

LEARNING BRIEF

What is a Data Governance Organization Structure?

Defined: A Data Governance Organization Structure includes roles that influence or leverage fundamental aspects of data and analytics within the business.



An organization's structure can include:

- 1 Data Governance Executive Sponsor
- 2 Data Governance Office Lead
- 3 Data Governance Analyst
- 4 Data Governance Partner Organization
- 5 Data Governance Council

We at CCG recommend a Data Governance Council as the dedicated steering committee, driven by the business with leadership representation from IT and data department areas. While the makeup of a Data Governance Council varies by type of organization, level of technical expertise, and the number of people at the organization, there are main categories of roles that best suit this group.

ROLES WITHIN A DATA GOVERNANCE COUNCIL CAN INCLUDE:

- > Data Governance Council Leader
- > Strategic Advisor/ C-Suite Sponsor
- > Data Stewards from each domain area
- > Data Owners from each domain area
- > Data Architect (Data Management team member)
- > Compliance specialist





Description: Simplified version of hierarchy of functions within a Data Governance Organizational Structure. Credit: CCG Analytics



WHAT DOES A DATA GOVERNANCE COUNCIL DO?

In ideal situations, an organization would already have an existing Data Governance Strategy and Roadmap in place. However, if an organization does not, that would be the committee's first and arguably most important step. This can be done by identifying critical things that you need to implement or get their data under control.

Generally, however, the committee will be writing the policies and procedures, ensuring adherence to the policies and procedures, developing workflows to support system development lifecycle patterns, and overseeing/managing the overall data strategy in general. So, they're very much an authoritative and decision-making body, but they're not as tactical.

HOW OFTEN DOES A DATA GOVERNANCE COUNCIL MEET?

It's important to remember the objective of a Data Governance council, which is to make critical decisions to the use, storage, maintenance, and disposal of enterprises' data. Data Governance Councils tend to hold five to seven voting members, but it is contingent on the size organization.

A Data Governance Council typically meets once a month or a few times a quarter. For topics like membership or team makeup, conversations happen as needed or once annually.

Learn more about Data Governance with our blog: [What Data Governance is Not: Top Misconceptions for Establishing a Data Governance Program.](#)

