Evaluating an Existing
Data Management System

Siobhan Kitchen | March 8, 2024

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Agenda

- Who is ddms?

- The Problem

- The Solution

- Case Study
  - Assessment

- Take Action!

ddms Overview

BEST IN CLASS DATA SYSTEMS
Environmental Data Management

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR SAMPLES AND DATA
Environmental Chemistry Services

SCALE YOUR GIS TO THE NEXT LEVEL
Enterprise Geospatial Services

To empower and amaze through enriched data experiences

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Who does ddms **Work With?**

Technology is constantly evolving – are you getting the most value from your data?

- Implementations for new EQuIS users and replacements of existing systems

- Existing EQuIS users as managed services
  - Laboratory support
  - Validation assistance

- Evaluate existing data systems

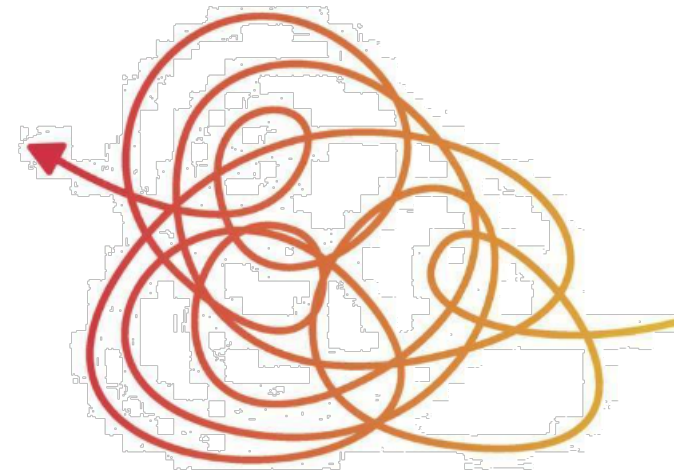**Oil and Gas Companies**

Energy Companies

Federal Government

Industry

Mining

State Governments

Environmental Consultants

And more.......

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Always Room for Improvement

- Environmental data management systems often grow organically as data needs evolve, which can cause:
  - Data redundancy
  - Inefficient processes
  - Lack of standardization
  - Lack of sufficient documentation
  - Increased complexity, frustration, and cost

This is particularly true for complex organizations with data continually entering one or more data systems.

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The Solution

- Identify where improvements can be made to the system to:
  - Increase data quality, integrity, and accessibility
  - Streamline processes and workflows
  - Standardize data and metadata
  - Maintain sufficient documentation
  - Decrease complexity, frustration, and cost

