

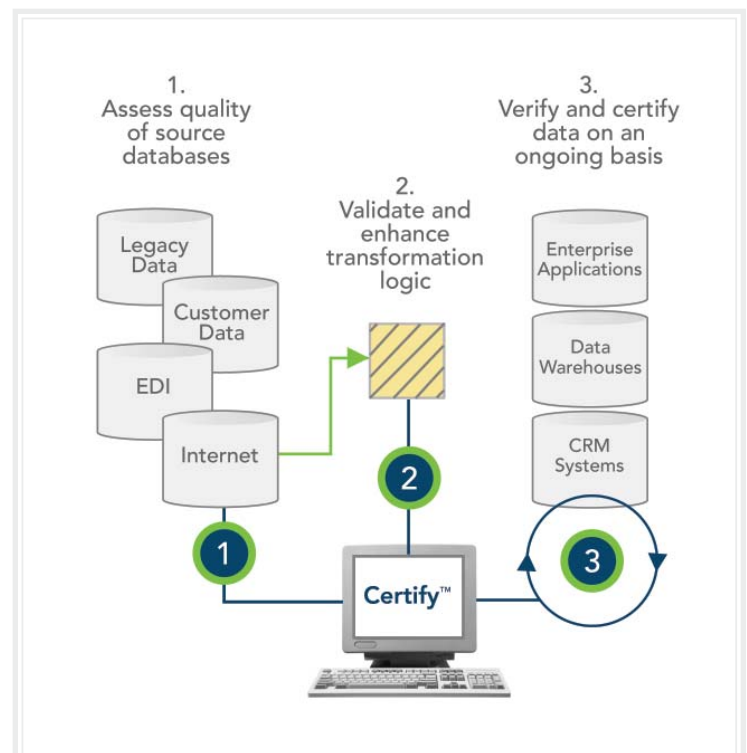


Data Certification During Migration and Transformation

Although most data migration and integration initiatives address data quality to some degree, many organizations continue to live with the same inconsistent, inaccurate data that plagued their legacy systems. Few data migration and conversion projects put adequate emphasis on data quality analysis, matching, mapping and consolidation. Further, if source data isn't properly analyzed and reconciled before migration or transformation, data quality problems can derail the implementation. All in all, it is significantly easier and more cost-effective to identify and clean up data problems at the source, before data is migrated to a new system.

A critical element of any legacy system transformation or integration of disparate systems is to first understand the quality of the data in each source, then to ensure the quality and integrity of the resultant data. Data should be audited at key points throughout the transformation process, to prevent corruption, truncation, improper mapping or defects resulting from potential flaws in transformation logic. Further, a structured approach to data quality applied during the data transformation process creates opportunities to improve data quality on an ongoing basis with a pro-active, systematic approach that allows for periodic auditing, monitoring and certification.

Certica Solutions provides Certify™ software and a step-by-step methodology for data quality auditing and monitoring—before, during and after transformation.



Certify reports the results of data analysis at the table and column level, making it easy for analysts to understand which data is incomplete, invalid or fails to conform to specified business rules and dependencies. Certify also generates a Data Quality Report Card showing assessment results for a specific data set at a particular point in time.

1. As legacy systems are prepared for transformation, Certify software will perform an assessment of source databases to:
 - a. Ensure conformance with basic data quality parameters, such as completeness, validity, structural integrity, business rule integrity, etc.;
 - b. Help uncover business rules in legacy data that may not be well understood;
 - c. Validate data's compliance with business rules;
 - d. Aid in the accurate mapping and integration of data from disparate systems.
2. At key points during the transformation and integration process, data should be validated to ensure that it has not been truncated, improperly mapped or otherwise corrupted. In addition to alerting programmers and analysts of potential problems, this valuable fail-safe mechanism protects the investment the organization is making in the transformation and integration initiative. Following the transformation, Certify can also serve as the means to demonstrate to management, auditors and other stakeholders that 100% of the data has been migrated in full compliance with the transformation rules.
3. Once the transformation is complete, data should be verified and certified on an ongoing basis for:
 - a. Errors and inconsistencies in data that could potentially impact business decisions, budgetary issues, service delivery, regulatory compliance, etc.;
 - b. Consistency of data across departments, geographic locations, etc.
 - c. Patterns that indicate fraud or criminal activity;
 - d. Security-related issues, such as unauthorized changes;
 - e. Non-conformance with business rules.

Once an initial observation of data quality has been performed, users may select which data elements will be audited and monitored on an ongoing basis. Certify features Data Quality Certification Indexes™ which sum-

marize the overall level of quality in source and target databases.

Further, Certify not only validates the quality of business information, but its automatic collection of underlying metadata supports the process of verifying that the business rules, data definitions and dependencies used by the organization are accurate and consistent across the enterprise – fostering better information sharing.

Whether the software is used during the transformation process or on an ongoing basis, Certify provides a simple, systematic approach to data quality analysis, certification and improvement. Using Certify, data and database administrators, information systems professionals and business users can verify, measure and report on the quality of data on an ad-hoc or periodic basis. Certify formalizes and centralizes the entire data quality management process, at any stage in the information lifecycle.

About Certica Solutions

Certica Solutions is a leading provider of data certification solutions. Certica helps corporate and government organizations address specific business challenges with a structured, systematic approach to identifying, reporting and monitoring data quality issues. Certica's business-specific solutions, based on the company's Certify™ software, enable organizations to identify costly data errors and omissions, comply confidently with regulatory requirements, improve data in a shortened time period, and certify their data suppliers' data.

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