The Fusion of Data Migration and Knowledge Management

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Abstract

Dynamic never-ending changes in the Business World offer a lot of opportunities and benefits. On the other hand if companies do not take advantage of these opportunities it can have devastated impact on their businesses. Therefore it is very important to establish strategy for gaining competitive advantage and business sustainability via informed decisions. The decisions should be made based on reliable and accurate knowledge, information and data. The paper discusses two distinct areas, which mutual interrelationship has not been appropriately investigated yet - Data Migration processes and Knowledge Management programs. These are very closely connected in terms of how data, information and knowledge should be created, enhanced and managed. Basic facts together with various definitions and characteristics of both research topics are presented. Subsequently their similarities and mutual features are depicted.

Keywords: Data Migration, Knowledge Management, Processes, Mutual Benefits.

Introduction

Companies of various size, structure, strategy, capital and infrastructure around the world continuously try to gain a competitive advantage in the business world over opponents and succeed in their industry. In order to achieve better economic results companies implement various techniques, use various methodologies, design new processes, or develop new products. One of the business concepts widely implemented in companies is Knowledge Management. Its scope or form is determined by the objectives of organization and the personal objectives and needs of people inside it. Generally, desired implications of Knowledge Management implementation are cost reduction, customer or employee satisfaction and quality (Spek and Kingma, 1999).

Knowledge Management principles are usually applied to business activities, which are knowledge intensive or demanding (Bureš and Čech, 2007). In the business informatics domain there are projects which companies have to execute and are unavoidable due to penetration rate of information technologies into the contemporary business environment. Information technology (IT) migration in general or Data Migration in particular can serve as an example of such knowledge intensive projects (Kantawala, 2008). On the other hand, Data Migration projects rely on quite significant body of knowledge, which is usually not managed due to low frequency of Data Migration projects occurrence. Therefore, these projects become often more complicated and expensive than previously anticipated (Haller, 2009). Hence, interconnection of both disciplines can be very fruitful and beneficial.

Search for described experience with both Knowledge Management and Data Migration in scientific databases (e.g. Springer, or Elsevier) returns only journal papers or book chapters focused on each discipline separately. However, few studies implicitly tie Knowledge Management and particular aspects of Data Migration. For instance, general frameworks of the Data Migration projects can be considered as outputs based on certain volume of knowledge (Jing et al, 1998; Aboulsamh and Davies, 2011). Nevertheless, this connection is not explicitly stated. Therefore, there is a necessity for mutual
interrelation of both domains and explicit identification of mutual features. This endeavor can be contributive to development of both theory and practice of Knowledge Management and Data Migration.

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