

W12

Happy Trails to you ... the Ethics of Metadata

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With the increasing use of robust records and document management systems, we know that metadata fields populated with data relevant to the business itself is very powerful. We also know that some metadata fields can be changed to suit changing business requirements. Metadata changes are tithed to the security model (permissions) agreed to by business. Metadata changes can also occur when legacy data is loaded into the system without due care and planning.

What role does the records manager have to protect the integrity of metadata when it would seem perfectly logical to a business unit to change it? What is the impact of metadata change on business assumptions about the integrity of RM/DM systems?

Let's examine metadata and its evolution – is it as trustworthy and evidentiary as we believe? Are records managers exercising their code of responsibility when participating in the implementation of records and document management systems?

We all have a record; we're all being recorded. Happy trails to you ...