

Managing Information for Profit

How valuable is your business data?

How much value is your organisation extracting from its data?

Information and records kept by a business are probably more valuable and less accessible than any other business asset. Your information supply chain is an essential and ongoing business process.

Are you controlling data quality and compliance? Do you have the right management policy and systems in place? Is the purpose and meaning of information clear to business users?

Information adds value; storing meaningless data is a cost. There are many root causes of value loss. Some of the most common examples are:

- ❁ *Appropriate information is not integrated across the enterprise*
- ❁ *The business does not have direct control over its data and processes*
- ❁ *Imperfect or 'dirty' data is dysfunctional, costly to store and extremely costly to correct*

Increase Value

Taking raw data from your IT system and converting it into valuable business information, which is of use to those outside the IT department, is a niche skill and ongoing management process. Are the management procedures in place to take care of this process?

If your answer is no, AKMA resolves this problem using their four step process.

AKMA's proven Information Management System service prevents the almost inevitable loss of data value which is seen in organisations throughout the world.

Recent changes in legislation, regulation and directives surrounding business processes, financial information, data storage and management, pose real risks and possible imprisonment to those who do not comply.

Examples include:

- ❁ *Data Protection Act*
- ❁ *Freedom of Information Act*
- ❁ *Basel II*
- ❁ *Sarbanes-Oxley Act*
- ❁ *Retention of Communications Data Code of Practice*
- ❁ *Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations*

The spotlight is on the visibility and disclosure of business operations and data more than ever before.

Case Study

A six year, pan European SAP rollout project to provide an enterprise wide, fully integrated resource planning system approaches completion. Now, with a common way of working on a single platform the entire supply to sales chain is fully integrated.

This multi-million pound endeavor promised a rapid return on investment...until something went wrong. An innocent data input error at one end spelt business disaster at the other. A clear example of the importance of information and data quality management systems.

The business needed to change as sales regions merged, new suppliers brought new transaction procedures and compliance regulation demanded new controls. At this point, the new platform appeared rigid, inflexible and as if it was about to cost an enormous amount in maintenance.

This would not be necessary with an agile, adaptive layer that allowed business model changes to become immediately clear. They really needed an ongoing information management process and system - instead of moving from one capital intensive IT project to the next.