

# Solidatus for BCBS 239: Leading UK Retail & Commercial Bank (D-SIB)

## CHALLENGE

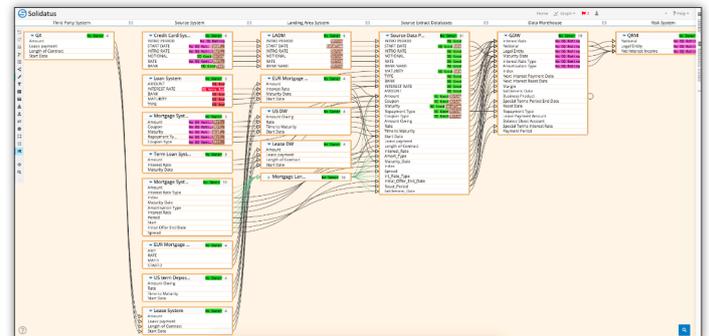
The following case study is an operational comparison of Solidatus and a leading Data Governance solution, which are functionally very similar but differ significantly in ideological and executionary approach. The problem case is from the viewpoint of a senior data governance and regulatory expert implementing BCBS 239 at a UK domestically systemically important bank (D-SIB) over a 3-year period.

During the implementation of the "Principles for effective risk data aggregation and risk reporting" set out in BCBS 239, the implementation team discovered in their investigations that the volume and complexity of data lineage and the critical data elements contained within, had been wildly underestimated. Primarily, BCBS 239 is a Data Lineage exercise rather than a Data Cataloging one. Over 60% of the time and resources focused on discovering and understanding the flow of data, and only 5% of effort in cataloging Critical Data Elements (CDEs). Users found documenting the data lineage and Data Quality (DQ) controls to be a difficult process, with lineage uploaded to the production domain often needed to be re-visited as more information came to light or new systems and processes were introduced. Data discovery investigations are fundamentally iterative processes where you don't know what you will find, therefore flexibility, speed and above all simplicity are critical. The inability to amend data lineage, coupled with no version controls meant winding back changes that had been made, or comparing an old version of the lineage to that of a post-change version was extremely time consuming.

The platform in question was designed with a catalog-first architecture as so lacked usability, flexibility and often couldn't handle data lineage flow volume. The inflexibility of an inappropriately designed platform results in the input data having to be re-engineered to fit the system, rather than the system meeting the bank's data needs. This ad hoc re-engineering resulted in Users experiencing a lack of link-up between functions resulting in the re-entering of the same data at multiple points in the system. Users found that it required excessive use of instructions which, due to the platform's evolving nature, would often fall out of date. The lack of intuitive design caused Users to struggle to navigate gaps in the instruction notes. Weekly evidencing reporting was suboptimal.

## SOLUTION

Though functionally similar Solidatus was easier to learn, use and adapt to meet the data needs of different business users. Data lineage and DQ controls metadata creation could be federated and uploaded into Solidatus using various template forms which could easily be changed to meet user data formats.



Links between data lineage and DQ controls were established through one-touch commands and, through auto-mapping. Solidatus provided intuitive visualisation, easy editing, advanced filtering and meta labelling, with its collaborative, versioned, audited elements simplified, accelerating the migration data lineage metadata while reducing risk of errors.

## RESULT

Solidatus reduced the effort required to document data lineage and DQ controls by 70% while providing an intelligently visualised, versioned, controlled data governance platform that satisfied the requirements of BCBS 239. This enabled historic data lineages to be retained for reference purposes and allowed future changes to be adequately controlled minimising the risk of the introduction of defects. The solution clearly demonstrated the data journey of critical data used by a D-Sib, to establish the bank's risks, and how the quality of that data is controlled to provide assurance that the risk figures being used complied with the principles set out in BCBS 239.

### KEY POINTS

- Functional equivalence does not equate to operational equivalence. Buy a Ferrari not a Ford.
- Align the business functionality and usability requirements to the product.
- Data Lineage is difficult; the right tool can save you thousands of man hours and millions of pounds.
- BCBS 239 principles require an organisational shift in lineage understanding and data management.

### ABOUT SOLIDATUS

Solidatus is a specialised, powerful and modern data management tool. The simple, intuitive and flexible web-based application allows organisations to rapidly discover, visualise and understand how data flows through their systems and the relationships it has.