DATA GOVERNANCE & REMEDIATION

WHITE PAPER

**BAD DATA COSTS MORE THAN BAD SYSTEMS
– A CONVERSATION WITH LINDA GEORGIOU**

Purpose

Everyone talks about digital transformation, AI, and ERP, but none of it works without clean, trusted data. Bad data costs more than bad systems. It drives errors, slows adoption, and kills confidence. This paper shows why data governance and remediation aren't side projects, they're the foundation of transformation success.

Scope

This white paper shows why data governance and remediation aren't side projects, they're the foundation of transformation success. It reframes data not as a technical detail, but as the fuel that powers ERP, AI, and digital initiatives. Without clean, trusted data, even the best systems fail to deliver.

The paper explores how poor data quality drives errors, slows adoption, and undermines confidence. It outlines best-practice principles including early remediation, role-based governance, and the use of Documented Information Support (DIS) to lock in consistency and clarity across teams.

It details the business value of clean data, from reduced storage costs and faster automation to improved decision-making and compliance. It also highlights common pitfalls such as late-stage cleanups, policy-only governance, and lack of user guidance, all of which can derail transformation efforts.

A strong emphasis is placed on proactive, embedded governance and the role of AI in future data validation. Finally, the paper outlines how AXIUM supports clients through structured remediation, ERP migration, and lasting governance frameworks, ensuring data becomes a strategic asset, not a liability.

Best Practice

Clean Before You Migrate

Don't take junk data into shiny new systems.

Make Governance Practical

Policies mean nothing without role-based actions.

Use DIS to Lock in Consistency

Clear guidance keeps data entry reliable.

Think Lifecycle, Not One Off

Data quality is a journey, not a clean-up sprint.

1. Introduction

Interviewer: Linda, leaders often underestimate data. Why is it such a big deal?

Linda Georgiou: Because data runs everything. You can spend billions on ERP or AI, but if the data is dirty, the outputs are worthless. I've seen clients with brilliant systems who still couldn't trust their reports because data was inconsistent. Bad data turns investment into frustration.

2. Why it Matters Now

Interviewer: So what's driving urgency?

Linda: Migration deadlines, AI adoption, and compliance pressure. Every leader knows the risk of making decisions on dodgy numbers. But cleaning data isn't just about risk, it's about speed. Clean data powers automation, analytics, and AI. Without it, you're stuck in manual rework.

3. What Goes Wrong?

Interviewer: Where do projects fail on data?

Linda: Three patterns:
- Trying to clean everything at once - it overwhelms teams.
- Leaving data to the end of the project - by then, it's too late.
- Treating governance as policy, not practice. If staff don't have clear, simple instructions (that's where DIS comes in), they'll go back to old habits.

4. The Payoff

Interviewer: What happens when organisations get it right?

Linda Georgiou: Less risk, lower costs, and faster ROI. One of our clients cut storage needs by 50% just by archiving and cleansing legacy data. Another saw automation deliver results within months because their data was already clean. Clean data doesn't just save time, it unlocks every other benefit of transformation.

5. Future of Data Governance

Interviewer: What does the future look like?

Linda: AI-driven validation and automated cleansing. Imagine a system that spots errors as they're entered, or flags when data doesn't match business rules. The future isn't endless data projects, it's embedded, proactive governance. But again, it only works if people have the right guidance through DIS and the discipline to follow it.

6. How AXIUM Helps

Interviewer: Where does AXIUM come in?

Linda: We bring structure to the chaos. That means:
- Data remediation strategies tied to business outcomes
- DIS to capture clear data entry procedures
- ERP migration support with validation frameworks
- Governance models that are practical, not theoretical
- Training and role clarity so people own the quality of their data

We've done this in Defence, NDIA, Justice, and infrastructure - cleaning millions of records, archiving legacy systems, and embedding governance that lasts.

7. Ready to Begin?

Interviewer: What should leaders do first?

Linda Georgiou: Don't wait for the next project deadline to panic. Start small. Pick the data that matters most for decision-making, clean it, and set governance rules that stick. The payoff will show up fast. And once you see it, you'll never let dirty data creep back in.

Interviewee

Linda Georgiou
Managing Partner