

Data stewardship and ethics conversations transcript

Graphic #1

Data_analyst_Roberto posts: My manager says that it's my responsibility to manage our data. I thought that was the IT team's job!

Responses:

- **Reply from user 'data4life'**
I've always believed that managing data is something that everyone involved in a project should be responsible for!
- **Reply from user 'Data_Dae'**
Your manager is correct. I'll go beyond data4life's comment and add that data management should be something a company prioritizes across an entire organization.
- **Reply from user 'Drew_IT_guru'**
It's true that those of us who work in the IT world deal with issues of data management—but we certainly are not the only ones who come into direct contact with data! It may have been like that in the past, but the idea that the IT department is solely responsible for the management of data—that's just not the way most companies look at managing data any longer.
- **Reply from user 'PM_perfection'**
I work with my database teams all the time. I agree that it's generally everyone's responsibility to keep an eye on the management of data.

Graphic #2

Data_Analyst_Luca posts: My manager has asked me to do an analysis of our customers. How can I make sure that my analysis is representative and inclusive?

Responses:

- **Reply from user 'Chidi_is_calculating'**
My advice is to include as many contextual points within your analysis of the data as possible. Let me offer you an example. Let's say you have a data column for retail price and it's populated with numbers. Do those numbers reflect the local currency? If they are

converted, do they reflect the correct conversion rate? It's those kinds of details that contain the contextual information...it can make a big difference.

- **Reply from user 'Analyzing_Aria'**

Yeah...I experienced something like this while working with real estate data. The price paid for a property has changed over the years! If a family purchased a home decades ago, that could change the context and impact your understanding of the results.

- **Reply from user 'Meryl_cool'**

I'll add on to that point, if there is a column of data that isn't labeled clearly, be very careful not to make an assumption to what that data represents. Always reach out with questions.

- **Reply from user 'Estrella_EComm'**

I've found that it's a good idea that whenever I encounter areas where there is some doubt about my interpretation, I'll reach out to other teammates or even stakeholders in different areas.

- **Reply from user 'Shareefah'**

Are you dealing with the entire database or are you working with a sampling from the available data? Do you know if the data sample that you have been asked to work with truly represents all customers?

- **Reply from user 'Zoe_knows'**

Good analysis begins with even better questions. In my experience, people see what they expect to see within data, unless there is an effort made to identify bias. You can begin the process by asking for the opinions of teammates and stakeholders.

Graphic #3

Hiroki_DA posts: I've heard about human-centered approaches to data science...what does that mean? Should I really be intervening in the data analysis process?

- **Reply from user 'Xavier_the_prof'**

If I had to describe the idea of a human-centered approach to data analysis to someone outside of our field, I'd probably break it down to the interaction between humans, computers, and technology.

- **Reply from user 'Sofia_is_knowledge'**

It's also important to point out that as a data analytics professional, you have the ability to influence any data science process.

- **Reply from user 'Ning_Zhao_DA'**

There is plenty of discussion about the tech side of what we do, but the truth is that data science is not the computers running data analytics on their own!

- **Reply from user 'Martina_Rojas'**

So true!!! Analytics projects use both the power of machines and the expertise and judgment of the people that run them. It's important to realize the role that you play and the ways your decisions can impact the use of technology to get insights.

Graphic #4

Data_driven_Dimitri posts: What are some ways you have handled data and analytics in sensitive industries like healthcare and finance?

- **Reply from user 'DS_Megan'**

I've always advised those who I've mentored to start with a high-level of respect for sensitive information—especially data that contains any personally identifiable info. If you include them into your normal operations, they become ingrained into the way you approach each project you work on.

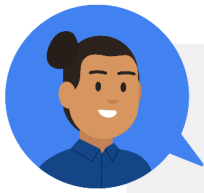
- **Reply from user 'Logical_Luana'**

I work within the healthcare industry and I can tell you that respecting privacy is one of the more important aspects of my job. Every data professional in healthcare must protect the privacy of patients. No results of tests or other medical records are shared. In fact, all of the identifying data is encrypted and it can't be accessed.

- **Reply from user 'Trending_Theo'**

Your experience is quite similar to what I have encountered in my work with financial institutions. There is a very high level of data stewardship that is maintained at all times. Same as in healthcare—any information that could identify an individual's financial records are encrypted. If you offer financial services, you also need to be aware of laws that protect the privacy of personal information. In the United States, companies are

required to explain how they share customer information and safeguard sensitive data.



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