Department of the Air Force

Integrity - Service - Excellence

Data Analytics at SAF/FMC



Sarah Green Sept 2024

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Why VAULT?

- VAULT Architecture/ Tech stack
- Traditional cost processes vs. future vision
- Status and Process for Data Pipelines
- Metadata
- Use cases/ Dataiku

 Specializes in analytical tools & custom application sharing Flexibility on toolsets & "Bring your own Tool" process End-to-end analysis no coding required but capability for data scientist to do advanced analysis 	Advana - Specializes in authoritative data ingestion & visualization -Toolsets fixed by Advana (some flexibility for Enclaves)	Envision - Specializes in "quick start" access to integrated tool suite & established data connections - Palantir tools only (Vendor lock-in)	
SAF	OSD	SAF	
Platform as a Service	Platform as a Service	Software as a Service	
Tenants	Enclaves	Project Folders	
Primarily self-service: essential w/ cost community's PROPIN data	Contracted services	Primarily contracted services	
-Ability for users to easily pull raw data into end-to-end analytical toolsets to perform data transformations, analytics & custom modeling without coding required	-Requires advanced data science skillsets/programming to perform end-to-end analytics and custom modeling -No custom plug-ins/ custom apps	-Requires advanced data science skillsets/programming to perform end-to-end analytics and custom modeling -No custom plug-ins/ custom apps	
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Legend								
Х	No code required							
Х	Low code required							
Х	High Code required							
Х	Capability- coding n/a							
	No capability							

Platform	Tool	Data Loading/ Connection*	Data Transformations	ML/AI modeling and prediction	Dashboard Building	Custom Analysis/ Applications	Customizations- Deployed	Project Management Tools
VALUT	Dataiku	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	х
VAULI	Plotly	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	
	Tableau	Х	Х	Х	Х			
VAULI & ADVANA	Databricks	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	
	Qlik	Х	X	Х	Х			
ADVANA	DataRobot	Х	Х	х				
Envision	Palantir Foundry	Х	Х	х	х	Х	Х	х



SAF/FMC/AFCAA

Platform Requirements Analysis

Conclusion: Vault is Preferred DAF FM Cost Estimating and Analysis Community Platform

- Pros of Vault over Advana for AFCAA
 - Proprietary data protection government analysts can perform application/dashboard development and data governance - a MUST for industry data
 - Emphasis on analytic tool accessibility and allowance for "Bring Your Own Tools" a significant requirement/benefit to cost community
 - AFCAA solutions developed in Vault cannot be replicated in Advana without capability degradation
 - AF Operations Research community platform of choice- Enhancing AF cost community synergistic Analytics Sharing

Findings

- As-is Advana does not meet cost community data analytic needs
- DAF FM Budget/Financial community has different platform needs
- Current Advana development priorities not focused on our cost requirements- waiting for those would significantly
 derail current cost tool development path
- AFCAA Vault use is funded; funding for use by AF/SF and DoD CADE cost community will be worked
- NIPR/SIPR VAULT are currently operational, JWICS on roadmap for consistency with toolsets across classification environments



Cost Analysis Data Operating Model (CA DOM) Architecture Overview



Why VAULT?







Example VAULT Products



Interactive Scoring

Prediction for Total Comm Payload Mass (lbs):



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Most influential features for Total Comm Payload Mass (lbs) (ICE)





Program Overview Dashboard

Advanced Extremely High Frequency Satellite (AEHF) is a joint service satellite communications system that provides global, survivable, secure, protected, and jam-resistant communications for high priority military ground, sea, and air assets. The system consists of four operational satellites in Geosynchronous Earth Orbit that provide 10 times the capacity of the 1990s-era Military Strategic and Tactical Relay Block II satellites. The system provides continuous 24-hour Extremely High Frequency Extended Data Rate coverage between 65 degrees north and 65 degrees south latitude. AEHF allows the National Security Council and Combatant Commanders to control their tactical and strategic forces at all levels of conflict up to and including general nuclear war, and it supports the attainment of information superiority.



