



WBSCM UPDATE

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FEATURE

WBSCM: Managing Data, Managing Change

This issue of the WBSCM Update builds on the previous issues highlighting the Human

Capital (people) transitioning to the WBSCM system. At the convergence of the people, processes, and technologies involved in successfully transitioning to the WBSCM system is data – the vital core of the system.

The power of WBSCM as an integrated web-based system is the ability to provide different types of people access to the same consistent, real-time, and accurate information (data) to meet their individual business needs. Data accessed from WBSCM is magnified exponentially and impacts many different types of users from various business and government communities beyond the core WBSCM agency user population. (see WBSCM Stakeholders diagram below)

This real-time access to accurate data across the supply chain is one of the largest, most visible and widespread areas of change. WBSCM as an integrated system provides the ability for real-time, consistent access to single-sourced information.

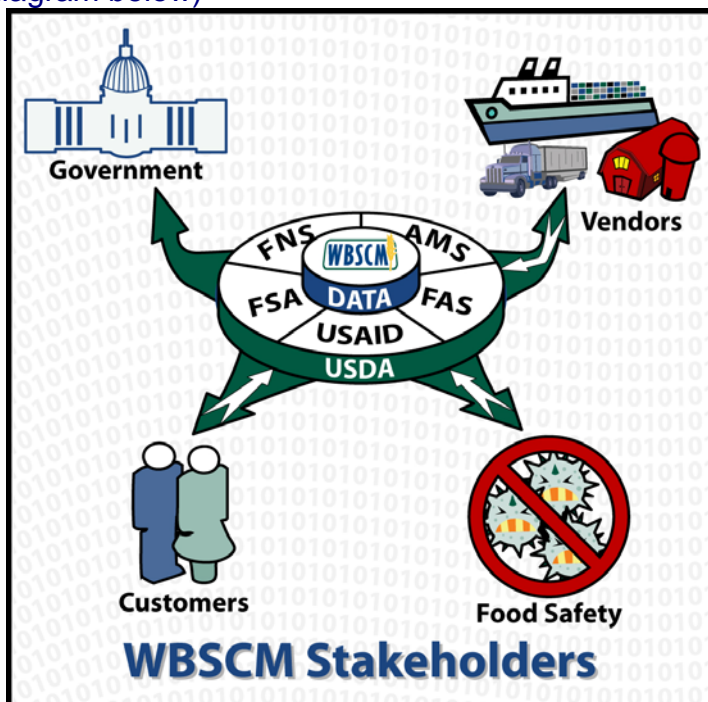
Controlling how WBSCM data is managed, converted, and accessed through a sound Data Management approach enables control of the integrity of information WBSCM provides; it also greatly influences users' reaction to, acceptance and usage of WBSCM.

The topics highlighted in this issue cover how the processes of managing data (centralized data storage), converting data (historical PCIMS data and transaction data), and viewing data (reports and interfaces to external systems) will enable WBSCM to provide real-time, accurate information.

Benefits Realized from Maintaining Accurate Data

The benefits realized from accurate WBSCM data include the following:

- ❖ Accurate ad-hoc and standard reporting to support critical management and business operations decisions
- ❖ Accurate determination of inventory information to assist in gathering recall statistics
- ❖ Accurate internal audit control logs for security and government accountability
- ❖ Real-time data visibility for emergency relief situations
- ❖ Real-time, single source of reliable information across the supply chain
- ❖ Real-time, accurate up-to-date information being shared with other systems interfacing with WBSCM



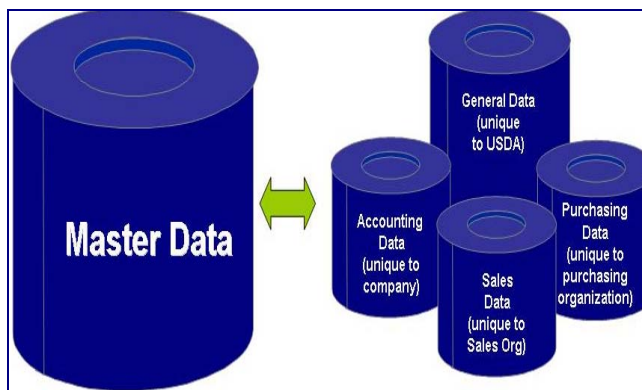
Managing Data

Managing the conversion of historical data from PCIMS and satellite systems along with managing incoming new data involves key decisions and changes that affect every organization using WBSCM. One of the immediate areas of change is managing data through a centralized framework of one integrated system, WBSCM, rather than multiple reference data systems.

