

The Rules of Subsurface Analytics*

Jane McConnell¹ and Duncan Irving¹

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Abstract

Oil and Gas companies are increasingly embracing big data analytics and data driven approaches in the drive to optimize development and production costs, increase recovery factors, and ultimately better understand and quantify uncertainties in their workflows. Most companies now have a digitalization program in place and are taking steps towards this data-driven future. From the projects that Teradata has conducted in the Oil and Gas industry, we believe that implementing a successful analytics program in subsurface involves following a few key rules. Firstly, they require bringing together the right people. Ideally what we refer to as “T-shaped” people – people with deep knowledge in one or more areas, but wide (if shallow) knowledge of the whole process, and who are open to trying new approaches. Secondly, the right data platform. Subsurface data certainly meets the Big Data definition of volume, velocity, variety, and veracity. Performing analytics on deep and wide datasets requires thinking about parallelism and performance – while also thinking about storage costs. Ensuring that analytics projects provide measurable business value requires us to take an agile approach to project management, and to repeatedly check the business alignment to ensure that the analytical results we are delivering are in some way actionable. Companies do not make or save money by running analytics projects – that only happens when they can take the learnings from the analytics projects and put them to use. In analytics projects, a vast proportion of time is spent on locating and preparing data. The required data may be available only in application databases, only as original files, or spread around various systems. We take an approach we refer to as “good enough data management” when building an analytical data platform, where structure and quality are applied in a just-in-time manner to meet the needs of the analytics. We will illustrate these key rules using case studies and anecdotes from past projects in Norway, UK, US, and South East Asia.

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THE RULES OF SUBSURFACE ANALYTICS

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Agenda

- Subsurface analytics is different
- The Rules
 - Rule 1: Right People
 - Rule 2: Right Platform
 - Rule 3: “Good Enough” Data Management
 - Rule 4: Agile Approach
 - Rule 5: Business Buy-in
- Recap



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SUBSURFACE ANALYTICS IS DIFFERENT





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1940's business computing: When it all started for business analytics

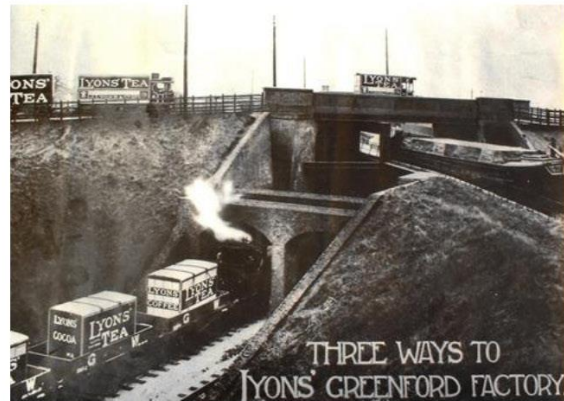


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Figure 5. Leo
Level set on business intelligence