The AEHF operational system is composed of three segments: space terminals, and mission control. The space segment consists of a cross linked constellation of satellites to provide worldwide coverage. The terminal segment includes fixed and mobile ground terminals, ship and submarine terminals, and airborne terminals. The mission control segment controls satellites on orbit, monitors satellite health, and provides communication system planning and monitoring. This segment is also survivable, with both fixed and mobile control stations.



Contract Data Dashboard







VAULT Homepage





Industry Assessment of Data Science Platforms

- Gartner sets the industry standard for assessment of various tools
- Our entire tech stack is in the upper quadrant for their 2024 assessments
 - AWS
 - Databricks
 - Dataiku
 - Tableau (on the Analytics and Business intelligence quadrant)
- Annually reassessing
- Data Pipelines not tool dependent- built with SQL, Python, R which are supported in all DoD cloud based platforms



Figure 1: Magic Quadrant for Data Science and Machine Learning Platforms





Data Location

Provide me with...

- ...all Air to Ground (AGM) missile programs
- …all F-35 production reports
- ...all Sidewinder production reports, and subset the data to the Propulsion WBS element
- Image: all Space System ground components by a certain contractor



Plot for me...

 ...total cost for all F-35 production reports, in Lot order, normalized for work scope by reporting entity and adjusted for escalation

Provide me data that I can use to...

 ...estimates material cost for all missiles programs, stratified by missile type, across time

Data Modeling labeling provides a much deeper set of tags that would conducive modeling with minimal further manual data preparation or transformation work



Historical Process

1921= REPORT

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Optimal Process



1921 – like reports

Dynamically updated Dashboards

Models connected to data

Applications

Analysis



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- VAULT Use Cases represent a modern approach to traditional research
- Dynamically linked to the data pipeline to enable rapid and consistent analyses
 - Built upon a singular source of cleaned and normalized data (i.e., Silver/Gold layers)
 - Enables replicability across programs, commodities, or other data subsets
 - Curates data in a way that can be leveraged across multiple data products
- Tools can be anything (e.g., Tableau, Dataiku, or even back to Excel based on an export)
- Does not fully automate an analysis
 - Provides some efficiency, be it small or large depending on the use case
 - Still includes heavy analyst in the loop steps to ensure the correct data is being used

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Selecting the Optimal Solution

If some of the following are true..

Original, raw data source size is large
Data is relational in nature (tables related to other tables
by common fields)
Data requires a set of steps from raw source to final form
for analysis (transformation/mapping/cleaning etc)
Original raw data set is updated frequently (more than
~3xs a year)
Data is from a original source that has consistent fields
structured in flat tables
Resulting model tends to be based on parametrics
Models tend to have consistent logic for elements as a
starting point
Models that over time require many iterations/alternatives
or require frequent updates
Steps of the analysis could be easily reused by another

Model is generally based on objective data

program/ commodity/ etc. (i.e. common factors)

...Then VAULT/data science might be the best solution/approach

If most of the following are true..

Original, raw data source size is small
Dataset is stand-alone and not relational in nature
Data is used as-is from the original source
Original raw data set is updated infrequently (less than
~3xs a year)
Data is from an original source that does not have
consistent fields structured in flat tables
Resulting model tends to be based on a very small dataset
or analogy
Models that do not have any consistent logic for elements
even as a starting point for analysis
Models that do not require many iterations and are stable
without a need to update with more recent data

Steps of the analysis are not reusable by another program/ commodity/ etc (i.e. very niche/specific)

Model is based on highly subjective data (i.e., each point subject to interpretation by SME)

...Then current desktop tools might be the best solution/approach





- Power of Data Science in a no-code/ low code environment
- Scalable (can run any number of excursions simultaneously)
- Easily repeatable
- Centralized/ Highly collaborative
- Dynamic documentation
- Customizable can deploy custom "plug-ins" and applications for cost estimation



Excel	Dataiku
VLOOKUP	Join
SUMIF	Group By
Cut and Paste	Stack
Sort	Sort
VBA	Repeatable Scripts
Complex formulas	Window recipe
Complex formulas/	Prepare Recipe (100
Manual / VBA	processors)



