

EPA Data Governance Council

Meeting Summary – July 26, 2021

Chief Data Officer (CDO) Updates

- Review the status of ongoing activities on the DGC Updates tab of the DGC Team site.
- The IT Portfolio Review data discussions are almost complete. Thank you to everyone who participated. The next step is to analyze the information captured in the data discussions.
- The Metadata Management COTS Analysis Workgroup will begin testing software from the final two vendors beginning on August 2, 2021. Email Andrew Washburn by Friday, July 30, 2021, if you are interested in testing.

Data Skills Assessment

- The Data Skills Survey has been closed. Overall participation included 2,265 responses. Of the 2,265 responses, 2,015 were submitted and 650 were incomplete.
- The Assessment Team has conducted an initial analysis in a Qlik Dashboard. The analysis includes only the 2,015 submitted surveys. A link to the Qlik Dashboard will be shared on the DGC Team site this week.
- Please provide any feedback on the dashboard to Janet Kremer.
- Note: You must be on the VPN to access the Qlik dashboard.
- More advanced, statistical analysis will be conducted in R.

Data Strategy Discussion

- The objective of the discussion is to understand underlying interpretations and barriers to inform the Agency's data strategy.
- Discussion questions include:
 - How do you define the value of data?
 - How does data create value in your work?
 - What issues have you faced in making decisions with data?
 - What issues do you face when communicating with data?
- Highlights from the group discussion:
 - The value of data is in its ability to answer questions and allow for informed decision making.
 - Data allows you to provide evidence, believability and trust, both internally and externally. You must have trust internally as the foundation for gaining external trust.
 - Data provides new insights and allows us to solve mission problems.
 - The Agency can increase the value of data by reducing redundancy. Data are being recreated at the staff level when they could just be referenced from another source.
 - USGS has a good model of making data discoverable and available.
 - Region 5 also has a great process that we should leverage.
 - Data must be understandable and relatable.
 - The value of data is tied to the process it serves.
 - Valuable data has context around it and quality parameters.
 - The timeliness of data is critical.