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Bridging the OT / IT divide

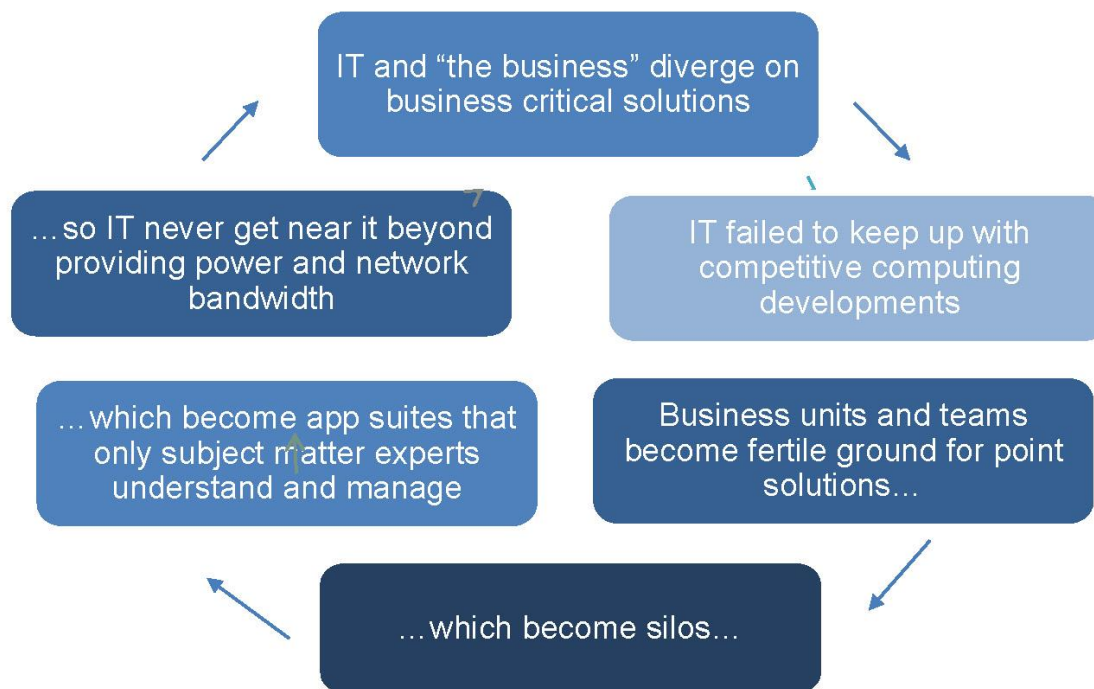


Figure 6. A lot has been written about the IT/OT divide over the last few years – mainly by Gartner... The normal examples given are SCADA systems, historians, PLCs – the technology of factories and of production operations. We have similar specialist technologies in subsurface too. Think about seismic processing, about interpretation suites like OpenWorks or Petrel. When we want to start doing analytics on this data – we need to start bridging the divide - which means training IT on what we have been doing for the last decade or two, so that they can start helping us with what they know – business intelligence, analytics and machine learning, and the data platform.



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How we manage our data

Custodian

- Controls access
- Avoids unknown data
- Transfer data
- Avoids risk
- Hates change
- Acquires knowledge
- Creates walls

vs

Curator

- Shares data
- Celebrates variety
- Enables access
- Embraces risk
- Owns change
- Shares insights
- Teaches governance

Figure 7. A lot has been written about the IT/OT divide over the last few years – mainly by Gartner... The normal examples given are SCADA systems, historians, PLCs – the technology of factories and of production operations. We have similar specialist technologies in subsurface too. Think about seismic processing, about interpretation suites like OpenWorks or Petrel.

