

MOBIUS APPROACH TO DATA DISCOVERY

Ensuring the confidentiality, integrity and availability of information continues to be a significant concern for most organisations and remains a challenge due to the complexity of managing organisational data, **structured data and unstructured data**.

The adoption of King III, compliance with the Payment Card Industry (PCI) standards and pending Protection of Personal Information (PoPI) Act have created further need for organisations to know where their data is stored (discovery), what type of data they process (classification) and ensuring that all data is adequately secured.

Organisations are dependent on their data for decision-making and operations and hence need to ensure that data is protected from risks such as theft, digital extortion and leakage.

Mobius Consulting follows a structured and phased approach for data discovery, while remaining flexible to specific client requirements, as depicted in figure 1 below.



Figure 1 Mobius approach to data discovery

The table below details the objective and scope of each step of our data discovery approach:

Step	Objective
1. Define data discovery scope	To define what data is to be discovered and where it is located.
2. Identify stakeholders	To identify all personnel who are affected by the data discovery and those who are able to provide detailed insight to the data. This is essential in order to inform them, get their approval and to help develop accurate rule sets / key words for the discovery.
3. Define reporting requirements	To define what reports are required and the essential report sections.
4. Define remediation requirements	To define whether or not remediation is required, to what extent and whether or not remediation should be automated / facilitated by the software tool. Remediation may include data deletion, data archiving, data separation and / or data migration.
5. Define rules to discover data	To formulate rules to input to the data discovery software in order to discover the data as accurately as possible. <i>The success of this step is reliant on the participation of data owners and data custodians as well as a clearly defined scope (step 1).</i>
6. Select software tool to enable data discovery	To integrate the tool into the client's environment to prepare for data discovery. <i>This is dependent on support of the software tool vendor and the capability of the client's IT personnel.</i>
7. Install and configure software tool	To integrate the tool into the client's environment to prepare for data discovery. <i>This is dependent on support of the software tool vendor and the capability of the client's IT personnel.</i>
8. Set up rule set on software tool	To create / add the rule set on the software tool in preparation for data discovery. <i>This step is dependent on support provided by the software tool vendor.</i>
9. Test software tool	To test that the software tool is working as intended and is discovering and remediating a sample of data correctly.
10. Discover data	Use the fully tested software tool to discover data as required.
11. Remediate	Remediate based on the requirements set out using the software tool. <i>If remediation were to be performed by users, a second discovery would need to be executed to determine whether findings have been remediated.</i>
12. Analyse & report	To interpret data discovery results and present it as required (as per the reporting requirements already defined).