

Balancing the Demands for Business Agility with IT Governance and Control



A Changing Paradigm

The need for business agility and self-service analytics is changing the governance equation. Data discovery is upending the traditional BI approach by empowering users with the capability to combine and analyze data on their own, independently from the IT organization. Greater independence for business users allows users to answer ad hoc questions more quickly, enables the business to react faster to changing conditions and leads to better decisions as users can apply their business knowledge to more data. The independence gained by business users, however, comes at the expense of IT governance and control. Yet IT governance is still necessary to prevent data quality problems from propagating throughout the organization, the creation of multiple versions of the “truth”, an inconsistent application of business rules and logic to data, and other problems that can lead to inefficient, even chaotic, business processes. Finding the right balance between business agility and IT control or governance is, therefore, essential to having an effective self-service analytic initiative.

Unlike traditional self-service analytic solutions, Lavastorm offers three distinct capabilities that allow organizations to better govern the use of data and analytics across their organization:

- **Standard Reusable Components** – IT can develop and/or approve reusable components that make these components available in libraries for business people to use. By publishing standard components, IT can ensure greater consistency and accuracy in the way business users access, manipulate, analyze, and publish data.
- **Traceability** – The visual analytic environment of Lavastorm comprehensively documents business logic and allows users to drill back and track operations performed so they gain confidence in the data, business logic, and analytics.

- **Access Rights** – IT can restrict the availability of certain components to certain users and/or user groups.

With these capabilities, you can govern data ingestion, logic creating and analysis and your organization can benefit from

- **Intelligent Self-service:** More people can curate given the right tools and skills
- **Business Agility:** No longer dependent on a single-threaded IT model
- **Rapid Insights and Results:** Faster, more accurate decisions with limited governance risk

Customer Showcase: Major US Bank

- **Problem:** Customer’s Information Management team struggles to provide internal customers with quick turn around on requests for data sets. Each request is an expensive custom programming job.
- **Solution:** Bank develops a custom library in Lavastorm to provide low-wage “data clerks” a limited set of analytic and data access capabilities so they can quickly respond to data requests.
- **Business Results:**
 - Turnaround time for customer requests goes from weeks to minutes.
 - Access to the data is tightly controlled, while still being highly available for “clerks” to service requests. This creates an agile and scalable model at the bank to lower costs and time to complete service tickets.
 - All new requests are vetted, approved and tracked to maintain quick turnaround for ad-hoc requests as well as to implement reusable components.