Data Strategy, Governance & Advisory Services

Modernise   Manage   Monetise

About Agile Solutions

Agile Solutions is a UK based Data & Technology consultancy, providing a range of Data Management, Analytics and Cloud Computing services, with offices in Milton Keynes, Manchester, and Glasgow.

We work with SMB, Mid-Market and Enterprise clients across a wide variety of industries, including the wider public sector including central and local government. some examples of our clients include the Department for Education, Department for Work & Pensions, the Gambling Commission and UK Export Finance.

Our key differentiator and our strength is in our people. As a business we specialise in data but it's the broad range of skills exemplified by our team that makes us a truly unique data partner. Our Technology skills sets, project management, consultancy and commercial awareness enable our team to deliver projects that go beyond our client's expectations.

Working with Technology partners such as Microsoft, AWS, Informatica, AWS and Snowflake, we help businesses to Modernize and get ahead of their competitors by harnessing emerging technology, people and process trends. We help Manage customers data by ensuring it is always reliable and ready to power their business and create a competitive advantage with new data driven solutions by Monetizing customers data.

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Developing a Data Strategy

We will define a plan and approach that will ensure your organisation builds the capabilities required to harness the power of data to achieve business objectives, drive innovation, and gain control.

Our G Cloud 14 Data Strategy, Governance & Advisory Services provide our customers with end-to-end support across their projects, building trust in their data.

Features
- Alignment with business objectives and future vision
- Data Culture and literacy development
- Capability building aligned to future vision
- Deliver value quickly, focussed by KPI or use case
- Measurement and continuous improvement, judge your maturity against your plans
- Extensible and sustainable data architecture and infrastructure
- Integration and interoperability across departments, teams and workstreams
- Action focussed analytics and insights
- Data governance in accordance with strategy
- Data security and privacy by design

Benefits
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Case Study

Problem Statement

A public sector body recognised that data had become a barrier to effective change, preventing the realisation of strategic objectives. They found that a lack of a cohesive strategy was hindering decision-making and adversely impacting operational efficiencies.

Solution

The client worked closely with us to align their corporate objectives with their desire to improve citizen experience utilising prioritised, actionable plans that would deliver the data capabilities required to become data driven.

Outcome

We delivered a strategy that is at the heart of the organisation's digital journey, the plans enacted already are improving data quality and increasing trust daily.

Case Study

Problem Statement

A client needed to rationalise the various data initiatives that were underway across different parts of the organisation and ensure that they were creating the right tools and platforms to support the adoption of data democratisation and open data.

Solution

The client worked closely with us to align their corporate objectives with their desire to support open data utilising prioritised, actionable plans that would deliver the data capabilities required to become democratised.

Outcome

We delivered a strategy that is at the heart of the organisation's digital journey, the plans enacted already are improving access to trusted data.

Implementing Strong Data Governance

The foundation of good data is data governance, establishing accountability and control to deliver not only compliance but reliable, accessible data.

Features

- Data governance in accordance with strategy
- Data culture and literacy-driven transformation and change
- Data policy management and compliance auditing
- Data quality management
- Metadata management
- Definition, classification and sensitivity
- Ownership, stewardship and accountability
- Data usage, access and provisioning
- Data councils and communities of practice
- Data security, privacy

Benefits

- Maximised return on data investments
- Improved data quality
- Enhanced data security
- Increased regulatory compliance
- Greater data transparency
- Optimised data management processes
- Enhanced data culture
- Reduction in data TCO
- Reduction in data silos
- Enhanced downstream processes, such as analytics and reporting

Case study

Problem Statement

A government department recognised that data had become a barrier to effective change, preventing the realisation of strategic objectives. They found that a lack of a robust governance framework was hindering decision-making and adversely impacting operational efficiencies.

Solution

The client worked closely with us to establish a centralised data governance function which streamlined data management processes and ensured consistency across the department and to implement a sustainable governance framework.

Outcome

We delivered a framework that was focussed on removing silos, ensuring consistency and compliance.

Case study

Problem Statement

A client needed to mitigate the data risks it was facing as well as reducing the cost of data ownership. Many data users were adversely affected by poorly controlled untrusted data, and this was contributing to waste across the business.

