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~1996
Data Warehouse
(DSD) first created.

2017
Data Warehouse
experiences end-of-life
support issues.

2020
Data Warehouse Adopts
Shared Services Model.

2021
Needs assessment and
gap analysis performed.

1996 - The Data Warehouse was initially created and is still known to this day as the Decision Support Database (DSD).

The Decision Support Database was created to generate and maintain the critical data sets required to support Institutional Research and reporting.

2017 - The Data Warehouse begins experiencing end-of-life issues:

- Production of consistent, timely data becomes limited from out-of-date and non-upgradable technology.
- Loss of institutional knowledge over time regarding data definitions or changes in how data was being entered or how data is used.
- Hand-coded warehouse management methods became unsustainably complex.

2020 – Data Warehouse restructured as a "shared service" model.

Executive Leadership committed to long-term support for the creation of a distinct Data Warehouse team, managed by a shared services governance model.

- Permanent staffing was increased from 1 to 2 FTE via broad system office reorganization.
- The Institutional Research Shared Services Committee (IRSSC) was formed, in which the 4 IR Directors equally participate in guiding and supporting the Data Warehouse functions.
- High-level goals were drafted:
  - Continue to maintain the frozen data sets required by the four Institutional Research offices to generate reports and insights used in decision-making.
  - Optimize resources by increasing common data sets, increasing automations, and centralizing the warehousing tasks common to all four Institutional Research offices.
  - Promote consistency by upholding common, official, custom data definitions and applying data quality standards.

2021 – IRSSC and the new Data Warehousing team began gaps analysis, examining our assets and needs compared to industry best practices.

- Industry trends in data warehouse methods and technology have seen dramatic improvements, offering significantly more advanced capabilities than the current system can support.
- Demand for data in standardized, refreshed, and ad-hoc formats exceeds current system capacity creating a strain on UA's reporting resources both in technology and personnel.
- Authority and stewardship for data unclear, lack of policy and procedures.
- Increase in the number of data systems in use across UA equally increases the complexity of our data ecosystem and introduces significant challenges to orchestrating vast amounts of data in a unified and meaningful way.

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2022
Data Warehouse
Modernization Project
Initiated.

2023
RFP is Launched

Q2 2024
Solution Selected

2025
Target Completion of
Initial Implementation

And beyond
Potential expansion to
additional integrations
and systems.

2022 - The ETL, Data Warehouse and Data Catalog Project was initiated.

Research identified the following needs:

- A modern data Extraction, Transformation, and Loading (ETL) tool to help bring data from various sources into one location.
- A robust Data Warehouse management tool to ensure robust security, access, process automations, and to enhance data quality.
- A comprehensive Data Catalog to capture both shared and unique data definitions and the various critical reporting metrics across UA.

2023 and current – Issued an RFP seeking a technology platform to better manage our data assets across disparate and siloed data systems, and to accommodate the University's common and distinct business needs.

With support from OIT, each MAU IR office, and Procurement the Data Warehouse RFP was launched in September 2023.

- We received "a historically unprecedented number of inquiries" and "an unexpectedly large number of proposals" in response.
- The project scoring team is committed to thorough examination and comparison of the diverse options proposed.
  - o In first quarter 2024 the scoring committee is working to identify a smaller, top-ranked group of 2-5 proposals.
  - o Scheduling a first round of demonstrations that will be technical in nature, focused on the ETL and data warehousing capabilities.
  - o Soliciting feedback from the broader UA community, inviting them to attend a second round of demonstrations focused on business-oriented elements of the data catalog and related reporting features.

Second Quarter 2024 – Conclusion of the RFP with potential selection of a new Data Warehouse and Data Catalog solution.

Once the final product has been approved and acquired, discovery and implementation can begin. This will likely involve;

- o Redesigning the new Data Warehouse to include MAU-specific tables that reflect the local business practices of each University. University-level data can then be used to inform aggerated UA system-level tables.
- o Focus on value-added data utility while addressing current challenges, such as increasing clarity and context of our data definitions, setting demarcation of historical/new warehouse data, and providing a common framework to support future system-level initiatives.
- o The implementation is reliant upon; the capabilities/limits of the vendor product selected, the level of support and resources invested by UA, and our ability to balance current workload demands with the work efforts required to stand up a new system.