erwin Inc provides a model driven, collaboration platform for “active” data governance.

**Challenge**

As organizations strive for a data-centric approach to business, they look for new ways of innovating, capturing relevant data streams and turning them into actionable information. This approach introduces additional risk and complexity to the traditional challenges of enterprise data management. To counter this, Data Governance has emerged as a practice designed to mitigate the risks and assure the data foundation upon which this business transformation will be built. However, Data Governance initiatives come with their own challenges, not the least of which is enabling the enterprise to understand, value and embrace the benefits and responsibilities of a well formed data governance program.

**INCREASING DATA VOLUMES & COMPLEXITY**

Not only are data volumes growing, with more applications to support, but the complexity of data is increasing as well. Most organizations have more than one type database platform, with a mix of
on-premise and cloud deployments. Organizations struggle to break down the management silos and harmonize these disparate technologies and deployment models under a unified and consistent set of business rules and policies.

COMPLIANCE AND REGULATION

Regulatory and audit requirements are a major driver for data governance initiatives. Many organizations are required to prove compliance and accountability for data assets. This includes data ownership, semantic and data lineage, privacy, security and lifecycle requirements. The ongoing effort needed to meet regulatory reporting requirements on enterprise data is a drag on the business and IT. These resources that could be better deployed on data-centric projects that will drive business growth.

NEED FOR COLLABORATION TO ENABLE BETTER BUSINESS ALIGNMENT OF DATA ASSETS

Data Governance is more than just a set of policies and procedures. Stakeholder fluency and trust in enterprise data in order to drive effective data usage is a key deliverable of any successful data governance program. This requires more business users and non-technical roles to have a vested interest in collaborating in the data governance program. It is often challenging for these non-technical users to understand their data assets and architecture at a level that will enable them to contribute effectively. An active and collaborative data governance platform is essential to meet the needs of an agile business environment.

Figure 1: erwin Data Governance is built on a foundation of visual erwin data models that enable discovery, standardization analysis and deployment
Solution

At erwin, we provide the foundation for effective data governance through a combination of well governed data modeling and collaborative metadata authoring served up to the enterprise through an active data governance facility. Our “Any²” approach to designing, documenting, standardizing and aligning any type of data (structured or unstructured) no matter where it is deployed (on premise or in the cloud) provides a detailed, visual information architecture that drives quality, value and efficiency in all of your data management initiatives. Once discovered, captured and documented, these business data assets are configured into a dynamic and responsive data architecture, complete with governance metadata that is easily understood and actionable. This is a critical capability required to deliver an effective, compliant and trusted data foundation for the business.

STANDARDIZING DATA DEFINITION AND GOVERNING THE DATA MODELING PROCESS

Whether your organization is undertaking a business intelligence project, building an analytics platform, or a master data management effort, a data model and associated metadata repository can be a central source for core definitions and data structures that can be standardized and reused across these various initiatives. This helps increase the quality and consistency of deployed data when all these projects use this common foundation for data definition and metadata analysis.

With erwin Data Modeler, business and technical database structures can be visualized through an integrated, graphical model. Using the erwin Data Modeler Workgroup Edition, models can be stored in a central repository that can provide conflict resolution, versioning, security, standardization, and model organization and hierarchies. Through a central model repository, model assets can be inventoried and re-used across the organization. Using this central repository and its associated conflict resolution and versioning capabilities, modeling teams can collaborate while minimizing the risks associated with agile teams working simultaneously.

ENABLING SELF SERVICE BUSINESS DATA DISCOVERY AND ACTIVE DATA GOVERNANCE

erwin Data Governance provides an intuitive interface for both non-technical and technical roles to view the information stored in the central model repository. Using simple tools such as web-based internet search and drill-down, model diagram visualization, and graphical impact analysis, users can gain an over-arching view of the organization’s information assets and the inter-relationships between them.

Key to this solution is the ability to perform lineage and impact analysis so that users can easily assess the impact of change and assure the lineage of data being consumed. With this solution, various data stakeholder across the enterprise can utilize the collaborative authoring, review and approval workflow allowing data governance teams to create reusable data glossaries and metadata extensions to promote consistency across disparate data assets. Semantic and dataflow mappings as well as visual data configurations enable trace-ability and visibility across your data architecture.
Benefits

Providing a contextual and active data governance facility that is easily understood and actionable by the business is the key to ensuring your organization’s data is well managed and compliant with any and all internal and external regulation. erwin helps increase data quality and consistency through the managed reuse of common data standards. Our visual data modeling approach breaks down complexity and provides the context required for all stakeholders to take an active role in managing and governing the business data being consumed across the enterprise.

There is a direct correlation between enterprise data fluency and the ability to maximize the return on the opportunity that data represents in optimizing business operations and strategy. erwin provides a foundation and facility that enables the organizational mastery, visibility and agility required to effectively align any and all strategic data assets with the business they serve. Increasing the level of trust the business has in the data available will drive an increase in the impact that data has on the success the business.

At erwin, we break down the data management silos that naturally occur when new technology or new deployment models are adopted. By delivering a data modeling and governance solution that supports Any² data – Any Data, Stored Anywhere, we enable organizations to create a rigorous, contextual, and integrated enterprise data architecture that is easily understood and actionable to drive strategic data usage and business value. Additionally, erwin enables organizations to deliver a compliant data architecture while easing the burden or assuring and proving that compliance.
Next Steps

Consider erwin if you:

- have a complex data environment that’s requires better business alignment and accountability
- have a data governance initiative that requires a method of defining, approving, publishing and integrating the governance constructs throughout your data architecture
- need to collaborate with multiple audiences across the organization, particularly business users
- are considering undertaking an initiative around Big Data, the Cloud, ERP/CRM, Data Analytics and/or Master Data Management (MDM)

RELATED PRODUCTS/SOLUTIONS:

- **erwin Data Modeler Standard Edition**: conceptual, logical, physical and dimensional model creation and deployment
- **erwin Data Modeler Workgroup Edition**: repository based data modeler collaboration and model lifecycle management
- **erwin Data Modeler Navigator Edition**: read-only access for data model discovery and analysis
- **erwin Web Portal**: web-based collaboration platform to share models and metadata with stakeholders
- **erwin Data Governance**: web-based collaboration platform to share models and metadata with stakeholders and author and integrate data governance architectures and constructs
- **erwin Safyr Option for ERP**: metadata management and model creation for ERP and Cloud applications
- **erwin Cloudcore™**: SAAS based enterprise architecture and data modeling bundle
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