Solution

The client worked closely with us to create a framework that met their objectives and was focussed on democratising data whilst reducing costs and risks.

Outcome

We implemented a data governance framework that promotes collaboration and trust whilst removing risks, duplication and redundancy.

DAMA Maturity Assessment

The first step in the journey to better data is to assess where your organisation is now compared to where you want to be. We benchmark your scores against industry best practice to provide further insight into your data journey.

Features

- Alignment with established data management frameworks
- Establishes criteria across multiple data management aspects for evaluation
- Assess the maturity level of the organisation
- Assigns a scoring mechanism to compute the maturity level
- Gap analysis reports created off the back of maturity level
- Best Practice Guidance to enhance maturity level score
- Benchmark assessment results against industry competitors
- Designed to continually improve organisations approach to data management

Benefits

- Aligns with data management frameworks, ensuring consistent practices across organisations
- Evaluates diverse data management aspects, offering a comprehensive assessment
- Allows organisations to track the progress of data maturity
- Suggests actionable suggestions for improving data management practices
- Supports improved data-driven decision-making and business outcomes
- Strengthens data governance practices and compliance

Case study

Problem Statement

A client undertaking a multi-year strategy to modernise its analytics and data platforms was keen to understand progress, mitigate technical debt and to gain insight into the developing data culture.

Solution

Agile Solutions conducted an in-depth evaluation of their systems, practices and plans. We interviewed 30 people across the organisation, from executive stakeholders to operational staff. We were able to assess their maturity against DAMA best practices and identify risks and capability gaps that needed to be addressed.

Outcome

Based on our recommendations, the client was able to adjust course and refocus on value generating activity.

Case study

Problem Statement

Before undertaking a multi-year transformation programme, our client wanted to understand the state of data across its business.

Solution

Agile Solutions conducted an in-depth evaluation of their current systems, practices and plans. We were able to assess their maturity against DAMA best practices and identify areas of weakness and lack of capability, providing a strategy and roadmap to support the wider programme.

Outcome

We delivered a maturity benchmark and roadmap focussed on priority activities that delivered value quickly. The baseline benchmark supports the continual measurement of maturity as capability is delivered and the data strategy evolves.

Creating a Target Operating Model for Data

We create data target operating models that enable your organisation to operate more efficiently, drive sustainable growth, adapt to change and create long-term value. Our consultants create models that are fit for purpose, align with your strategic goals and address the key issues of standardisation, risk management, regulatory compliance and consumer experience.

Features

- Operational strategy to align both functional and data strategy objectives
- Gap analysis to establish dependencies and impact of change
- Value model to capture and illustrate required services
- Tangible set of structural views around which to generate discussion.
- TOM Implementation timeline and roadmap
- Communications package to build consensus and obtain buy-in

Benefits

- Establishes the gaps between current and target states
- Identifies the capabilities required to achieve the target state
- Allows change to be implemented in an agile manner
- Ensures minimal service interruption during change
- Provides a common understanding of the organisation
- Creates opportunities for strategic cost reductions
- Improves data literacy, encouraging organisational culture to become data-driven
- Enables planning for an effective education and recruitment strategy

Case study

Problem Statement

A public sector body recognised that data had become a barrier to effective change, preventing the realisation of strategic objectives. They found that a lack of a cohesive operating model was hindering decision-making and adversely impacting operational efficiencies.

Solution

The client worked closely with us to align their corporate objectives with their desire to improve citizen experience utilising a target operating model that would deliver the data capabilities required to become data driven.

Outcome

We delivered an operating model that is at the heart of the organisation's digital journey, the plans enacted already are improving data quality and increasing trust daily.

Case study

Problem Statement

A client needed to rationalise various data initiatives that were underway across different parts of the organisation and ensure that they were creating the right tools to support the adoption of data democratisation.

Solution

The client worked closely with us to align their corporate objectives with their desire to support open data utilising a consistent target operating model that would deliver the data capabilities required to become democratised across the entire organisation.

Outcome

We delivered a target operating model that is at the heart of the organisation's digital journey, the plans enacted already are improving access to trusted data.

