

THE COMPLEXITY OF DELIVERING QUALITY DATA
- What hides behind data provided to the modeller?
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Without detailed information about areas of focus, creating a representative model can prove to be a challenging task. It is important however, to understand how certain specifics are obtained and what practices are being utilised to deliver adequate data for input. Such awareness can radically improve communication between modellers and teams that produce and verify information necessary for model use.

The usual data –to - engineer route involves telemetry, GIS, customer billing, and consumption information gathered from relevant systems along with threads of emails.

There are numerous challenges that multiple teams tackle on a day-to-day basis, to deliver quality data to the modelling team.

Key challenges behind the delivery of model data are:

- Pressure and Flow data
- Customer data (ID numbers, location)
- GIS – provides information on boundary data, connectivity, and location.
- Consumption data - metered or estimated
- Communication/coordination
- Asset data – asset information
- Operational data - network operation

Another major aspect behind data delivery is understanding who bears the responsibility for managing the water network as this is an important factor in how the entire process is designed. In the UK, Water Companies are responsible for managing the water network, however, there are countries where this rule doesn't apply yet. Ireland is an example where responsibility lies upon the Local Authorities, which adds another layer to the network management structure.

There is a visible need for clear processes to be created and implemented that will establish standards by which quality information will be delivered to modellers. It is preferential for Modelling Engineers to be aware of and understand the manipulation and processes during data creation used for model build. Relevant knowledge is key for effective communication and understanding of such process enabling identification of corrupted or erroneous data straight from source.

It is through simple but regular knowledge sharing and collaboration events within organisations that these obstacles can be initially identified and overcome by project teams involved at all stages of the data gathering process.

Data quality should be influential on future investment decisions for businesses to avoid wasteful use of scarce resource and finance.