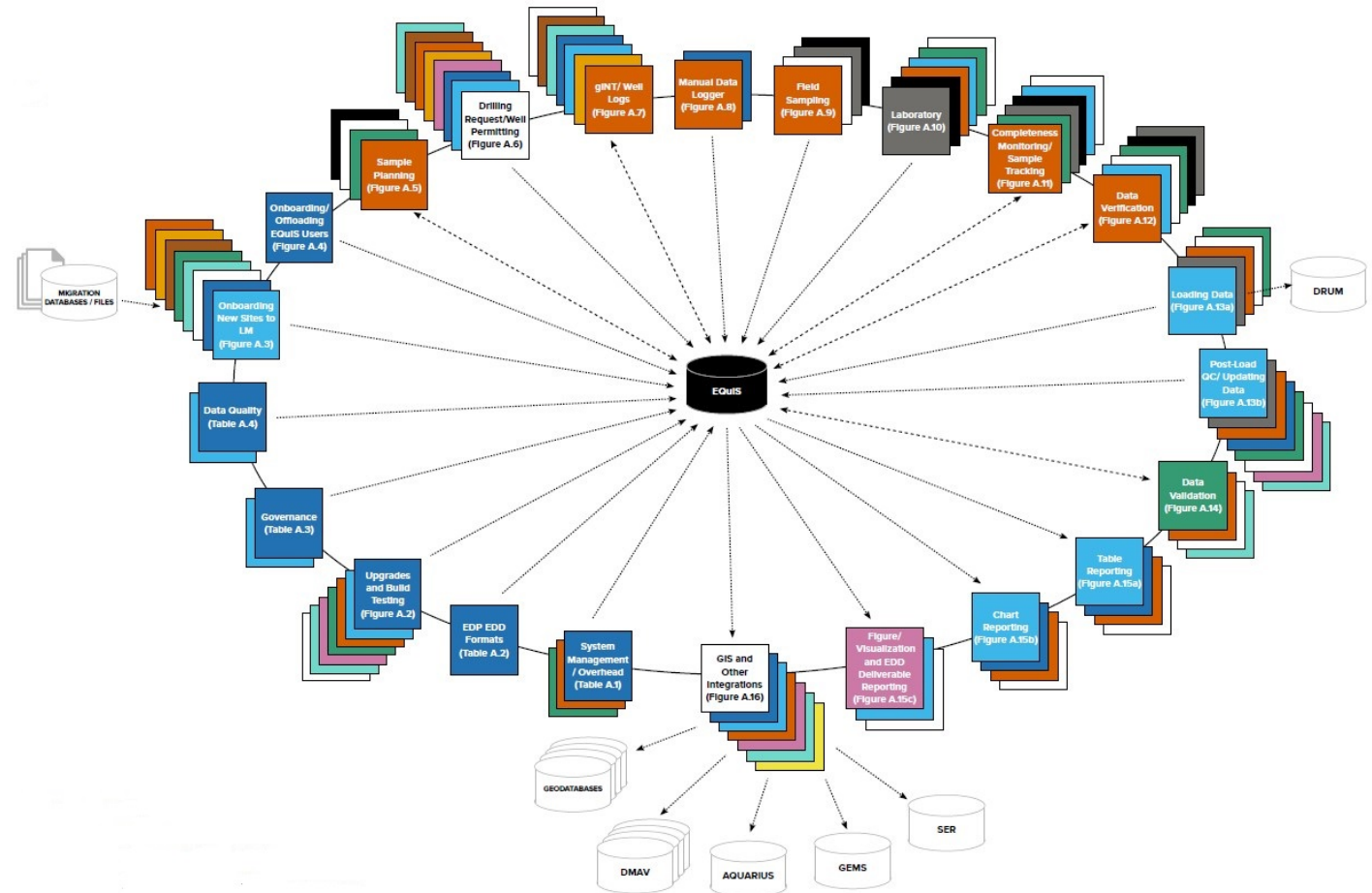- Implement those improvements

Case Study

- Sector: Government

- EQuIS Use Status: ~ 10 years

  - 150 facilities across US – range from very active to annual sampling

  - Workflows vary dramatically by team/regions

  - Intensive reporting requirements

- Client Objective: Reduce maintenance of homegrown customizations by standardizing workflows and implementing new EQuIS features.