Data Literacy and Data Culture – Change Management

At the heart of any data initiative are people who are engaged and passionate about data. Our consultants are adept at the sharing and promotion of knowledge and understanding that create a buzzing data culture, driven by people that can use data to drive insightful actions.

Features

- Training and comms programmes to increase knowledge of data
- Build momentum and Develop Data Strategy consensus
- Thought Leadership
- Communications to increase inclusion and buy-in
- Data Management Culture change initiatives
- Data Literacy, Skills and Education and enablement
- Increase engagement and involvement
- Create a 'buzz' about data
- Overcome fear of change

Benefits

- Change is a planned and managed process
- Helps to align existing resources within the organisation
- The time needed to implement change is reduced
- The possibility of unsuccessful change is reduced
- Increased return on investment (ROI)
- Increased effectiveness with confident and knowledgeable employees
- Waste is reduced

Case study

Problem Statement

Our client felt that they weren't achieving some of the gains they expected during a transformation programme. Root cause analysis identified data culture was weak and literacy was low, resulting in sub-optimal use of new analytics tools.

Solution

We worked with a wide network of stakeholders through formal training and 'drop in' sessions to build a general understanding of data.

Outcome

Engagement increased across the business and attitudes to data changed over the course of the work. More teams requested access to data tools and the use of analytics is becoming more usual as skills evolve.

Case study

Problem Statement

As part of a multi-year data strategy, our client wanted to upskill its staff and ensure that everyone could benefit from the goal of being data driven.

Solution

Using our bespoke training, featuring a range of engaging and informative training materials, staff underwent a data literacy programme that aimed to offer upskilling to everyone, regardless of starting level.

Outcome

Our programme was rolled out across the organisation, supported by regular comms and feedback.

Chief Data Office Setup

Unlock the full potential of data by initiating a chief data office to guide the innovation and collaboration required to establish strategy, mitigate risk, engage stakeholders, secure and govern data and promote data culture. The Chief Data Office establishes the foundations to accelerate the delivery of advanced analytics, machine learning and visualisation.

Features

- Strategic leadership, planning, vision and business alignment for data
- Change Management and transformation
- Data Governance Framework implementation and centre of excellence
- Data quality assurance
- Data policy compliance and oversight
- Data controls
- Performance management
- Data KPIs
- Data culture and data literacy development
- Data capability planning and delivery

Benefits

- Unified Data Strategy
- Demonstrable and measurable business value
- Increased transparency, consistency and quality of data
- Improved usage of established data practices
- Strategic data investments in infrastructure, technology and talent
- Effective resource allocation to achieve planned outcomes
- Increased and improved maturity
- Flourishing data culture
- Central to enhancing the customer and employee experience of data
- Accelerated data analytics and AI initiatives

Case study

Problem Statement

A government department needed to galvanise collaboration and establish an overarching approach to data that worked for everyone. They wanted to remove barriers to effective decision-making and drive down the costs and risks associated with their data estate.

Solution

They worked alongside us establishing their vision and strategy, developing their target operating model and engaging with the wider stakeholder network to positively drive policy and data culture.

Outcome

The chief data office is a keystone of data governance, management and culture – data users find it easier to achieve their data goals with the consistent service provided by the CDO.

Case study

Problem Statement

Having implemented data governance in various teams over time, our client was finding it difficult to maintain consistency across a widely federated model. They were also finding it difficult to measure the return on investment when the approach was diffused throughout the company.

Solution

They worked alongside us to bring together their established practices into a single, centralised CDO whilst maintaining links to their local governance teams, who remained responsible for the delivery of data management and governance within their regions.

Outcome

The chief data office is a centre of excellence, providing assurance and oversight across the company.

Business Glossary and Data Catalogue

These data products are vital assets for any data journey. We have the expertise to develop glossaries and catalogues that close the gap between teams, bringing consistency and agreement across the organisation. We are passionate in our deliveries, leaving customers with useful products that are at the very foundations of data governance.

