

Data Traceability Is the Key to Simplicity

We often go through complex IT systems implementations to optimize our processes, secure our data and accelerate collaboration.

But after this complex implementation, we sometimes realize that our situation is more complex than it was before using the new system. Yes, our processes are optimized, but we still don't have the complete picture that would have helped us to see what's happening in the organization.

One of the main promises of IT systems is to let you get control over your always growing data. Hence, you should always put data traceability at the center of any IT project.

But what is data traceability? A few examples would be:



- Having a good report generation tool for your ERP system
- Having an operating console that allows you to see which user did which operation at which point in time
- Having good auditing tools on your data and documents
- Having automatic notifications that will let you know if something goes wrong

So, I would have the following advice for you: If you can't easily trace your data at any point in time in the system, it's probably time to shred some functionality out of your project and to push it to a subsequent phase. Take this saved time to add traceability features.

If you push traceability to the end of your project, you'll always feel that it's your system that's controlling you. If you implement a traceable system, you'll always stay in love with it.

At last, also remember that legally, you have the responsibility to always explain the lifecycle of your data and documents. If a customer sues you and you can't prove the integrity of his data from point A to Z, it will end up costing you a lot more money than if you had thought of it from the beginning.

Topics: [data](#), [traceability](#), [audit](#), [lifecycle](#), [business intelligence](#)