Key Change: Managing Centralized Data

The change from multiple PCIMS reference data systems to a consolidated WBSCM master data repository is perhaps the best time to evaluate and ascertain the required standard of data quality. The WBSCM Team has designed standards for managing and storing the four types of data: master data, configuration data, transaction data, and historical data.

With evolving commodity inventory, suppliers, products and customer databases, it has become essential to cleanse and maintain the quality of the master data. Master data describes centrally-stored data records. Master data is entered once, managed in one location, and accessible from one location by user groups and multiple external systems. An example of master data is a purchasing organization within the WBSCM system (see below).



WBSCM Master Data

Configuration data controls the features and operations of the WBSCM system. Configuration is manually entered during the build phase of the WBSCM program. Data related to establishing an organizational hierarchy in WBSCM (company codes and purchasing organizations such as USDA) is an example of configuration data.

Converting Data

The WBSCM data conversion approach will convert data from legacy PCIMS and satellite systems, and transaction data to the WBSCM system. When converting transaction data, special attention needs to be given to start and end dates of transactions, along with dependencies to master and configuration data. Data from PCIMS and satellite systems is referred to as historical data of "completed" transactions (e.g., closed purchase orders, expired contracts, satisfied invoices, etc.) For example, over 100,000 sales orders and 350,000 purchase orders will need to be converted to WBSCM.

The bulk of the work effort in the data conversion process is historical data cleansing**. The USDA and USAID agencies, with support from the SRA Team, must properly cleanse, scope, map, and format the historical data to fit the new WBSCM data quality measures.

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

The historical data cleansing process includes many aspects of the data, such as removing duplicate records, identifying translation tables that need to be built in WBSCM, as well as making sure legacy fields conform to industry standards (i.e., zip codes, carrier codes, etc.) Historical data identified during the data discovery and consolidation steps (see below) need to be made prior to the conversion.

Data Conversion Process Steps:

1. **Discovery** (Identify and catalog data objects to convert) – **WBSCM Functional Team Members**
2. **Consolidation** (Data Preparation) – **USDA IT Team Members**
3. **Reconciliation** (Data Mapping Activities) – **WBSCM Functional Team Members**
4. **Design (Functional Spec)** – **WBSCM Functional Team Members**
5. **Development (Build Data Conversion Program)** – **WBSCM Technical Development Team**
6. **Test (Automated/Manual Data Conversion & Data Validation)** – **WBSCM Technical Development Team/ USDA Agency Business Data Owners**
7. **Cutover & Go-Live Conversion** – **WBSCM Technical Development Team**
8. **Validation & Reconciliation (Data sign-off)** – **USDA Agency Business Data Owners**
9. **Post Conversion Activities** – **WBSCM Technical Development Team/ USDA Agency Business Data Owners**

Key Change: Impact of WBSCM Data on External Systems

Another area of change is the impact that WBSCM data has on other external systems. The process of WBSCM data being shared with external systems through interfaces is called Data Synchronization. Examples of external systems could range from local systems and databases users run on their local PC to large database systems such as those at National Warehouses, Varolii, National Payment Service (NPS), and Bid Evaluation Optimization System (BEOS).

To emphasize the importance of clean data, any incorrect or incomplete data in WBSCM will create a cascading effect on these external systems that use WBSCM data. Cleansing needs also apply to data being imported into WBSCM from external systems.

Viewing Data

One of biggest areas of change is data visibility across the supply chain through centralized reporting. Users will be able to view WBSCM data and related information through ad-hoc, standard, and other types of reports.