Features

- Collect knowledge
- Develop trust in data and results
- Incorporate data privacy governance
- Measure and analyse your data
- Visualise end to end data lineage
- Collaborative business glossary
- Empower data-driven decision making
- Connect and catalog any data asset
- Associate business terms to technical assets
- AI-assisted collaboration

Benefits

- Facilitate knowledge transfer across communities
- Automate data curation and enhance user experience
- Support compliance with regulations such as GDPR
- Identify dependencies, gaps and overlaps, and collaboration opportunities
- Visualise and expose impacts, dependencies, duplication, and more
- Provide a consistent source of business context across multiple tools
- Easily integrate into your environment and consume catalog content anywhere
- Scan metadata and compute lineage, all at big data scale
- Get complete tracking of data movement and detailed impact analysis
- Eliminate manual associations of business terms to technical data assets

Case study

Problem Statement

A public sector body identified that disparate definitions and terminology across its data estate were causing inconsistencies and data quality issues in many business systems.

Solution

Agile worked with stakeholders across the business to establish the cataloguing process where data terms were on-boarded and approved, ensuring that the agreed minimum standard for metadata was collected for each term, e.g. name, meaning, format, allowable values and source system of authority.

Outcome

By collaborating across the stakeholder network, we were able to deliver a data glossary and catalogue that formed the basis of the drive for data quality improvements.

Case study

Problem Statement

A large utility was struggling to manage ever increasing data quality issues affecting many business systems which was creating difficulties for its transformation programme.

Solution

Agile worked with stakeholders to identify the 'right' data cataloguing tool and then we developed the processes and implemented the governance framework to ensure that the critical data elements shared across business systems were properly catalogued.

Outcome

The data catalogue and business glossary are at the heart of the data transformation, removing silos, bringing clarity and understanding to many transformation tasks and ultimately driving significant quality improvements.

Vendor Review and Selection

Our expertise and unique insight into the digital marketplace ensure that we are well-placed to identify the right tools for our customers. We play close attention, not just to business requirements but also to strategic alignment, choosing vendors whose values and goals align with those of our customers.

Features

- Kick-Off and requirements definition
- Defined technology prioritisation, roadmap and timeline plan
- Market industry research and first vendor filtering
- Request for Proposal (RfP) definition, scoring, evaluation and support
- Procurement and commercial support
- Evaluation and adoption strategies for emergent and disruptive technologies

Benefits

- Enables selection of fit for purpose data platform tooling
- Control cost, scope and adoption of the data platform
- Provides latest analyst views of vendors in comparative markets
- Enables stakeholders to rapidly compare features, functionality, and price
- Ensures commercial alignment to Value for Money outcomes

Case study

Problem Statement

A large utility faced data silos, poor data and low levels of automation. They recognised that they needed to consider tools to support their digital journey.

Solution

We conducted a comprehensive vendor selection process, engaging with stakeholders to establish business requirements and priorities. Using our evaluation framework to assess vendor capabilities, compatibility, aligned with client needs to ensure the best tool was selected.

Outcome

We were able to identify the right tool and assist in the implementation and configuration. Using the tool, we streamlined data processes and removed data silos, significantly reducing the impact of data issues.

Case study

Problem Statement

A government department recognised the need for data governance tooling due to the size and complexity of its data estate. They needed help to clarify requirements, assist in tool selection and establish the onboarding journey.

Solution

A thorough process followed, to establish business requirements and priorities which was assessed using our evaluation framework.

Outcome

We were able to identify the right tool, determine the best way to onboard and develop knowledge transfer initiatives to increase data literacy and buy-in. Using the tool, we streamlined data processes and removed data silos, significantly reducing the impact of data issues.

FinOps

FinOps, short for financial operations, is a management practice that promotes shared responsibility for an organization's cloud computing infrastructure and costs.

Responsible for designing, managing and optimizing cloud infrastructure to achieve cost-effectiveness, performance, reliability while ensuring the security and compliance of cloud environments. FinOps Responsibilities include: Cloud Infrastructure Management. Application and Services Deployment.

Features

- Analyse and track cloud spending
- Identify cost-saving opportunities
- Allocate costs to specific teams, projects, or products

Benefits

- Help organizations manage their cloud costs more effectively
- Align cloud spending with business goals
- Drive greater business value from their cloud infrastructure

agile
solutions

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