# Data custodian

## Definition

Data custodian an IT role responsible for the structure of data fields, including database structures and models, and for management of the technical environment of data maintenance and storage.

## Synonyms

Common job titles for data custodians are database administrator (DBA), data modeler and ETL developer [2].

## Notes

People usually get confused between the roles of data stewards and data custodians. The simplest difference between these roles is that a data steward is responsible for the data content, context, and associated business rules, while a data custodian is responsible for the structure of those data fields including database structures and models [2][4].

The data custodian is seen as an IT role [1][6]. A data custodian manages the technical environment of data maintenance and storage [5]. The custodian is maintaining the data on IT systems in accordance with business requirements [5][7]. A data custodian deals with the movement (ETL), security, and storage of data [8].

A data custodian is responsible for: [2]

- Accessing data is authorized and controlled.
- Identifying Data Stewards for each data set.
- Sustaining data integrity with technical processes.
- Performing processes for data quality issue resolution in partnership with data stewards.
- Protecting data with technical controls.
- Checking if added data to data sets are consistent with the common data model.
- Maintaining versions of master data along with the history of changes.
- Applying change management practices to database maintenance.
- Auditing data content and changes.

## Relations

Data custodian is an instance of a role.

A data custodian is part of DQMS-element roles and responsibilities

## References

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