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RULE 1: RIGHT PEOPLE

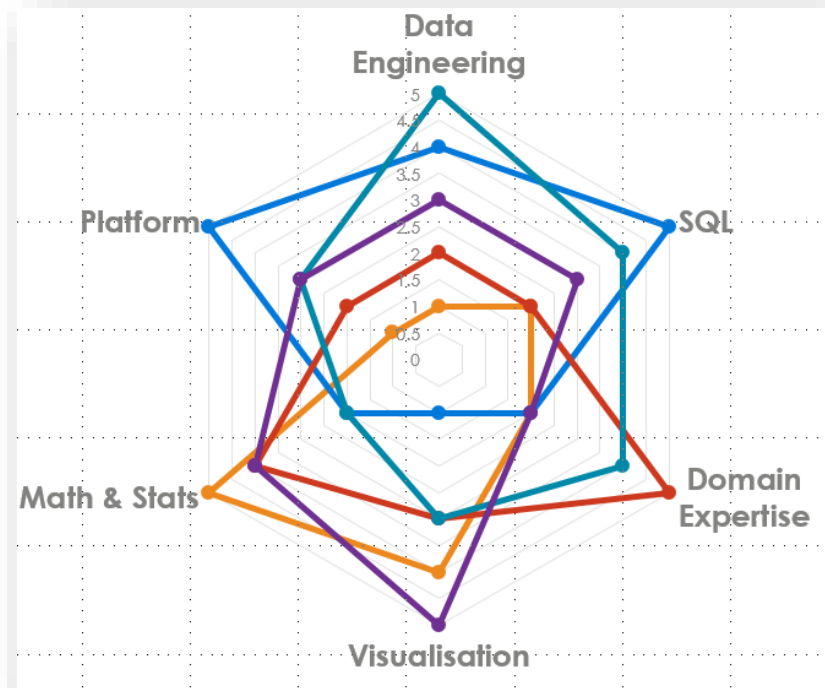


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Right People, plural. And T-shaped.

- Too many disciplines for any one person to know it all
- “T-shaped people” who go wide across many disciplines but deep into their specific domain
- Need outstanding data management and data engineering skills (and culture)
- Need platform expertise for sustainability and deployment
- Need Subject Matter Expertise





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Analytics / data science workflow

Ingest

Curate

Analyse

Visualise



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How we are working with a Norwegian operator

- Working as one team, hand-in-hand with the customer
 - Subject matter expertise
 - Source system expertise
 - Data management skills
 - Data platform skills
 - Coding skills
 - Data science skills
 - Frontend/visualisation skills





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RULE 2: RIGHT PLATFORM



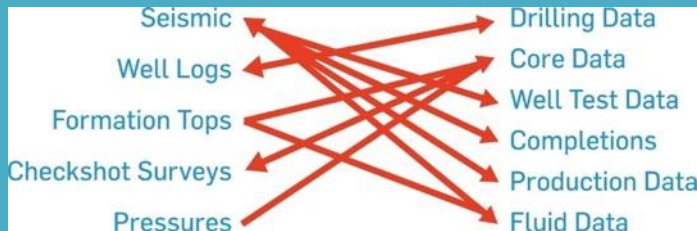
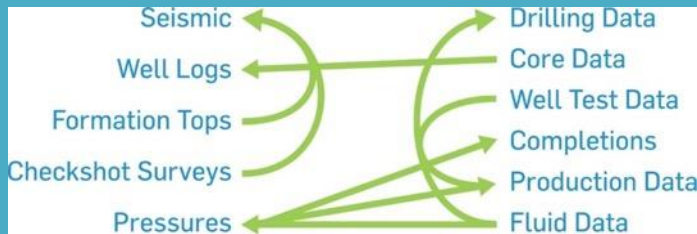
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The problems with existing data stores

- “Knowledge development” applications come with import filters for specific file types and specific tasks
- Data is modelled logically for well-defined (and hence brittle) processes that may not reflect all (or even any!) use cases
- Only “perfect” data can be imported into applications or schemas

New data types, or new combinations, don't work very well in this old world



Kerry Blinston, CGG, ECIM 2014





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Build a new platform that all disciplines can use

- If we don't provide a platform for analytics, we will be in Desktop/Excel Hell.
- Build a platform that
 - Accepts data from any discipline
 - Makes it easy for data scientists to use their tools – R, Python etc
 - Provides the right level of governance and data quality
 - Provides parallelism and scale





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Hidden Technical Debt in Machine Learning Systems

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Abstract

Machine learning offers a fantastically powerful toolkit for building useful complex prediction systems quickly. This paper argues it is dangerous to think of these quick wins as coming for free. Using the software engineering framework of *technical debt*, we find it is common to incur massive ongoing maintenance costs in real-world ML systems. We explore several ML-specific risk factors to account for in system design. These include boundary erosion, entanglement, hidden feedback loops, undeclared consumers, data dependencies, configuration

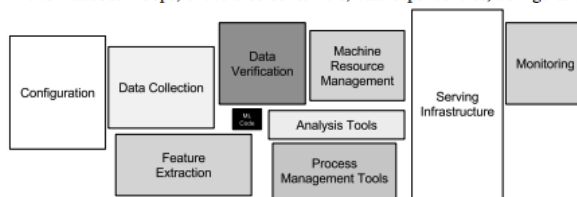


Figure 1: Only a small fraction of real-world ML systems is composed of the ML code, as shown by the small black box in the middle. The required surrounding infrastructure is vast and complex.

