Much Ado about Data

In its simplest form, data migration is the process of transferring data from one data storage system to another. In actual practice, it is never quite that simple. Although there are best practices that make the transfer as accurate and efficient as possible, every project comes with its own unique challenges.

Data migration from the current CAL-ACCESS (legacy system) to the new CAL-ACCESS (target system) is planned to include applicable legacy data from the legacy system, regardless of the time of filing. The CARS Data Migration team has completed data profiling and cleansing activities. We are currently data mapping, where applicable legacy data is selected and then associated with target tables in the new CAL-ACCESS system database. Using these associations, legacy data will then be loaded into the target tables and tested to ensure the data transfer was complete and accurate, and that the new CAL-ACCESS processes the data as expected. If there are undesired or unexpected results, corrective action and testing will recur until issues have been satisfactorily resolved.

Ongoing analysis suggests that the vast majority of applicable legacy data can be mapped to the target system. The CARS Data Migration Team is hard at work identifying the data that will require special handling (think about all the information currently filed in free-form comments). As we get closer to implementation, the CARS Project Team will provide insight on how data will be presented in the new CAL-ACCESS. Keep watching the CARS project website or sign up for e-updates for more details.

WHAT MAKES SOME DATA SPECIAL?

Here are a few of the reasons some of the data will require special handling or presentation in the new CAL-ACCESS.

| Form-based legacy data in legacy vs. Transaction based target tables in new | Lack of relational data links in the legacy system | Unique business model | Legacy data that does not meet target system rules | Changes in the forms and information in the forms over time |

Table Talk

Attribute – Data field in a table.

Forms-based legacy data – Data collected on a form-by-form or batch basis, with possible duplication of data across multiple forms.

Relational data links – Links that connect related data contained in multiple tables.

Transaction based target tables – Data collected on a record-by-record basis, as opposed to a batch-based sharing of files.
CAL-ACCESS Project Meetings

CAL-ACCESS Project Meetings are informative and interactive meetings hosted by the CARS Project Team to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to learn more about the development and functionality of the new CAL-ACCESS.

On October 9, 2019, a kick-off meeting was held for the new CARS Stakeholders Input Group (SIG), a collaboration of the CARS Project Team, the California Political Attorneys Association and California Political Treasurers Association. The kick-off meeting introduced the following topics:

- SIG Charter
- Submitting feedback
- Future work session dates and topics

The CARS Project Team met with software vendors and service providers on October 25, 2019. In this webinar meeting, the CARS Project Team introduced draft regulations for software vendor certification and solicited feedback from the software vendor community. Anyone with questions or feedback about the draft regulations is encouraged to email PRDCARS@sos.ca.gov. Discussion regarding the draft regulations will continue at the next Software Vendor and Service Provider Project Meeting, tentatively scheduled for December 11, 2019.

Visit the CARS project website for details about the upcoming project update meetings, or email PRDCARS@sos.ca.gov for more information.

The CARS Data Migration Team will map over 6200 attributes from 86 tables in the legacy system to 138 tables in the new CAL-ACCESS system.

Government Code section 84602 requires the legacy CAL-ACCESS maintain all electronically filed data online for 10 years after the date it is filed, and for that data to remain online unless the data is migrated to the new CAL-ACCESS. The Secretary of State and the CARS Project Team have resolved to meet this requirement by migrating applicable legacy data from the legacy system, regardless of the time of filing. In addition, a copy of publicly accessible legacy data will be preserved on the date of new CAL-ACCESS implementation and will be available upon request.

I know you are migrating data for amendment purposes. How are we to ensure proper itemization / aggregation on an amended report?

The new CAL-ACCESS will be configured to allow year-to-date and election-to-date aggregations to be input by the filer. If the filer does not provide aggregate totals, the new CAL-ACCESS will calculate them based on available data. It will be the filer’s responsibility to verify that the aggregations are correct.