One organization, many truths

Unfortunately, proper handling of critical data is forgotten or managed in a precarious “the person in the other department has the latest version” manner. Too often, this data is also managed in spreadsheets throughout the enterprise. As different versions of the spreadsheets circulate across the organization without control, it is difficult to ensure that the validation in your e-shop or customer self-care portal is using the same lists of values as your ERP or your MDM solution. Or is it possible that while the data your customers provide on your website is deemed valid, your internal processing causes an error because someone neglected to perform an update?

Problems with your reference data can affect your IT infrastructure in various ways, and as a result, harm business processes. A variety of potential issues are possible:

- Faulty data warehouse dimensional tables may lead to inaccurate management reports and erroneous decisions
- Inconsistent codes across shared systems could cause logistics issues between your e-shop and fulfillment system
- Multiple versions of the same country or region code could prevent your sales reps from getting paid
- Inconsistent product categories could delay your time to market for a new product by weeks or even months

Those are just a few examples out of many possible scenarios. In today’s heterogeneous information technology and fast-changing business environments, keeping your reference data in order and easily accessible is critically important to many business processes and projects.

The right tool for the task

Ataccama’s RDM application addresses the problem. The user-friendly web interface allows business users to define and manage the important data created by the organization, ranging from simple lists of values that should be used synchronously in validations throughout the enterprise, to complex hierarchies driving revenue and expense reports.

To support the actions of business users, the back-end engine is flexible enough to publish the change to all dependent systems and applications. As a result, RDM not only allows your people to manage all important internal data in one place, but also the technology to handle the propagation of changes in data to all systems requiring notification, on customizable terms and369-394

In support of data governance

Overall, data governance plays the lead role in managing your data, and utilizes various support components to fortify its processes. RDM is one of those key components, helping maintain secure reference data that will accurately drive all other data within the enterprise. Multi-level workflows that enforce permissions, data export and synchronization abilities, and history tracking that provides a clear understanding of all user actions and data changes are among the many features that contribute to strengthening the overall data governance program.

Business Benefits

- User-friendly interface for reference data entry and review
- Flat and hierarchical data handling capabilities
- Domain-agnostic
- Secure multi-user environment
- Customizable data propagation back end, fully integrated with Ataccama DQC
- Customizable approval workflow for confirmation of entered data

INTEGRATED DQ, MDM, AND DATA GOVERNANCE PLATFORM
Sample Usage Scenarios

Hierarchy browsing
For each data record, the user can easily view and navigate to parent and child records in each hierarchy defined for a particular entity. Complex, multi-level hierarchies can be created in the data model. The types of supported hierarchies include balanced, unbalanced, and recursive.

Data management
RDM enables users to view, modify, add, and delete individual data records. Such operations must pass through predefined workflow transitions and a series of steps in an approval workflow, each of which ensures the proper maintenance of key company data records. Access to each entity and individual data record is controlled by configurable permissions, which are commonly based on security roles. Using attributes obtained from the company directory and the actual data, even stricter access rules can be established.

Search and filtering
Within an entity, a user can use filtering and search capabilities to narrow the list of data records to work with. In addition to a simple filter option that is part of each entity table, the RDM application offers advanced filter criteria using logical operators and order by conditions. Some operations can also be performed in bulk mode on the entire selection.

History
A full history is maintained for each data record in the application. The screens show both the data history and the associated audit information, including a timestamp and user name.

Data validation and enrichment
When adding or editing records, it is essential to ensure high quality of the data. In addition to standard validation rules, such as referential integrity and format, the system can connect to a data quality tool for complex validations and data enrichment.

Lookup
Lookups are also used as a part of data management. Their purpose is to search for input values in a dictionary table or parent and write corresponding values from the dictionary file to the output.

Synchronization
Changes performed on reference data can be distributed to underlying, related back-end systems in online mode via the MDC interface, which has the ability to publish changes, typically to an enterprise service bus or message-oriented middleware.

Product Features

Data management
The RDM application allows users to synchronize, create, update, manage, and monitor reference data that is used across the entire organization. Typical use cases include maintenance of shared reference data, data warehouse dimensional tables, cross-system translation tables, or data quality exception rules.

Workflows
All aspects of the record managing process are fully configurable, including the number of steps in the workflow, permissions, and actions to be performed. Different workflows can be used for different entities.

External interfaces
The application is capable of both obtaining the data from the external systems and publishing the data to the systems, using either JDBC API or providing the full data extracts in flat file formats. An external application can query the published data using the web service interface.

Security
RDM provides full role-based security, with the option to leverage organizational structure to provide even stricter access control based on the employee's role or department. RDM can also leverage your existing LDAP and Single Sign-On solution.

History and auditing
Auditing maintains a tracked history of all modifications made in the RDM application, including creation, changes, and deletions. Auditing also records information about who performed an action and when, along with which entity was affected.

Ease of use
The RDM application uses a modern web-based interface with minimal requirements on the client machine—all that is necessary is a web browser.