Assessment Needed

- Assessment of data system and workflows

- Focus on improving quality, integrity, and accessibility of environmental data
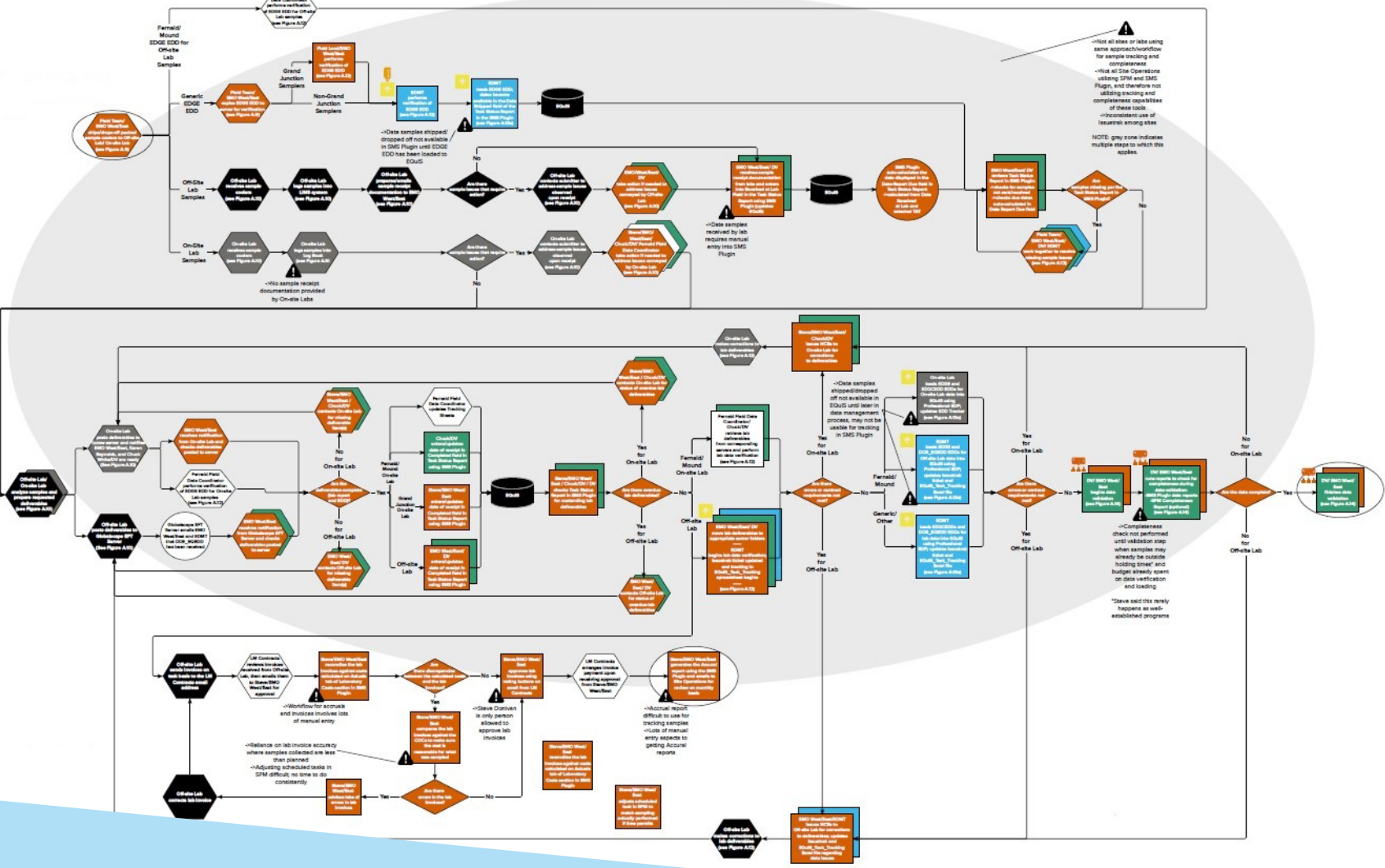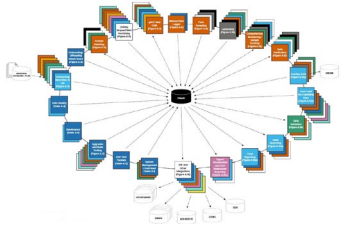
Assessment Discovery

- Information gathering:
  - Review existing procedures and other documentation
  - Conduct workshops and interviews
  - Distribute questionnaires
  - Site visits
  - Utilize SWOT analysis

Using different discovery methods allows for input from diverse groups and individuals from across staffed sites, accounting for different time zones, work schedules, and field work seasons.

Note: no actual EQuIS database access was provided in this case study

Assessment Methodology

- Document current-state workflows in detail with noted areas of improvement

- Consult with ddms SMEs on possible solutions

Assessment Outcome

- Create corresponding future-state workflows showing improved processes

- Document potential improvements per workflow strategy document:
  - Identify areas of improvement
    - Is system working optimally?
    - Are you taking advantage of new tools and developments?
    - Could we digitize more steps?
  - Propose recommended actions
  - Recommend people and process improvements
    - Roles
    - New hires
    - Documents
    - Policies

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Assessment Value

- Beneficial first step towards improving your data system and **reducing risks** associated with managing and reporting environmental data.

- **Reduce frustration** by data redundancy, inefficiencies, a lack of standardization and documentation, or unnecessary complexity in your data system.

- Provide a thorough **understanding** of the overall purpose, audience, and **functionality** of the existing data system and workflows.

How can ddms help?

- Perform an Assessment
  - Document and evaluate your environmental data workflows
  - Evaluate your data system and integrations
  - Develop a strategy document for improving the system and associated workflows.

- Prepare an Implementation Plan
  - Includes detailed action steps
    - Level of Efforts
    - Identified High Priorities
  - Includes editable/moveable schedule timeline

Discussion or Questions

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