FEDERAL DATA STRATEGY (FDS) POLICY EXPLAINED

1. Key Objectives of the Policy

The Federal Data Strategy (FDS) describes a 10–year vision for how the Federal Government will accelerate the use of data to deliver on mission, serve the public, and steward resources while protecting security, privacy, and confidentiality.

1.Data as a strategic Asset -Leverage data for national decision making -Improve government effectiveness -Enhance public service delivery	**2.Governance and Management** -Establish clear data governance frameworks -Define agency data responsibilities -Create standardised management practices	**3.Data Infrastructure** -Modernise data systems -Improve interoperability -Standardise data formats
4.Data Accessibility -Make government data publicly available -Create user friendly data platforms -Support open data initiatives	**5.Data Capacity Building** -Develop data literacy across agencies -Train workforce in data skills -Support data science capabilities	**6.Collaborative Approach** -Encourage cross agency cooperation -Share best practices -Develop unified data strategies

The Federal Data Strategy (FDS) also has the following principles: - Transparency, Innovation, Responsible data management, Continuous improvement and Public trust.

2. Impact on Data Management and Governance

a. Organisational transformation: - FDS standardises data management practices and creates clear accountability structures across all entities. It has also resulted in breaking down data silos as data is integrated to improve searchability and discoverability within Federal entities. FDS has also established unified governance frameworks with one purpose of improving the data space.

b. Data quality improvements: - Share Data between State, Local, and Tribal Governments and Federal Agencies has resulted in enhanced data accuracy, and the thrust to implement consistent quality standards. A need to develop robust data validation processes has also resulted in a unified goal within federal entities to reduce data inconsistencies as data will be shared with federal and non-federal stake holders. The value of data has also gone up due to the FDS as data is now viewed as a valuable asset of the Federal agencies as a whole.

c. Governance Evolution: - The FDS has also impacted Data Management and Governance in the evolution of governance. There is a rising need for clear data ownership, establishment of enterprise-wide data policies and a demand of comprehensive data stewardship models and implementation of systematic governance mechanisms.

d. Technological Advancement: - FDS has resulted in federal institutions to periodically review and optimise the use of modern collaborative computing platforms to ensure the modernisation of legacy data systems, promoting interoperability, and continually support emerging data technologies and standardizing data infrastructure across the federal government.

e. Risk Management: - The FDS promoted the review of federal data releases to the public to assess and minimize the risk of re-identification, consistent with applicable laws and policies, and publish reviews to promote transparency and public trust. This has impacted data management and governance by strengthening data security protocols, ensuring regulatory compliance, mitigating potential data breaches and development of comprehensive risk assessment frameworks.

f. Operational Efficiency: - The FDS Established terms and conditions for contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and other agreements that meet data management requirements for processing, storage, access, transmission and disposition. This has resulted in the reduction of redundant data, streamlining of data collection methods, improvements in decision making and optimising resource allocation.

g. Cultural Transformation: - The FDS promotes a learning culture, develops data leaders and promotes accountability, this has improved data literacy in federal government, encouraged data driven decision making, building organisational data capabilities and fostering a culture of transparency.

3. How the Policy Relates to the Broader Federal Data Strategy or Governance Framework

Broader Federal Data Strategy	Federal Data Strategy (FDS)
Improve government operations	-Ethical Governance -Conscious design -Learning culture -Prioritise data governance -Govern data to protect confidentiality and privacy -Recognise the value of data assets -Align agreements with data management requirements -Coordinate federal data assets
Enable data-driven decision making	-Champion data use -Use data to guide decision making -Identify data needs to answer key agency questions
Enhance public services	-Monitor and address public perceptions -Diversify data access methods -Prepare to share
Promote innovation	-Provide resources explicitly to leverage data assets -Leverage collaborative computing platforms -Prioritise data governance
Drive organisational efficiency	-Increase capacity for data management and analysis -Design data for use and re-use -Inventory data assets -Leverage data standards -Share data between State, Local and Tribal governance and Federal Agencies

4. Potential Challenges or Considerations for Implementation of Federal Data Strategy (FDS)

a. Technological Challenges

There can be legacy system limitations where the old or existing system can be incompatible with the new system trying to be implemented. The infrastructure can be outdated and may fail to cope with the new system requirements for example memory and speed of the existing machines. Another problem can be of complex technology integration and compatibility challenges, where by the new system to be implemented may fail to work together with the existing system.

b. Organisational Barriers

This challenge can occur when implementing FDS when people resist to change preferring the old way of doing work to the new. The Federal Data Strategy encourages cooperation of different entities or

departments of which agencies might have been promoting siloed cultures and limited cross-agency collaboration. Another challenge is of insufficient leadership support.

c. Data -Related Challenges

Poor data quality affects the implementation of FDS, inconsistent data standards can make integration unsuccessful. Incomplete metadata can make discoverability a problem and fragmented data repositories are difficult to integrate.

d. Resource constraints

Limited funding can slow down Federal Data Strategy Implementation as there is need for new hardware and software investments to be considered. Skill gaps in data management and insufficient training resources can also hinder implementation. Competing priorities can also slow down implementation as FDS might be deemed not a priority.

e. Governance Complexities

Unclear accountability, overlapping responsibilities, regulatory compliance difficulties and complex decision-making processes can slow down implementation.

f. Privacy and Security Risks

Sensitive data assets need to be protected from unauthorised access, data breaches and sensitive information exposure. Compliance challenges will also arise as there are complex regulations to be adhered to, multiple standards to meet and evolving privacy laws to always consider. There is need for regular security assessments, staff training, technical upgrades and policy updates to always consider.

g. Cultural Transformation

Federal agencies will be required to build a data driven culture, enhance digital competence and promote a collaborative mindset. This can only be achieved by having executive leadership support, implementing continuous training programs, incentivising staff to encourage innovation and to always have clear communication across all teams involved.