Static Analysis of Data Dependencies. In traditional code, compilers and build systems perform static analysis of dependency graphs. Tools for static analysis of data dependencies are far less common, but are essential for error checking, tracking down consumers, and enforcing migration and updates. One such tool is the automated feature management system described in [12], which enables data sources and features to be annotated. Automated checks can then be run to ensure that all dependencies have the appropriate annotations, and dependency trees can be fully resolved. This kind of tooling can make migration and deletion much safer in practice.



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What a Machine Learning system really looks like

Hidden Technical Debt in Machine Learning Systems



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RULE 3: “GOOD ENOUGH” DATA MANAGEMENT



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“Good Enough” Data Management

- Curators mentor and support “citizen data management”
- Everyone cares about the data and its quality
- Everyone can do something about it when they find bad data
- Data governance is a function of data value

“Good Enough” means:

- **Good:** don’t compromise on quality
- **Enough:** don’t boil the ocean

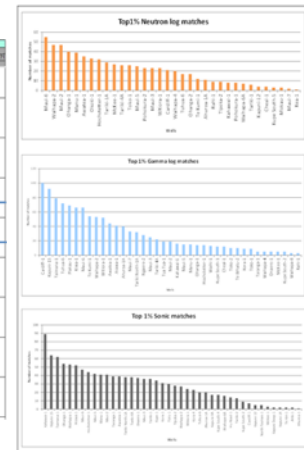
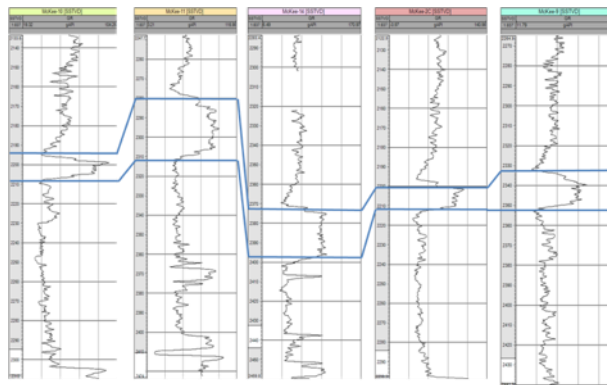


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“Difficult file formats” (Multi-structured data)

- Historically, we’ve stripped all the context away from each measure and observation for the sake of more storage
- Parse out the measurement data
- Link it through time and space
- Relate using metadata and master data
- Pause – until you know how you want to access it





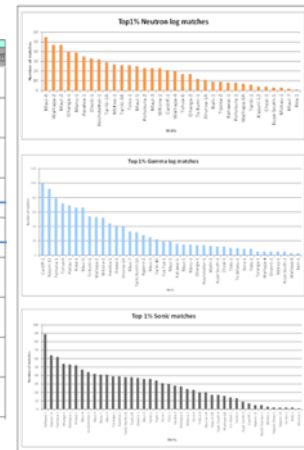
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GOOD ENOUGH!





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Dealing with unstructured data

Text

- Language
- Typos
- Consistency
- Quality

Use simple characterisation tools to understand what is in the data

Don't try to build a whole text input and cleansing framework, if you don't need it

3203 recalibration	13
3204 receiver	8
6895 receiving	9
1273 recheck	7
6896 rechecked	9
6897 rechecks	8
6898 recleaning	10
3192 re-cleaning	11
6899 recomissioned	13
3206 recomissioning	14
3207 recommended	11
6900 recommission	12
3208 recommissioned	14
6901 recommissioning	15
6902 recorded	8
6903 recover	7
3210 recovery	8
227 rectification	13
3212 rectified	9
3213 rectify	7
6906 rectifying	10
3216 redivert	8
6907 reduce	6
3217 reduced	7
6910 reducer	7
3218 reducing	8
3219 reduction	9
3220 reenergise	10
3221 reenergised	11
3222 reestablished	13



