



Why Data Integration?

Most companies have data. Companies with large amounts of data usually organize the data into one or more database(s). These repositories of company knowledge, whether in organized database(s), a file structure, or a collection of files, can be referred to as data stores.

At **DbaseNOW!, Inc.**, we call moving data between data stores “Data Integration”. There are many terms in this industry that mean almost the same thing.

Here is a partial list:

Data Migration: Moving data from one data store to another.

Data Conversion: moving data from one data store and changing the data to be compatible with the target data store as you move it.

Data Integration: Moving data between data stores (Two or more) and changing data formats as needed.

Application Integration: Making two or more programs share data.

ETL: (Extraction Transformation And Loading) A generic acronym for data conversion.

EAI: (Enterprise Application Integration) A generic acronym for moving data between two programs.

All these terms can be confusing even to industry insiders. People use them as if they mean the same thing, and most companies that can do one type can with varying degrees of success do the others. Understanding who is good at what helps you avoid risk.

DbaseNOW! uses the term “Data Integration” because our tools can move data in one or more directions. Our *DbaseNOWtm* tools can also “talk” to applications to share data that way.

Risk

Whenever you have to move data from one place to another there is risk: Risk of losing some of your data, risk of losing access to the data, and risk that some of the programs you use to run your business will lose functionality. Understanding the risks is important because that allows you to prepare for those risks, and mitigate, or completely avoid those risks.



Why do companies move data?

Companies move data for a variety of reasons. Mergers, acquisitions, software upgrades, multiple vendors supplying software that holds similar data, and data mining are a few of the reasons a company may need to integrate data.

How do companies mitigate risk?

1. Planning:

Companies avoid risks by planning their Data Integration. A project plan will show what data will be moved where. When you know what will be moved, you can find out what systems will be affected by the move. When you know what systems will be affected by the move, you can plan for minimal impact on those systems. Planning will keep the systems up and running while being updated.

2. Tools:

Tools can make or break an Integration. Tools can be tested on copies of the data, and problems can be eliminated that would be disasters in a live run. Tools can speed up development so that you have time to consider more options. Tools are more robust than code written for one-time use. Tools should run faster than a custom piece of code.

3. Reports:

Reports tell you if you have what you wanted. The proper reports can mean the difference between being done, and going back to the old database and moving more data later. Reports defined as the plan is being made are the best reports.

4. Systems:

Companies that have successful data migrations use all these techniques to mitigate their risks. When combined with experience all these methods for mitigating risk form a system that results in faster migrations, more reliable data, and a better ROI-Which is the reason you performed the Data Integration in the first place.

5. Team:

Businesses that have been through a migration often require an outsider in order to keep politics out of the Data Integration and as a fail-safe in planning; even if their own personnel are performing the migration.



How do I know if my company needs a data migration?

- Have you acquired, or been acquired by a competitor in the last five years?
- Do you have more than one person in your company entering the same data?
- Have you ever been told, “We can’t build a report that does that”?
- Are you thinking of changing software vendors?
- Do you have more than one data store?
- Do you have data that is entered into two systems?

If you answered yes to one or more of these questions, you may need a data migration. If you want to know more, visit us at <http://www.globaltechhldgs.com/data-integration.html> to make an appointment via our online contact form, for a demo of our tools, or contact us at **(347) 878-5388**.