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Why does data governance matter?

AI is accelerating faster than governance
Compliance expectations are increasing
Cyber risk is expanding through data exposure
Data is both a strategic asset and a liability

The moment we're in

- From filing cabinets stacked to the sky, to desktops that hummed as the decades flew by, a floppy, a disk, then a drive in your hand, data grew faster than anyone planned.
- Now AI consumes it — relentless, unseen, deciding what's accurate, biased, or clean. But garbage fed in is still garbage that's learned.
- How we govern it now is a lesson hard-earned.



Roadblocks:
Budget
People

What are the biggest challenges aligning governance?

What gaps or surprises did you uncover?

What are the biggest roadblocks?

Are counties
keeping too
much data?

Modernizing asset inventories and retention policies

Why are data asset inventories critical?

How do you drive departmental ownership?

Where do retention policies fall short?

Do you have
a digital junk
drawer?

Leveraging AI and fostering resilience

How important is data quality for AI?

Can AI improve data quality today?

What issues are most common?

Whose
responsibility
is it?

Leveraging AI and fostering resilience in the face of cyber

What role does a data-aware culture play in addressing cyber risks?

Quick hits

One quick win in the next 90 days

When have you assessed your data?

Practice area	Rating (1-10)
1. Consistent document storage location in place (network drive, SharePoint, etc.)	①②③④⑤
2. Records retention policy in place and followed	①②③④⑤
3. Share links to documents are used rather than making copies	①②③④⑤
4. File naming conventions are consistently used	①②③④⑤
5. Deletion schedules are defined and executed	①②③④⑤
6. Password/encryption requirements are enforced	①②③④⑤
7. Data asset inventory exists and is maintained	①②③④⑤
8. Directory organization is logical and well-maintained	①②③④⑤
9. Regular review of backup processes conducted	①②③④⑤

Final takeaways

1

Build and update your strategy

Align data governance with your AI roadmap — not as an afterthought, but as the foundation

2

Build and conduct assessments

Evaluate current data quality, access controls, metadata practices, and retention policies

3

Identify and prioritize weaknesses

Focus on the highest-risk data assets first — don't try to boil the ocean

4

Execute in phases

Implement incrementally with measurable milestones and continuous monitoring

5

Change management is critical

Technical fixes fail without culture, training, and executive sponsorship

Innovation without governance is **risk**.
Governance without innovation is **stagnation**.



**“With great power comes
great responsibility”**

Voltaire (and Spider-Man)



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