

CHECKLIST

Data has a better idea

**Where to start your
data management journey?**



LINKIT
BUILDING IT TOGETHER



A checklist in three phases

Chances are pretty high you are reading this because you want to get value and useful insights from your company data. You are not alone in this journey, more and more organisations are using the power of data while managing data in an effective and auditable way.

Data management impacts many parts of your organisation: from operations to sales, R&D and upper management. This checklist will help you to get insights into setting up and implementing your data management strategy, which may result in choosing or building a data platform or another data solution. This list will help your company to take data-driven decisions faster in a reliable way. It is divided in three important phases: the **challenge**, the **expertise** and the **execution** phase.

It's often easy to come up with ideas, a vision and a master strategy that sounds great in the boardroom but are difficult to implement. Don't get us wrong, you should have them, but you need to be able to make it more concrete when defining your data management strategy.

1 Defining and prioritizing use cases

By defining and prioritizing one use case to start with, you will be able to kick off your data management journey with fast results. This enables you to learn about the technologies and change management involved and gives the rest of your company time to get enthusiastic about the possibilities of data management.

"Being clear on the goals prevents overengineering and therefore speeds up the process."

2 Identify your stakeholders and involve them in the process early

Keeping your key users involved ensures fast feedback, therefore resulting in a good fit with the implemented solution. Involving stakeholders from the start also boosts the user adoption in the end.

3 Establish clear goals and KPIs

Clear goals help to give your solution focus. This prevents overengineering and therefore speeds up the development process. These goals can both be technical as well as business related. What is important in data management is that although it differs per organization, there are specific common functionalities and performance requirements you should aim for.

CHALLENGE

EXPERTISE

EXECUTION

How much do you know about building and implementing a data management strategy? For most companies the answer will be little to nothing.

“Improving your data management does not only require a bunch of qualified experts, but also the right tooling.”

At LINKIT we have a massive team of over 1000 IT professionals, consisting of both our own staff as well as freelancers, who can deliver almost any expertise you need. Data trainings can be delivered on request as well.

1

Finding the right expertise



The exact expertise depends on the use case(s) you want to tackle. Is there a focus on creating dashboards or doing data analytics? To define and implement a data management strategy, you will probably need the following experts:

- Data engineers (who are difficult to find)
- Big Data Architect
- Data Scientists / Analysts
- BI consultants
- A Scrum master
- Business stakeholders (product owner)

Do you want to know what an experienced data engineer can and should do for you? [Read in this article.](#)

2

Finding the right tools

Qualified experts are only one piece of the puzzle. Right tooling is another. You will need to consider the following:

- Your current IT infrastructure (on-prem, Cloud)
- Required Storage and databases
- BI Tooling
- Analytics components
- Logging and Monitoring tooling
- Identity management tooling

We created an expert guide for you to assist with choosing the right tools. Take a look at our ‘arsenal of tools’ for a more detailed overview of the tooling required with some extra tips from our data experts.



Check out
our videos
on our
YouTube
channel
to learn more



Consider governance and security needs

Data governance and security are the most important topics in any data management strategy. You need to keep this in mind from the very start and have a plan to handle personal data affected by GDPR legislation and valuable company data you want to protect. For an efficient start discuss the classification of your data.

CHALLENGE

EXPERTISE

EXECUTION

After setting your challenges straight and finding the right expertise and tools, it's now time to put your plan in motion. Our advice : take small steps, keep your work processes flexible and when possible go for quick wins first.



It's always smart to start with **Proof of Concept**

A PoC is your safety check. We want to know as early as possible if your use case is feasible, viable and applicable in practice. Building a PoC provides valuable input and functions as a starting point for further development.

***"It rarely happens that a plan makes
it to the finish 100 percent intact.
Working agile makes it possible to steer
while driving."***



Think about training and operations from the start

You can choose to do the support and maintenance of the new environment yourself or to work together with a third party. Do you want to deliver the support? Make sure that you train your team early on. This ensures that you have the right skills inhouse by the time the implementation is finished. Do you prefer external support, plan a moment during the implementation to discuss your needs in time before you go live.

Do you want to know how LINKIT can help? Then read our article on the benefits of sharing knowledge.



Evaluate and making next steps!



By implementing the first use case you now have a proper basis. However, this is only a starting point. Adding use cases and data sources over time will help you extend your data management to support more parts of your organisation. From Sales to Finance, R&D as well as operations. By evaluating your goals and KPIs you know what to build next. We wish you a great journey!

Any questions?

Do you want to dive deeper into setting up a data management strategy? Or would you like to have a creative session to explore ways to take the next data management step for your company? Get in touch with one of our experts below.



Agile working works!

It rarely happens that the initial plan reaches the finish without any changes. During development the team will discover unforeseen problems, or maybe developers or stakeholders come up with brilliant new ideas you directly want to implement. Working agile, with short cycles while involving business from the start, makes it possible to steer while driving.



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