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	12
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	15
	8
	7
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3213 rectify	7
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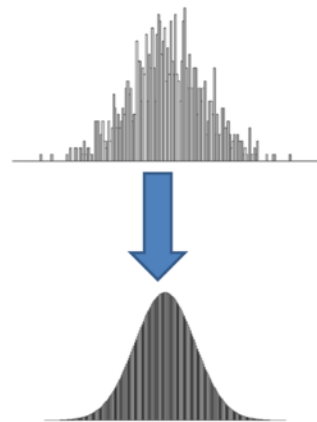


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Profiling data

- Storage is cheap
 - But still, sometimes we have a LOT of data with very low information density – eg passive seismic
- If the data is still too large to handle then profile and decimate (it's better than never using it!)



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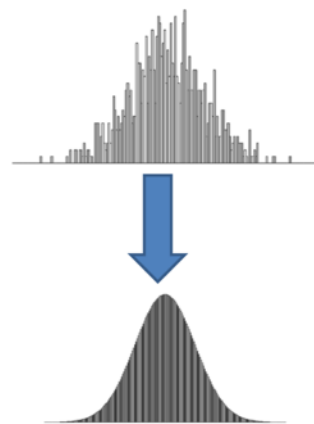
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567	4/5/2014	16:48:43	1470	1507	1486	1501	1423	326	350	355	344	325	293	1586	13	80	0	30.4	2179	83	9.2	N/A	48	13.8	187	182.0	N/A	137	5670	1460.43.84	2010.04.71	
568	4/5/2014	16:48:49	1470	1507	1486	1501	1422	326	350	355	344	325	293	1582	13	80	0	30.4	2179	83	9.0	N/A	48	13.8	187	182.0	N/A	137	5663	1460.43.80	2010.04.11	
569	4/5/2014	16:48:55	1470	1507	1486	1501	1422	329	350	355	344	325	293	1586	13	80	0	30.4	2179	83	9.2	N/A	48	13.8	187	182.2	N/A	137	5663	1460.43.80	2010.04.11	
570	4/5/2014	16:49:01	1470	1507	1486	1501	1428	329	350	355	344	325	293	1586	13	84	0	30.4	2179	83	9.0	N/A	48	13.8	187	182.2	N/A	137	5667	1460.43.35	2010.03.51	
571	4/5/2014	16:49:07	1470	1507	1486	1501	1428	329	350	355	344	328	293	1582	13	84	0	30.4	2179	83	9.0	N/A	48	13.8	187	182.2	N/A	137	5669	1460.43.35	2010.03.51	
572	4/5/2014	16:49:13	1470	1506	1507	1486	1501	1428	329	350	355	344	328	293	1582	13	79	0	30.4	2179	83	9.0	N/A	48	13.8	187	182.2	N/A	137	5665	1460.43.08	2010.02.91
573	4/5/2014	16:49:19	1470	1506	1507	1486	1501	1428	329	350	355	344	328	293	1582	13	79	0	30.4	2179	83	9.0	N/A	48	13.8	187	182.2	N/A	137	5669	1460.43.08	2010.02.91
574	4/5/2014	16:49:25	1470	1506	1507	1486	1501	1428	329	350	355	344	328	293	1586	13	79	0	30.4	2179	83	9.0	N/A	48	13.8	187	182.2	N/A	137	5663	1460.44.84	2010.02.31
575	4/5/2014	16:49:31	1470	1506	1507	1486	1501	1428	329	350	355	344	328	293	1586	13	79	0	30.4	2179	83	9.0	N/A	48	13.8	187	182.2	N/A	137	5669	1460.44.84	2010.02.31
576	4/5/2014	16:49:37	1470	1506	1507	1486	1501	1422	329	350	355	344	328	293	1582	13	85	0	30.4	2179	83	9.0	N/A	48	13.8	187	182.2	N/A	137	5669	1460.44.80	2010.01.71
577	4/5/2014	16:49:43	1470	1506	1507	1486	1501	1422	329	350	355	344	328	293	1582	13	85	0	30.4	2179	83	9.0	N/A	48	13.8	187	182.2	N/A	137	5669	1460.44.80	2010.01.71





