Procure SQL

Five Steps To

Successful Data Warehouse Projects

Why are most data warehouse projects doomed from the start? Often companies do not recognize fundamental weaknesses until they've lost data, had a system fail, squandered their investment, and wasted valuable time. To prevent this, Procure SQL outlines five steps to build a successful customized data warehouse for your business from start to finish.

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What story should your data tell?

Not understanding the story your data is currently telling or should be telling may be the biggest mistake made when building and utilizing data warehouse projects. We thoughtfully map out the story your data tells your team to maximize your return on investment. Stakeholders need the right data at the right time, or even an exceptional team, data model, and user interface may miss the mark.

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Incomplete teams destroys projects.

A developer, IT team, and architect are just part of the team needed for the successful management of your data warehouse. First, an experienced business analyst is critical to correctly interpret and communicate what data points the business has and its value. This ongoing analysis and feedback assist the architects in building the warehouse aligned with stakeholder needs. Next, a capable project manager holds the project together, extending accountable for reaching project goals, budget, and milestones. They act as go-between ensuring communication flows freely between the team and the key stakeholders, maintaining buy-in, clearly defining objectives, and driving decisions to achieve optimal outcomes.

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Consistent Two-way Communication

Consistent two-way communication when building data warehouses assures the data story aligns with business objectives. This clarity only results when project managers proactively stay on the same page at a high-level with stakeholders and developers. In cooperation with Procure SQL business analysis, stakeholders identify needs and align business objectives with necessary technical requirements by establishing deliverables, from the discovery phase, through proof of concept, modeling, movement, reporting, and documentation, .

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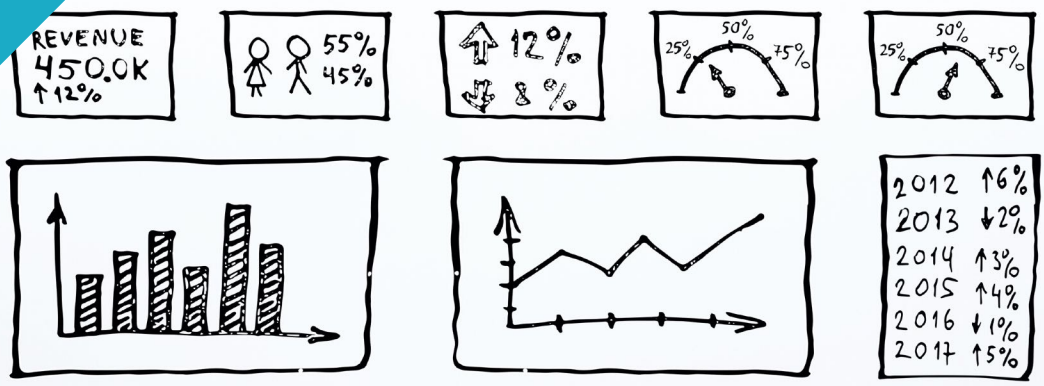
Systematic Discovery Phase

During the discovery phase, the team begins identifying and organizing the best-suited building blocks needed to tell the desired story for your data warehouse. The discovery phase is essential because the team starts uncovering the overall picture, including but is not limited to what technology needs to remain on-premise vs. cloud implementations—maintenance, cost, and scalability.



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Validating the Proof of Concept

The proof of concept is a short sprint to minimize costs while quickly returning value to stakeholders—a great way to communicate tone, deliverables, and milestones. It delivers a subset of needed stories told by the project, including data and reports, quickly identifying and resolving any fit gaps, before it becomes harder to adjust your data warehouse solution.

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Proper Data Modeling

Understanding your source data and how to format it to coexist in your warehouse is critical for long term success, but a lack of understanding accounts for many mistakes. Proper data modeling does more than identify facts, measures, and dimensions; it also allows your data to grow without impacting performance. Data architects thrive in modeling your data warehouse not only to tell your data story but also to scale into the future while keeping your data secure.

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FAQs

Data and its Movement

The lifecycle of your data and its movement is critical, and so are the questions you ask about your database to make your data movement plan a success to maintain value over time. Consider the following:

- Does data need to move in real-time?

- How many data sources are required?

- What's an acceptable delay between syncing data?

- What tools is your team comfortable with using to move data?

- How long should data remain available in your warehouse?

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Visualization to Understand Data

Data modeling and movement allow stakeholders to use visualization to understand and forecast return-on-investment when following the identified path to success. One common mistake to avoid is forcing everyone to use a single specific tool for reporting, such as SSRS, to report your data warehouse and, at the same time, requiring the team to import a model into a self-service tool like Power BI. For the best reporting, your data warehouse must remain tool agnostic.

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Process Documentation

Proper documentation should capture the entire development process of a data warehouse, including source, destination, data movement, data models, and aggregations. From day one, exhaustive documentation allows you to maintain your data warehouse until completion or offload it to another team to support the data warehouse easily. Also, it is challenging to make changes to any part of your data warehouse without understanding how changes may impact the entire data warehouse. Documentation clarifies how changes may impact the warehouse.

Doug Hill, Technology Director at Auto Sweet said, "Procure SQL helped us build our data warehouse from the ground up. Now our client reports are more than ten times faster"

AutoSweet