HEALTH CARE PROJECT

OPPORTUNITY:

A large Louisiana based healthcare insurance company set up a data integration infrastructure to support their enterprise analytics initiative. A key component of this infrastructure was an inventory of the company data assets. These data assets would be stored in a central Metadata repository.

SOLUTION:

POA Systems provided consulting services in support of this initiative.

Our staff configured Informatica Metadata Manager to acquire metadata from numerous sources such as Claims, Provider, Lab, and Pharmacy Systems. We used Erwin data modeling tool in collaboration with metadata manager to achieve this configuration. We engaged the system owners to get an understanding of their metadata. There were two types of metadata, business and technical. The business metadata was captured in the business glossary while the technical metadata was captured in the catalog. The purpose of the Business glossary was to provide a common business vocabulary across the organization. Using Erwin we enriched the data models with business names and descriptions. The enriched Erwin models were then imported into metadata manager Business glossary. Additionally, we imported the physical definitions of the database. We also imported the Extract Transform and Load (ETL) objects. Finally, we created end-to-end data lineages between the business metadata and the technical metadata. As a result of the lineage, business terms were linked to their technical counterparts such as database column names, ETL mapping fields, or report fields.

POA Systems documented the configuration of the system and created training material for the business and technical users. These were followed by an intensive training of the employees on the use and support of the system.

Addition of the business glossary to the organization removed ambiguity from conversations, reduced errors, sped up project delivery cycles and enabled the delivery of trusted data. It enabled data analysts, business analysts, and data stewards to work together to create, manage, and share a common vocabulary describing a data integration, data warehouse or business intelligence environment. The project was a great success, and served as a catalyst for additional acquisition of metadata by the employees.