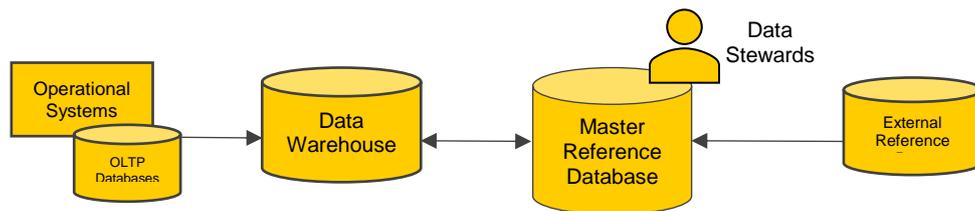




Master Data Management

Master data management (MDM) solutions reconcile and manage “golden records” in an organisation, such as customers, accounts, products and suppliers (to name a few). When taking on an MDM challenge, the primary decision to make is on which side of the business to affect changes – the operational or analytics side.

Operational MDMs are real-time in nature and rely on online service bus architectures (SOA) and custom back-end system integration. These systems typically involve an end-to-end rework of both operational IT systems and the business processes they support. The benefit of this approach is that all data is available for online consumption and the organisation can use it as a driver for other digital projects, such as mobile application development.



Analytical Master Data Architecture¹

A second approach, Analytical MDMs, are more appropriate for organisations that are focused on analytical outcomes. Analytical mastering involves reconciling “golden records” from existing disparate source systems on a batch basis. The approach has the following key benefits:

- Low impact on operational source systems
- Resolution is made post-fact in the data warehouse

Analytical MDMs are a solid way to jump start an Operational MDM as it addresses the key step of consolidating and cleaning customer records.

The steps involved in undertaking an analytical mastering solution would be tailored to each client, but would generally entail the following stages and steps:

High-Level Stages and Steps for Establishing an Analytical MDM solution

Stages	Step	High-Level Tasks
Analysis & Design	Understand reference and master data management challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold brainstorming workshops with business stakeholders • Identify and analyze business unit’s key business entities (i.e. customers, accounts, products, suppliers, etc.)
	Define and maintain the data architecture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagram out the current state of data landscape • Define a to-be integration architecture • Update and maintain the existing organisation data architecture (as required)
	Establish the “golden record” definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess “golden records” field requirements and metadata for each
	Identify matching rules between entities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess differing system reference formats that will be used for matching purposes.
	Develop to-be data model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess any required hierarchies and relationships between entities • Develop a logical and physical data model

¹ DAMA Data Management Body of Knowledge v2



Develop	Establish Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision server infrastructure • Procure, install and license software. Look to leverage existing software licenses. • Implement data connectors to internal and external sources
	Source and consolidate "golden records"	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage and load "golden records" from disparate source system • Reconcile mis-matched entities using data quality tools and through interactions with business users.
	Replicate and distribute reference and master data into a data repository	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement updates to operational systems through data connections or API interfaces (as required). • Publish master data reference data to analytical systems • Testing for both development and user acceptance testing
Transition	Manage changes to reference and master data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handover the operation of the master data management system to business users • Provide for end user training

Proposal / Call to action

Ilion are looking to help financial services organisations optimise their return of investment in data centred around financial products and services. Our executive team have extensive experience in financial analysis for banks, credit risk and stress testing and data management. We see a overlap in these areas that provide a sweet spot for a return on investment made.

When you are working on your next financial analytical undertaking, please don't hesitate to call us. We would be happy to help to find a solution that is optimal for your organisation.

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