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RULE 4: AGILE APPROACH



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Agile, Scrum, DevOps, AnalyticOps, Interactive Visualisation





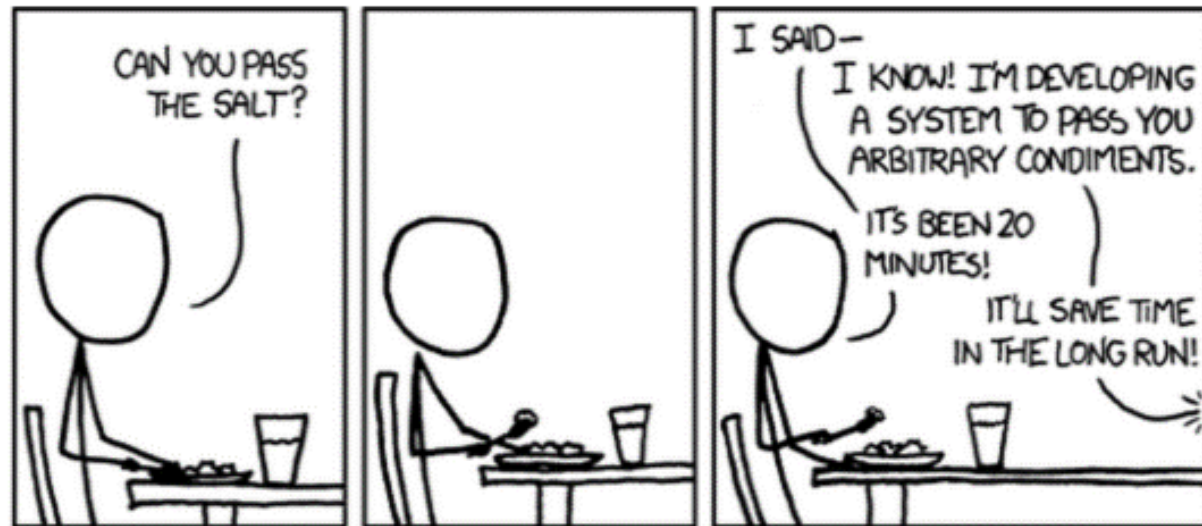
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What not to do

Common resource-sinks:

- Point solutions
- Technology projects
- Waterfalls
- Brittle data modelling
- ML/AI-driven project



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Iterate.
One project at a time.
Deliver value often.

Review

Create concise business story
Highlight overall business impact
Include assumptions and sources
Follow up with business on the actions

Prepare

Contextualise and plan
Form problem statement
Prioritise by impact
Communicate analysis plan and responsibilities

Execute

Build on prior work
Validate data
Recheck hypotheses
Drive insights and recommendations

Assimilate

Store well-commented SQL
Document in wiki
Train BU in tool usage

Document

Post code to repository
Stakeholder contacts
Final presentations



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Agility needs the right mindset



- Working together
- Willing to take risks
- Proactive
- Speed / Time-to-insight



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RULE 5: BUSINESS BUY-IN



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You Still Need a Business Question!

“We created an Analytics COE. We hired some data scientists. We installed Hadoop. We’re ready to Machine Learn something now. Do you have any use cases?”



