Data Management & Strategy Office

Describing Data Virtualization

TALKING POINTS FOR LEADERS

:HAPPY:DATA.™

Help your team understand the concept of a data virtualization and what it means for them. Discuss data virtualization in conjunction with the data catalog and data governance so your team has a clear picture of how everything works together.

The Opportunity

Right now, we have hundreds of data sources and systems. To function properly, each of these systems needs to use data from a number of other systems. This leads to a data architecture that looks like a bowl of spaghetti. The varied content and format of these sources leads to technically complex system integrations, data quality and integrity issues, and a frustrating experience for those who use the data. We are unraveling this bowl of spaghetti using [NAME OF SOFTWARE YOU ARE USING], a data virtualization platform. [SOFTWARE] creates a hub and spoke data architecture, where [SOFTWARE] is the hub, and the various data sources are the spokes. Because each system of record only needs to talk to [SOFTWARE] instead of the hundreds of other sources that rely on it, users can access the complete data they need (with access permissions built in), while we reduce the operational load placed on our other systems (and the folks who administer them).

How to Describe Data Virtualization

At a high level, if the data catalog is our "card catalog," then [DATA VIRTUALIZATION SOFTWARE] is our library. The data catalog helps you understand and locate the data you need, and [SOFTWARE] is where you go to get that data. In [SOFTWARE], we combine varied data sets into a single source. We certify the data sets and ensure appropriate access permissions before we make the data available to view or download from [SOFTWARE].

Data is compiled into [SOFTWARE] through "connectors" with the various data sources. We currently have a few connectors in place, and data from these sources are now available in [SOFTWARE]. We are continuously adding connectors to new sources. For a current list of available data, contact the Service Desk.

Quick Facts

- [SOFTWARE] is live and certain data is ready to use now.
- Our team is developing a user-friendly interface to [SOFTWARE], as right now you have to be quite technical to use it.
- The data catalog will provide instructions on how to get data from [SOFTWARE].
- Training will mostly focus on the data catalog, as that is the gateway to the data. We will provide some education around data virtualization, but it will largely mirror what is provided above.
- Any questions should be directed to the Service Desk.