

Web Data Maturity Model

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How we built the model

Interviewed internal teams

 5,000 customers and 13B pages extracted a month

Interviewed 40+ industry representatives

- Business Sponsor 40%
- Data Scientist 48%
- Web Scraping Developer 12%



Structure of the model



zyte | 4

zyte	1. Creating the business case	2	3	4	5
Level-1: Ad-hoc	 No documented business case Single use case (e.g. pricing) Poor understanding of costs of web data Inappropriate web data success KPIs No commercial success KPIs 				
Level-2: Opportunistic	 Very simple business case Just targets high profile sites Scraped data not fully leveraged Limited commercial success KPIs 				
Level-3: Systematic	 Multiple data use cases Formal business cases Data feed ROI considered Comprehensive list of sites that complement each other. Extensive data schema 				
Level-4: Proactive	 Commercial governance for all data feeds Prioritised backlog of data requests Regularly adding and removing data sources (i.e. sites, fields) 				

Value of Business Cases





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Prioritise investments

Investments with highest ROI get prioritised.

Increase probability of success

Written business cases force conversations that ensure those at the execution stage understand the objectives, saving time and increasing scope for innovate solutions.

Creates organisational memory

Good business cases become a reusable templates for future projects thereby reducing the effort of evaluating ideas.

zyte	1	2. Deploying resources	3	4	5
Level-1: Ad-hoc		 Partial resource allocation No external vendors 			
Level-2: Opportunistic		 Temporary full time resources Siloed resources Leverages external vendors 			
Level-3: Systematic		 Dedicated full time resources Multiple or Dominant vendor Vendor as a business partner 			
Level-4: Proactive		 Cross training & Career progression facilitated Regular fallback testing QBR style engagements with vendors MSAs in place with multiple vendors 			

zyte | 7

Value of Deploying Resources



Ensures alignment with strategy

Organisations should prioritise investments in areas that give them a competitive advantage and are core to strategy. Resourcing not matching this strategy leads to uncertainty (e.g. hiring large team to do web scraping when this is not aligned with strategy)



Team sustainability over individual hires

"No one goes to college to maintain spiders!" To attract and retain talent you must have a structure, and challenges that support growth and development.

zyte	1	2	3. Ensuring compliance	4	5
Level-1: Ad-hoc			 Nothing considered No legal review 		
Level-2: Opportunistic			 Considered but not acted on Legal review by generalist 		
Level-3: Systematic			 Considered, documented and acted on Dedicated legal specialist Continuously monitor for new regulations 		
Level-4: Proactive			 Documented, audited, and maintained Team of dedicated legal specialist working as partners Continuously monitoring emerging case law 		

Value of Compliance



Sustainable business strategy

De-risk investments by ensuring data can be collected in a sustainable and compliant manner.



Protect your brand

Ensure your teams don't inadvertently carry out activities that are illegal or do not comply with your corporate ethics.

zyte	1	2	3	4. Building feeds	5
Level-1: Ad-hoc				 No antiban capabilities Hacky spiders in different languages (python, JS, etc.) No shared utilities (e.g. text & html cleaners, formaters, etc.) 	
Level-2: Opportunistic				 Consistent language Some tooling (e.g. SPM, SC, etc.) Some antiban capabilities 	
Level-3: Systematic				 Consistent tooling Sophisticated antiban approach (e.g. SMEs) Single vendor/team Incremental crawling 	
Level-4: Proactive				 ML fall backs Adaptive spiders Multiple vendors/solutions Dedicated antiban solutioning 	

Value of Building Feeds



Build according to strategy

It's easy to build a spider to get web data, but it's much harder to build a monitorable, maintainable spider that functions in such as way as to ensure company strategy is realised (e.g. graceful failing, etc.).



Use constraints to your advantage

It takes time to get web data, use that to prioritise the data you need to scrape, and hence your crawling strategy (e.g. Product detail page weekly, price from Product list page daily, etc.).

zyte	1	2	3	4	5. Maintaining feeds
Level-1: Ad-hoc					 Firefighting or disposable
Level-2: Opportunistic					 Builders = fixers (i.e. non-specialised) No monitoring or major alerting
Level-3: Systematic					Manual QAAlerts & monitoring
Level-4: Proactive					 Manual & Automated QA Data feed health monitors Monitoring for new or changed data fields

Value of Maintaining Feeds



Use resource ratios

For example for every new data feed built there should be X FTEs available to maintain the feed (e.g. 0.02 FTEs).





Establish SLAs

Response times, uptimes, and resolution times, all ensure appropriate monitoring and fixing resources are put in place.

Pro-active over reactive

Identify high risk time periods and ensure adequate resources are in place (e.g. around Black Friday).

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Level-2: Opportunistic	 Very simple business case Just targets high profile sites Scraped data not fully leveraged Limited commercial success KPIs 	 Temporary full time resources Siloed resources Leverages external vendors 	 Considered but not acted on Legal review by generalist 	 Consistent language Some tooling (e.g. SPM, SC, etc.) Some antiban capabilities 	 Builders = fixers (i.e. non-specialised) No monitoring or major alerting
Level-3: Systematic	 Multiple data use cases Formal business cases Data feed ROI considered Comprehensive list of sites that complement each other Extensive data scheme 	 Dedicated full time resources Multiple or Dominant vendor Vendor as a business partner 	 Considered, documented and acted on Dedicated legal specialist Continuously monitor for new regulations 	 Consistent tooling Sophisticated antiban approach (e.g. SMEs) Single vendor/team Incremental crawling 	 Manual QA Alerts & monitoring
Level-4: Proactive	 Commercial governance for all data feeds Prioritised backlog of data requests Regularly adding and removing data sources (i.e. sites, fields) 	 Cross training & Career progression facilitated Regular fallback testing QBR style engagements with vendors MSAs in place with multiple vendors 	 Documented, audited, and maintained Team of dedicated legal specialist working as partners Continuously monitoring emerging case law 	 ML fall backs Adaptive spiders Multiple vendors/solutions Dedicated antiban solutioning 	 Automated QA Data feed health monitors Monitoring for new or changed data fields

Average response of Interviewees

zyte	Creating the business case	Deploying resources	Ensuring compliance	Building feeds	Maintaining feeds
Level-1: Ad-hoc					
Level-2: Opportunistic					
Level-3: Systematic					
Level-4: Proactive					

Thank you