Status of Data Pipelines

		Current	
Data Layer	Data Included	Status	Notes
			Metadata architecture 95% - Implementation
Metadata	Metadata		needed for each layer at silver level
	FlexFiles		
	1921		
	1921-1		Missles 90% / Space 70%/ Aircraft 15%
CSDP	1921-2		
CSDR	1921-3		
	SRDR		Planned to start 2024 with PCIP/PAQ
	TDR		
	Maintenance & Repair		
SAR	SAR		
	IPMDAR		currently only fields limited to export provided
			Lower level detail for AF only; working with EVM
	EVM Format 1		on other services
EVM	EVM Format 2		
	EVM Format 3		
	EVM Format 4		
	EVM Format 5		
			Most mature data layer due to work on CADE
Contract	Contracts		contract- dashboards in production
Budget	Budget		
	Flying Hours		as of FY24 Q1
	PAA		as of FY24 Q1
AFTOC	TAI		as of FY24 Q1
	End Strength		as of FY23 Q4
	Total Cost Combined		as of FY23 Q4
	CAIG/CAPE		as of FY23 Q4
	Maintenance		
	Supply		
	Personnel		not yet provided by AFIOC
	Indirect		1
FPRA	FPRA		
Gov Test	Government Test		

bronze/silver done - some gold bronze/ significant progress on silver bronze/ some progress on silver haven't started yet





Bronze-Silver-Gold

Gold: production-grade data that your entire company can rely on for business intelligence, descriptive statistics, and data science / machine learning

Silver: the raw data get cleansed (think data quality checks), transformed and potentially enriched with external data sets

Bronze: the initial landing zone for the pipeline. We recommend copying data that's as close to its raw form as possible to easily replay the whole pipeline from the beginning, if needed



Provided guidance to EVM and AFTOC data-layer teams

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VAULT Infrastructure

Failed

Skipped

- A collection of steps that trigger each other based on successful run
- Can be scheduled (i.e., run nightly)
- Set up for core CCDR & Metadata activities
- Provide an auditable way to track progress, trap errors, and restart flows for data and infrastructure updates

Completed runs (past 60 c Latest successful run (refreshes auto	days) omatically)			upload	d	C Refresh
Start time	Run ID	Launched	Duration	Status	Run parameters	Actions
May 30 2024, 12:59 PM EST	263316488	Manually	13m 2s	⊘ Succeeded	CCDR-Legacy_01_import_dir: .	Ū
May 29 2024, 11:32 AM EST	262062580	Manually	12m 24s	⊘ Succeeded	CCDR-Legacy_01_import_dir: .	Ū
May 28 2024, 14:02 PM EST	260987315	Manually	12m 29s	⊘ Succeeded	CCDR-Legacy_01_import_dir: .	Ū
May 24 2024, 15:10 PM EST	256373158	Manually	15m 17s	🛞 Failed	CCDR-Legacy_01_import_dir: .	Ū
May 21 2024, 14:52 PM EST	252721220	Manually	1h 25m 45s	🛞 Failed	CCDR-Legacy_01_import_dir: .	Ū



Documentation

- TOP THE THE THE TOP
- Further expanded documentation and definitions
 - CCDR Metadata field definitions and examples
 - Metadata-layer definitions
 - Commodity-specific guides
- Developed relationship diagrams
 - Layer-specific (i.e., Metadata)
 - Cross-layer (i.e., CCDR interaction with Metadata)









- Program-level metadata layer provides linkages between each data layer
- Each data layer has a consistent set of metadata that allows them to talk to each other as well as it's unique normalizations that allow it to be used to it's full potential



Use Cases Highlight

NLP Applications

- WBS Mapping Tool- utilizing ML with analyst in the loop (ML has 85-90% accuracy)
- Other Applications/Use Cases/ Plug-ins: Dataiku
 - Escalation/ Inflation Plug-in ability to centrally load inflation/escalation and apply to individual datasets MVP
 - Learning Curve Plug in ability to perform Cumulative Avg or Unit LC/Rate analysis MVP currently and iterating to improve
 - Monte Carlo Plug in mature capability to run monte carlo simulations within Dataiku
 - Conversion of O&S LACE model in VAULT
 - Lots of lessons learned- and this is currently informing our silver/gold table build
 - Aircraft SEPM Study (in development utilizing CSDR data layer)



Dataiku Overview

Dataset Types in Dataiku





JDBC connection (for us-Databricks "live" tables)

Uploaded Directly in Dataiku project



File coming from S3 bucket (these are static files)



Editable dataset- can interact with this similar to Excel

Dataiku Navigation Pane





Data Pipeline to Use Cases





Aircraft SEPM Factors

Total Dollars and Hours

The tables and charts below show SEPM and Non-SEPM dollars and hours over time.

