

Case Study: Smart Metering in the UK

Background: Smart meters are devices used to measure electricity and gas use. In the UK, the government has been rolling out smart meters as part of an initiative to modernize the energy system.

Data Management Aspects:

- **Data Collection:** Smart meters collect detailed information about energy consumption at short intervals.
- **Data Storage:** The data is stored in a centralized system accessible by energy suppliers and network operators.
- **Data Processing:** Algorithms process the data to provide insights into energy usage patterns and efficiency opportunities.

Data Governance Aspects:

- **Data Ownership:** Clear policies define who owns the data (consumers, energy suppliers, or network operators).
- **Data Stewardship:** Roles are established for managing the quality and security of data.
- **Data Privacy:** Regulations ensure that consumer data is protected and used ethically, complying with laws such as GDPR.

The Difference:

- **Data Management** focuses on the technical aspects of handling data, ensuring it is accurately and efficiently collected, stored, and processed.
- **Data Governance** deals with the overarching framework that governs data usage, ensuring compliance with regulations, ethical use of data, and protection of data rights.

Outcome: The smart metering case in the UK illustrates how data management ensures the operational effectiveness of data handling, while data governance provides the strategic oversight to align data practices with legal, ethical, and business objectives.

This case study can help students understand the practical implications of data management and governance, and the importance of both in ensuring responsible and efficient use of data.

For more details:

<https://royalsociety.org/-/media/policy/projects/data-governance/data-governance-case-studies.pdf>