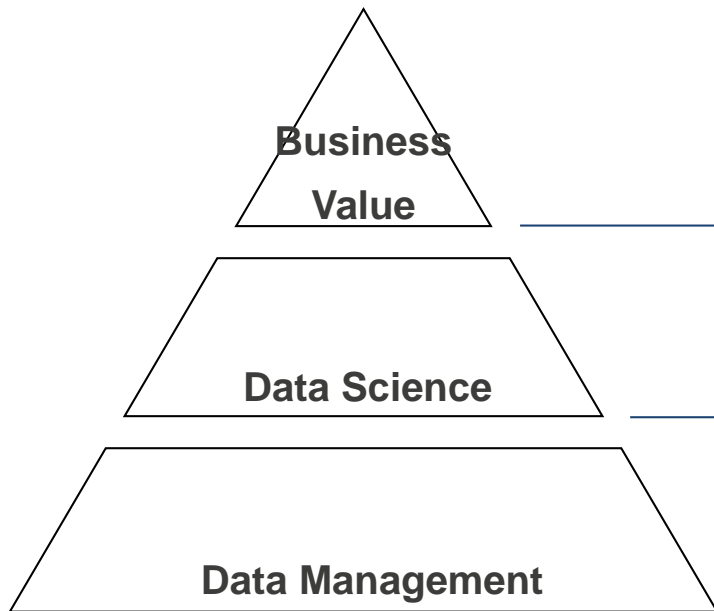
https://imgs.xkcd.com/comics/machine_learning.png



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Business-aligned data science



- What financial, operational or environmental impact are you delivering?
 - What is the ACTION that you can take?
-
- What techniques, functions, workflows and skills are required?
-
- What data is required and in what form?
 - Do we even have the needed data?
-



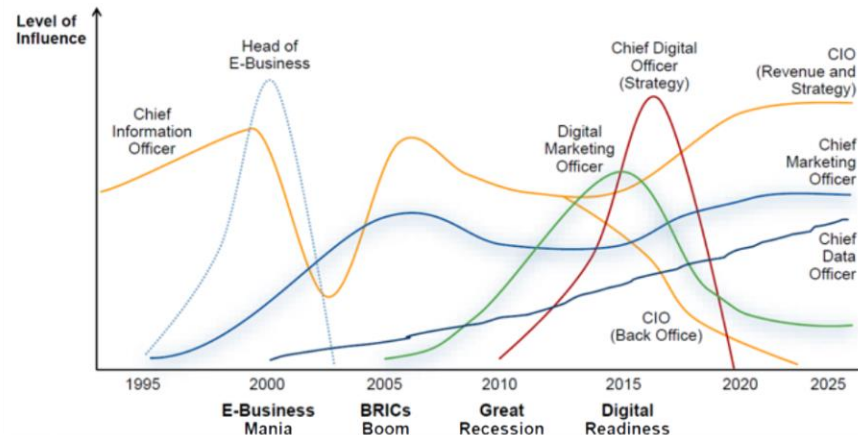
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- Embed data ownership in the business units
- Engage with business leadership to plan, budget and deliver data-driven initiatives
- Define and drive data exploitation strategy
- Understand data value and leverage high value data for business impact

...do we need a **Chief Data Officer**?

Business-focused data management



Source: Andrew White, Gartner 2017



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IN SUMMARY



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The Rules



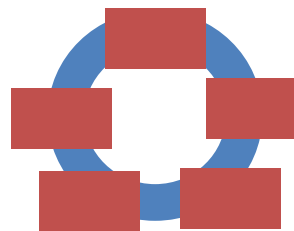
Right People



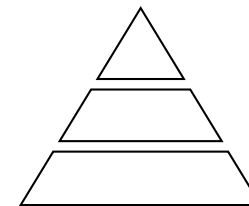
Right Platform



Good Enough
Data
Management



Agile
Approach



Business Buy-in



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Data Management 2.0

Stop doing

- Brittle data management
- Silos
- Disposable data science
- Transfer and analysis in Excel

Keep doing

- Applying domain expertise
- High levels of governance
- Driving data quality
- Learning

Start doing

- Aligning with business
- Applying context
- Data profiling
- Enriching data
- Applying critical thinking



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