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**IT solutions & services with lifetime support**

# Developing A Data Mart

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## An Overview

**In order for a data warehouse to succeed there must be a sponsor who has a clear vision of what the business benefits will be of the warehouse. Without these benefits clearly defined the project will fail to deliver the expected results. The sponsor will be responsible for allocating a project team who will be responsible for ensuring the data from each business area is understood and available. Further team members should understand how the data is to be analysed and reported.**

An initial project team meeting needs to be organised which will discuss the exact requirements and re-iterate the importance of allocating time and effort to getting the results required. From the session the key aims of the warehouse will be defined, an understanding gained of the business data sources, how contemporary the data needs to be, general issues of duplication and differences of data between business areas, the possible impact on daily activity of data extraction should it be required during the working day. This meeting will also define a schedule of project reviews. *(Total 2 man days).*

From this session an audit of the current infrastructure and data sources will be carried out that will define potential issues requiring additional hardware or software. *(Total 4 man days).*

The results of these sessions will be reported back to the projects team for discussion and actions should be made swiftly to agree or reject findings. This will then define the extent of the project at a technical level based on potential restrictions of performance, bandwidth, availability, etc. *(Total 1 man day).*

Next stage is to create a functional and technical specification. This work requires significant input from the project team, both from the data source providers and the business analysts who will use the data warehouse. The work will define the data sources in detail, identify cleansing and manipulation required to get the data from the various sources to gel, the flow of data from the sources to the warehouse, possible issues of duplication and variation, etc. The functional spec will involve some prototyping to show potential results and interaction. *(12 man days).*

Once the client has signed these specs a test plan will be generated. This is designed to ensure that the correct results are being calculated by all the various conversion routines. It will require significant input from the projects team as they must define key measures that will guarantee data consistency. The test plan will need to be signed by the client. *(8 man days).*

Finally the extraction, cleansing and manipulation routines can be developed and tested. This requires input from the projects team to help test the data. *(10 man days).*

The final stage is final QA and training. *(4 man days).*

TOTAL 41 days.

This excludes any time required to implement additional infrastructure, software, etc that may already have been highlighted or that may become highlighted during the various reviews. It must be noted that data warehouses are not projects with a finish date. This will be an initial deliverable and if the warehouse is effective additional requirements should be forthcoming almost constantly and these will need to be incorporated in a similar fashion. It is also likely that requirements will be added during the various stages of the project. These will need to be set aside for follow-up projects as otherwise the project will never be completed.