 - By conducting data profiling, the team can gain insights into the characteristics and patterns of the source data, which aids in making informed decisions regarding data integration.
- Reliability and Accuracy of Data:
 - The source system analysis, including data profiling and quality assessments, ensures the reliability and accuracy of the data being integrated into the Data Ocean.
 - By understanding the data models, relationships, and keys within the source systems, the team can identify potential data discrepancies and inconsistencies. This enables them to implement data cleansing, transformation, and validation processes to enhance data quality.
- Informed Decision-Making:
 - Analyzing the source systems and performing data quality assessments contribute to informed decision-making processes. When the team has a clear understanding of the data models and relationships within the operational applications, they can make informed decisions based on better information.
 - Trust in the data is established, enabling stakeholders to confidently rely on the insights derived from the Data Ocean for critical decision-making processes.
- Enhanced Data Governance:
 - Source system analysis, including business analysis and data quality assessments, is closely tied to data governance practices.
 - By examining the source systems, the team can identify data owners, understand data lineage, and establish data governance frameworks. This ensures that data is managed consistently, adheres to regulatory requirements, and maintains its integrity throughout the Data Ocean.

In conclusion, business analysis and source system analysis are fundamental for the adopting of the Data Ocean solution.

- Business analysis in the context of the Data Ocean solution involves understanding the organization business processes, identifying data requirements, modeling and mapping data, conducting data profiling and quality assessments, defining business rules, and documenting requirements. Through this process, business analysts ensure that the Data Ocean solution effectively supports decision-making, enhances data governance, and enables the organization to leverage their data as a strategic asset.
- Performing a source analysis, including data profiling and quality assessments, provides the initiatives and the teams with a comprehensive understanding of the supporting source data model. By analyzing the data models, relationships, keys, and cardinalities, they can make informed decisions based on high-quality information. This fosters trust in the data and enhances overall decision-making processes, enabling teams and the business to leverage the full potential of the Data Ocean for strategic insights and competitive advantage.