Data is cumulative and should not be summed.

Total Dollars and Hours Over Time (Includes SEPM and Non-SEPM Costs)

		Report As Of Date	port As Of Date					
		2016-04-30	2017-03-31	2018-04-30	2019-04-30	2019-09-30		
ReportSeqDescription	Unit	Value	Value	Value	Value	Value		
 Cerberus EMD 	Dollars	113.225k	165.764k	342.599k	171.299k	171.299k		
	Hours	0	0	0	0	0		
 Cerberus LRIP 1 	Dollars	0	18.772k	401.833k	223.339k	223.339k		
	Hours	0	0	0	0	0		
 Cerberus LRIP 2 	Dollars	0	0	0	61.922k	83.695k		
	Hours	0	0	0	0	0		



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d/Collapse O Display totals



Below the Line Factors











- It all starts with database <u>structure</u>
- Data should be structured and <u>stored</u> so that easy for the computer to use and manipulate
- Data are <u>reported</u> to be easy to consume by human
- There are certain best practices when working with databases and tables in the VAULT (or any modern toolset or programming language)
- Material borrowed extensively from "<u>Don't just use your data... Exploit it</u>" Technomics ICEAA 2019



- When collecting data (even in Excel) be intentional about building tables so that it facilitates data analysis with modern toolsets
- General rule of thumb- choose to organize so that you have 1 or more tables with a set of mostly unique fields
- Ensure each table has at 1 common field (unique ID)
- DO's and DON'Ts
 - **DON'T** separate out various subsets of the data into different tabs
 - DO consider adding separate tables such as "metadata" if the fields are getting too repetitive



Flat File Concept

5

Rows represent unique data observations, columns represent variables

System	WBS Element	Cost (\$)
Truck A		
	Engine Cost	50,000
	Remaining Cost	150,000
	PM Cost	1,500
	Number of Units	10
	Total Cost	2.015.000
Truck B	Total Cost	2,015,000
HUCK D	Engine Cost	40 000
	Remaining Cost	120,000
	PM Cost	2,500
		2,000
	Number of Units	5
	Total Cost	812,500

Bad

System	Metric	Element	Value
Truck A	Unit Cost	Engine	50000
Truck A	Unit Cost	Remaining	150000
Truck A	Unit Cost	PM	1500
Truck A	Unit Cost	Surface Vehicle	201500
Truck A	Quantity	Surface Vehicle	10
Truck B	Unit Cost	Engine	40000
Truck B	Unit Cost	Remaining	120000
Truck B	Unit Cost	PM	2500
Truck B	Unit Cost	Surface Vehicle	162500
Truck B	Quantity	Surface Vehicle	5

Better

- Also avoid merged columns as header labels in raw dataset
- Similar concept to the format needed to create pivot table in Excel



Single Purpose Variables

- A column (or variable) should only contain ONE piece of information
- Single purpose variable

Bad

1 Surface Vehicle System

1.1 Variant A

- 1.1.1 Surface Vehicle
 - 1.1.1.1 Engine
 - 1.1.1.2 Remaining Vehicle

1.2 Variant B

- 1.2.1 Surface Vehicle
 - 1.2.1.1 Engine
 - 1.2.1.2 Remaining Vehicle

Better

Original WBS	Modified WBS	Element	Model
1	1	Surface Vehicle System	
1.1.1	1.1	Surface Vehicle	Variant A
1.1.1.1	1.1.1	Engine	Variant A
1.1.1.2	1.1.2	Remaining Vehicle	Variant A
1.2.1	1.1	Surface Vehicle	Variant B
1.2.1.1	1.1.1	Engine	Variant B
1.2.1.2	1.1.2	Remaining Vehicle	Variant B



