



WBSCM UPDATE

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FEATURE

WBSCM Readiness: Data Governance

The previous issues of the WBSCM Update featured the agencies' Go-Live collaborative activities focused on getting the WBSCM user community ready and prepared for WBSCM.

The WBSCM team (USDA, USAID and SRA) continue to execute WBSCM testing, training, data maintenance and governance activities.

The four USDA agencies (AMS, FSA, FNS, and FAS) along with USAID are responsible for managing all WBSCM data. The establishment and management of a data governance framework will ensure the integrity, accuracy, and interoperability of the current and future WBSCM enterprise data.

Data Governance



WBSCM data governance is an organizational structure that oversees the broad use and usability of WBSCM enterprise data through a framework of policies, standards, and guidelines.

The mission of the WBSCM Data Governance Plan is to accomplish the following:

1. Proactively define/align business rules.
2. Provide ongoing, boundary-spanning protection and services to data stakeholders.
3. React to and resolve issues arising from non-compliance with business rules.
4. Track, evaluate, and maintain essential changes to data policies and procedures.
5. Managing and standardizing master data such as vendor list, commodities, etc...

Data governance focuses on enterprise data and on answering the following questions:

- What is critical organizational data?
- What is the system of record?
- Who are the key data stakeholders?
- Who may (or may not) have access to the data?
- What levels of data access are permitted?
- What are the service levels for data entry?

Why Establish Data Governance?

Establishing standard operating procedures and establishing data standards for WBSCM across the five agencies is critical for WBSCM and provides many benefits including the following:

- Improves data quality
- Improves system security
- Meets internal and external regulations
- Facilitates cross agency communications and decision making regarding data

Data Stewardship

Data stewardship is a high-level formal organizational framework that assigns roles and responsibilities for WBSCM enterprise data to appropriate individuals. Through these roles and responsibilities, individuals and the organizations to which they belong are empowered as stewards, not owners, of data. Data stewards are responsible for managing data in the best interest of the WBSCM system by promoting accountability for data and promoting efficient collaboration.

Data Stewardship Objectives

Data stewardship involves establishing an organizational framework to facilitate data sharing, establishing data quality standards and processes, and supporting the maturation of data and data management practices.

Establishing stewardship for WBSCM data will enable the achievement of certain objectives:

- Identification and resolution of data sharing barriers within and among the agencies while ensuring the protection of such data as defined by data policies and business rules
- Identification of data quality issues and resolutions, thereby ensuring high-quality data
- Development of standard processes and procedures to meet data policies, standards, requirements, and guidelines
- Establishment of a climate of collaboration and transparent communications among the agencies and other data stakeholders

How Do You Monitor Data?

Establishing data quality standards and processes that are championed by the data stewards and users of the WBSCM system is a key component to preserving the quality of data. Examples of other metrics that can be used to monitor data are described in the table below.

Metric	Description	How Measured
Accuracy	Does the data accurately represent reality or a verifiable source?	Audit
Integrity	Do broken links exist between data that should be related?	Profiling/Business Rules
Consistency	Is there a single representation of the data?	Profiling/Business Rules
Completeness	Is any key data missing?	Profiling/Business Rules
Validity	Is the data stored in an acceptable format and contain valid values?	Profiling/Business Rules
Accessibility	Is the data easily accessible, understandable, and consistent?	Survey
Timeliness	Is the data recorded and made available quickly?	Survey

Data Governance and Other Data Activities

As part of the ongoing WBSCM data activities, data cleansing practices will provide accurate data for ongoing data maintenance and governance.

Data cleansing is an approach that will convert legacy transaction data from PCIMS and satellite systems to the WBSCM system.

The data cleansing process includes many aspects of the data, such as:

- Removing duplicate records
- Identifying translation tables that need to be built in WBSCM
- Making sure legacy fields conform to industry standards

Proper data cleansing is a critical Go-live success factor. Incorrect or incomplete data will impact users, cause costly delays, and create a cascading effect on external systems using WBSCM data.

Addressing Transactional Data

USDA/USAID team members have been focusing on cleansing the data from the existing “legacy” systems. These cleansing activities have included:

- Updating and standardizing name and address information and other key information
- Determining active vs. inactive status for master data records
- Gathering data to support new WBSCM functionality
- Closing open transactions in PCIMS

WBSCM team members have focused on mapping transactional data and testing of load programs. Load programs are a combination of utilities written in SAP’s Legacy System Migration Workbench (LSMW) scripting language and custom code that transform and insert legacy data objects into their mapped counterparts within SAP. These activities address the location of the legacy data in WBSCM. Then transactional data will be loaded and validated to support User Acceptance Testing (UAT).

What’s Next: Mock Load Testing

The WBSCM team will kick off their Mock Load testing within the next few months. As data is loaded into the system, the USDA/USAID users that are responsible for validation of data will practice and hone their validation procedures and tools. This also allows the team to test load performance and timing to improve the scheduling of our activities for the actual cutover.

New to WBSCM?

If you are new to the WBSCM team, you can go online and view the [WBSCM Overview Course](#) . This course is available by selecting the link above. This link will take you to the WBSCM home page on the FSA web site and is public and accessible to everyone. Topics include WBSCM overview, technologies, basics of the SAP order process, and the program timeline.



What’s My Role?

You can gain more insight and awareness into WBSCM functionality through the viewing of online demonstrations (over 30 simulations are available) and general WBSCM information in preparation for training. All WBSCM information is found on AGNISX or agency-specified sites.

STATUS CORNER

The list of playbacks to date can be found in previous editions of the WBSCM Update on the WBSCM Program Website. Recent Testing project activities and updates include the following:

- ❖ USDA is establishing Thread Test support teams in preparation for UAT
- ❖ Thread Test support teams are currently receiving training in HP Quality Center



DID YOU KNOW?

...USDA Assists American Samoans
[Following the Tsunami](#)

....the [Number of Farmers Markets](#) Grows to
More Than 5,200 Nationwide

.....USDA's [Farm Service Agency](#) Announces
New \$1.1 Million Maximum Guaranteed Loan
Amount



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WBSCM Terminology

Legacy Systems: refers to the aging Processed Commodity Inventory Management System (PCIMS) and the Commodity Operation System (COS) that includes the electronic order and bid entry systems (ECOS, DBES, ETS, LTCS, FARES, EBES, FBES, PVS and PES).

Data Cleansing: is an approach of detecting and correcting corrupt or inaccurate data.

Transactional Data: refers to work-in-process (WIP) data. Examples include open purchase orders, invoices, checks, receipt of goods, and issue of goods.

User Acceptance Testing (UAT): tests the accuracy of WBSCM in a controlled Systems Integration Testing (SIT) environment and specifically tests the business requirements, reporting capabilities, and system readiness to transition to production.



NEXT MONTH

We will feature the various agencies' activities focused on "WBSCM Go-live Readiness".



ASK US

We'd appreciate your thoughts and feedback! Please email any WBSCM questions or suggestions you have to:

WBSCM@kcc.usda.gov

You can find more WBSCM information on the [WBSCM Program Web site](#).