Key Change: Centralized Reporting

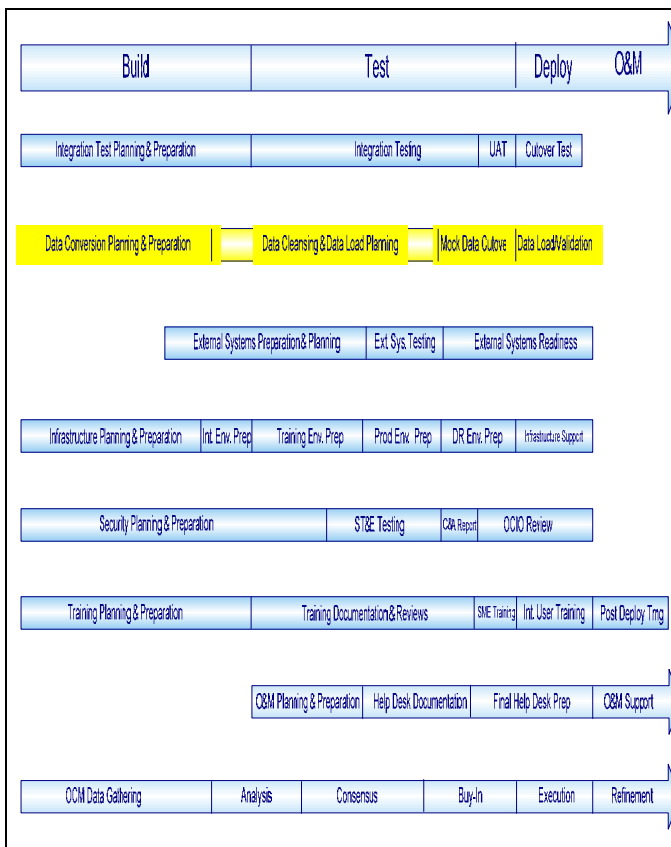
Another area of change is the WBSCM centralized reporting structure which will allow users to execute four different types of WBSCM reports:

- ❖ **Business/Function Specific Reports** – Designed to meet WBSCM business process requirements.
- ❖ **Standard Transaction Reports** – Out of the box standard online transaction processing system (OLTP) reports and tools.
- ❖ **Canned Business Intelligence (BI) Reports** – Large set of pre-defined reports and queries.
- ❖ **Ad-Hoc Reports**– Both the OLTP and BI systems come with flexible reporting and analysis tools. These reports provide end-users the capability to create custom reports.

Data Management Approach Per Phase

During the Build Phase, the Data Management Team is leading the data cleansing activities. The WBSCM Data Management approach addresses the conversion of historical and transaction data to WBSCM and the interfacing of WBSCM data with other systems. The steps in the Data Management approach are as follows:

1. Data Conversion Planning & Preparation (Build Phase/Test Phase)
2. Data Cleansing (Build Phase/Test Phase)
3. Data Load Planning (Test Phase)
4. Mock Data Cutover (Test Phase)
5. Data Load/Validation (Deploy Phase)



WBSCM Data Management Approach

What's USDA's Role?

The USDA Data Management Team members have a very critical role:

- ❖ Have ownership of overall data quality
- ❖ Provide key decisions on data design, cleansing, and validation
- ❖ Perform data cleansing
- ❖ Provide technical data expertise in legacy systems
- ❖ Sign-off on data rules, quality, cleansing, and validation
- ❖ Ensure accurate information is being shared with other systems (cascade effect)
- ❖ Facilitate proper system testing

Who is involved in the Data Management Team?

The Data Management Team is comprised of USDA and USAID WBSCM Team members. If you have any questions, please contact one of the following team members:

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STATUS CORNER

- ❖ The following Informal Playbacks have occurred to date:
 - Creating bid invitation templates
 - Orders sourced from warehouses
 - Budget consumption
 - Hard Stops/overrides for statistical commitment items
 - Entitlements & Accounts Payable
 - GR/IR accounting and clearing
 - Contract management
- ❖ The following Build Phase Cycle activities have occurred to date:
 - Standard domestic sales order process
 - Offshore sales order process
 - International sales order process fulfilled by procurement and shipment tracking
 - Long-term contracting
 - Domestic emergency order placement, fulfillment, and sourcing
 - Price support warehouse – procure and create orders
 - Multi-food warehouse – replenish and create orders



DID YOU KNOW?

...Since 1946, the National School Lunch Program has served more than 187 billion lunches to students across America?

...The U.S. government has provided more than \$123 million for emergency programs in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for agriculture and food security, nutrition, and other assistance?

... You should be eating a certain amount of fruits and vegetables to lead a healthy lifestyle?



ED CORNER

WBSCM Terms

Common Data Terminology

Master Data: A term that describes centrally-stored data records that are setup once and remain fairly static. Master data is used to process transactions such as customer orders, bid invitations, and purchase orders. Examples include General Ledger Account Numbers, Vendors, and Customers.

Configuration Data - refers to control data that is created manually at the time of configuration. Examples include Company Codes, Controlling Areas and Purchasing Organizations.

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

Historical Data - refers to "completed" data. Examples include closed purchase orders, expired contracts, satisfied invoices, etc.



NEXT MONTH

We will continue to report on Build Phase progress and feature the WBSCM Certification & Accreditation process.

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](#).