Naming Conventions

Best practice for Variable names (i.e. column or field names)

- No special characters
- Unique (don't name 2 fields the same thing)
- No spaces (common to replace with underscore)
- Start with letter

Use variable names that any tool can use

Bad Name	Better Name
Work Breakdown Structure	WBS
% Complete	PercComp
Cost (TY \$K)	CostTY_K
Unit Cost (FY18)	UnitCost_FY18
1970	Cost_1970



Other Basic Rules 1/2

Avoid storing redundant information

- ✓ Only store child elements
- Do not store subtotals / totals

Data Table(s)

Intermediary Table(s)

Do not store calculated variables

Use intermediary tables for calculations

Analyses

Be mindful of data types

- Numeric, date, and text
- Excel will make (sometimes wrong) assumptions

/	Α	В
1	Text Format	General Format
2	1	1
3	1.1	1.1
4	1.1.1	1.1.1
5	1.1.2	1.1.2
7	1.9	1.9
8	1.10	1.1
9	1.11	1.11



- Should not have to rely on the physical sequencing data in table should be unorderedmeaning they can be shuffled randomly without any loss of information
 - Might need to define a variable to define the ordering



More on Data Structures

Begin with the end in mind before even starting

- Similar to building a cost model you need to have a purpose/ end goal: what are you trying to accomplish?
- Obey the data structure rules
- The best structure for your data DEPENDS what you're doing
- General Rule of Thumb
 - LONG (more rows) \rightarrow visuals
 - WIDE (more columns) \rightarrow analysis
 - Easy to either fold or pivot the data (i.e. turn rows into columns or columns into rows which will be covered in the Dataiku hands on portion)



Data Analytics User Group Overview

What this User Group IS

- Analysts from a wide spectrum of different government organizations that are CURRENT users of advanced data analytic tools and can represent their organization by talking specifically about them and ideally be able to demonstrate exactly how they are using those tools
- Liaising with Data Tools Tiger Team (whose mission is to better inform leadership on what is needed to identify, procure and adopt the right tools for the cost community)
- Government civilians
- Contractors directly supporting a government organization
- Meets regularly every 3 weeks

What this User Group IS NOT

- Providing training for novice users
- Making authoritative decisions about which tools should be used
- Industry contractors



Data Analytics User Group Goals

Short term Goals :

- Create a community of analysts using data analytics tools to collaborate
- Discuss each tool in detail to include the different ways that each organization is using the tools to their advantage
- Demonstrate and share results with the group so we can consolidate best practices and lessons learned
- Collaborate in order to avoid duplicative data analytic efforts and leverage work that has already been done to the greatest extent possible
- More widespread outreach to the cost community to help with adoption of tools
- Potential longer-term goals:
 - Collaboration on products to be eventually hosted in the DTM Hub

Email me for more information or to request to join: sarah.green.10@us.af.mil



Cost Analysis Data Operating Model (CA DOM) Architecture Overview



Realized Benefits



Legacy	Cloud-based
Traceability is dependent on documentation & process used by analyst	Complete step by step traceability to original, raw data
Only saved versions are kept- can lose trace to data in certain versions of models if not properly handled	Insight into who made change & when – and can revert back to a previous version in modeling tools
Often have issues with compatibility of desktop versions	No compatibility issues with different versions of desktop software once in the cloud
Mostly manual steps – not easily repeatable and often not well documented	Automated steps from raw data to final product so that it's repeatable on new data that's received
Extremely difficult to get desktop tools approved on high side	Can replicate environment on the high side (SIPR now, JWICS)
Performance limited to desktop compute	Performance will scale based on compute available in "cluster"- equivalent of groups of machines
Models are tedious to update and are often several years outdated	Can update models much more easily- often in days vs. months
Org-wide changes like inflation updates have to be individually updated in each model manually	Ability to centralize updates so that analysts can pull them in to models quickly and easily
Power of data science in cost community often limited due to very few programmers in the field	Data science tools in a no code/low code environment
Nodels built with manual steps tend to be very error prone	Opportunity for significant reduction of modeling errors

*AFCAA's assessment of benefits

Often h

Mostly

Extrem

Models

Power c

Models