

# Unveiling Critical Data Elements: *The Untapped Potential of Data Governance*

By Praghya Sharma

Manager, Data Management - Blue Altair

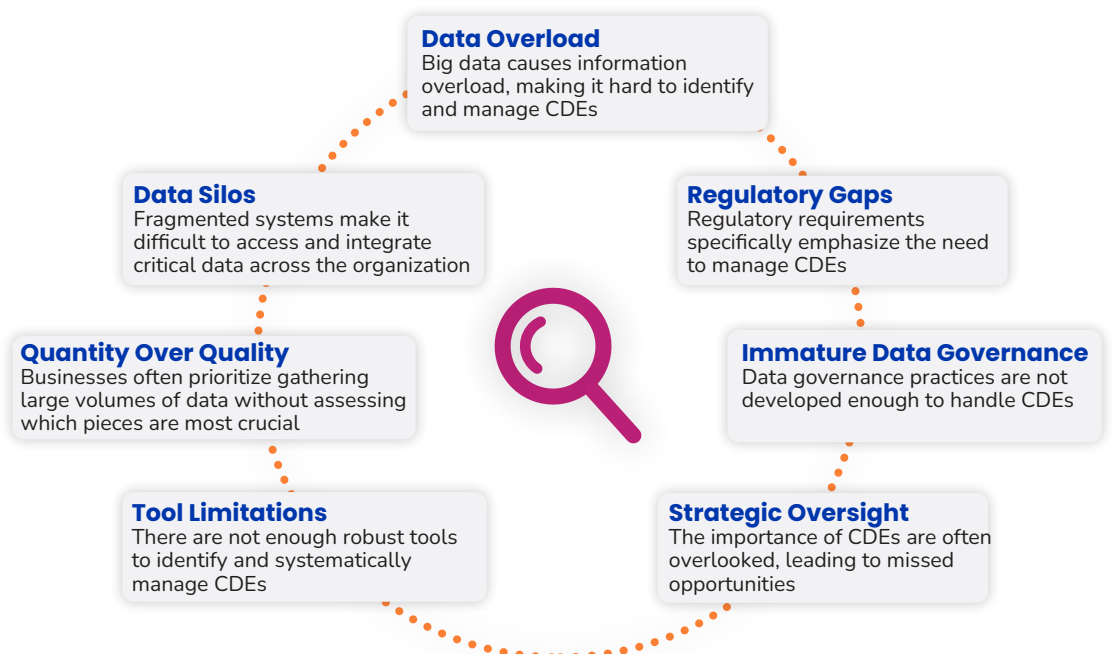
In today's data-driven world, managing information goes beyond just handling large volumes. The challenge and opportunity lie in the quality and relevance of the data. Critical Data Elements (CDEs) are fundamental to this process. They ensure your data is not only accurate but also meaningful and actionable.

CDEs act as the cornerstone for reliable Data Management, helping you navigate compliance, drive strategic initiatives, and enhance operational efficiency. By focusing on these essential elements, you can transform your data from a collection of numbers into a strategic asset, supporting everything from regulatory adherence to innovation and improved decision-making.

Embracing CDEs means you are not just managing data—you are harnessing it to unlock new possibilities and drive your organization forward.

## Why CDEs Weren't the Focus Until Now

In the past, businesses primarily focused on gathering large quantities of data without considering its critical relevance. The rise of big data and advanced analytics made this even worse, creating vast amounts of data that were difficult to manage and void of actionable insights. However, while these were some of the obstacles organizations faced, other factors continue to contribute to the slow adoption of CDEs in traditional Data Governance strategies:



## Why CDEs have recently become Important

CDEs have grown in significance as governing bodies and data-focused entities have incorporated them into various data governance frameworks, principles, and regulations. One notable example is the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) in Europe, which came into effect in 2018. GDPR requires organizations to identify and manage CDEs related to personal data to ensure privacy and compliance.

GDPR mandates that organizations handle personal data elements like names, email addresses, and transaction history with the utmost care. This has pushed companies to enhance their data governance frameworks, ensuring that these CDEs are accurate, secure, and properly managed. The result is a more robust data governance strategy that not only ensures compliance but also builds trust with customers and stakeholders.

Regulatory frameworks globally emphasize the identification and management of CDEs. In the United States, regulations such as the Comprehensive Capital Analysis and Review (CCAR) for the banking industry and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) for healthcare, ensure meticulous management of financial and health data. These frameworks compel organizations to strengthen data governance, ensuring compliance, reducing risks, and enhancing operational efficiency.

## Transitioning from Traditional to Advanced CDE Management with Blue Altair

In today's rapidly evolving business environment, managing CDEs is more important than ever. Traditionally, organizations have depended on manual processes to locate, classify, and protect their crucial data. These methods are often slow, error-prone, and struggle to keep pace with the growing complexity of modern data.

To overcome these challenges, Blue Altair offers a cutting-edge solution with its CDE Spotter tool. This advanced approach uses automation to significantly improve the identification, prioritization, and protection of CDEs. By integrating Blue Altair's CDE Spotter, businesses can enhance efficiency, meet regulatory requirements, and concentrate on strategic goals that foster innovation and success.

Blue Altair's CDE Spotter enhances traditional CDE management in several key areas:

### Metadata Management

CDE Spotter facilitates the automatic tagging of metadata, assigns priority scores, and maps metadata to organizational glossaries, ensuring consistent and efficient Data Management.

### Automated Data Classification

Our solution automatically classifies data based on its criticality, simplifying the process of identifying and managing CDEs.

### Natural Language Processing for CDE Discovery

Using NLP techniques, CDE Spotter can automatically discover CDEs within large datasets, reducing the manual effort involved.

## How to Incorporate CDEs into Your Data Governance Practice

Incorporating CDEs into your data governance practice is essential for maintaining data quality and compliance. By leveraging advanced tools and establishing clear management strategies, organizations can effectively manage CDEs. Here are some steps to get started:

- 1 Use Automation to Identify CDEs**  
Start by using tools like Blue Altair's CDE Spotter to automatically identify and classify CDEs, reducing manual work and improving accuracy.
- 2 Establish a Management Framework**  
Develop a clear framework with guidelines for managing CDEs. Assign specific roles and responsibilities to ensure accountability.
- 3 Break Down Data Silos**  
Integrate data across systems to avoid silos and ensure that CDEs are accessible and consistent across the organization.
- 4 Engage Stakeholders**  
Involve key stakeholders from different departments to gain their input and support in managing CDEs effectively.
- 5 Stay Updated with Regulations**  
Keep track of regulatory changes and ensure your CDE management practices comply with current requirements.
- 6 Continuous Monitoring and Improvement**  
Regularly review and monitor CDEs using automated insights. Adjust your data governance practices as needed to align with evolving business objectives.

## Managing CDEs with Blue Altair

At Blue Altair, we understand that managing CDEs is pivotal. These elements are more than just data points; they are the backbone of data quality, regulatory compliance, and operational efficiency.

Our Data Governance framework is centered around identifying, managing, and safeguarding CDEs. We emphasize their strategic importance in enhancing organizational performance and mitigating risks associated with data mismanagement.

### Value-Driven

Our CDE Spotter tool offers a sophisticated automation solution that simplifies the identification and management of CDEs.

### Innovative

Our innovative approach allows your team to focus on strategic initiatives and innovation rather than time-consuming data tasks.

### Streamlined

Our automated solution simplifies the identification and management of CDEs, reducing manual effort and human error.

### Efficient

We drive growth by automating the CDE management process, helping to streamline operations and free up valuable resources.

## Conclusion

In today's data-driven landscape, effective data governance is not only about compliance—it is a cornerstone for business success. Organizations must go beyond simply managing their data to focusing on the essential elements that make it transformative, meaningful, and actionable.

With innovative tools like Blue Altair's CDE Spotter, organizations can effortlessly incorporate CDEs into their Data Governance strategy, letting them focus on driving growth, developing policies, and innovating in ways that directly impact their bottom line.

## About Blue Altair

Blue Altair is a niche, industry-recognized business and technology consulting firm that assists our clients with digital transformations. We offer Assessment and Strategy, Technology Implementation, and Managed Services in API Management and Integration; Data Management; Digital Application Development; and Data Science and AI. Our Client Success capability ensures a higher-than-industry rate of successfully delivered projects, with a primary focus on program and project management, business analysis, and quality assurance. Blue Labs is our innovation hub, where we use cutting-edge technology to build offerings that deliver accelerators and solutions. Our culture is the heart of our existence, and our core values are the key drivers for our handpicked, top-tier performers.

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## About the Author

Praghya Sharma serves as a Manager in Data Management at Blue Altair India, where she ensures the successful management of Data Management projects at Blue Altair. She is a Professional Scrum Master (PSM) and holds several professional certifications in Master Data Management (MDM) and Data Governance, with expertise in platforms like Reltio, Purview, and Alation. Additionally, she is a certified Scrum Master with 12 years of experience working with leading companies such as BTL, Serene, and India Bulls. Praghya earned her Bachelor's degree in Computer Applications from Bundelkhand University, Jhansi, India.

