



The Wrong Approach to Data Migration

(The Industry Standard Approach)

vs.

The iergo[®] Approach to Data Migration

(The Right Approach)

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The Wrong Approach to Data Migration

The industry standard approach tends to start from the technology.
(see Fig.1 Data Migration - Industry Standard Approach)

- They ask which ETL tool to use
- They look for experts in the target system
- They hire in specialist DBA consultants who are experts at mass data loading techniques.
- They pay for additional servers and consider load balancing and even investigate inline data loading tools that mean there will be no down time.

Given all this effort why do so many data migration projects go wrong?

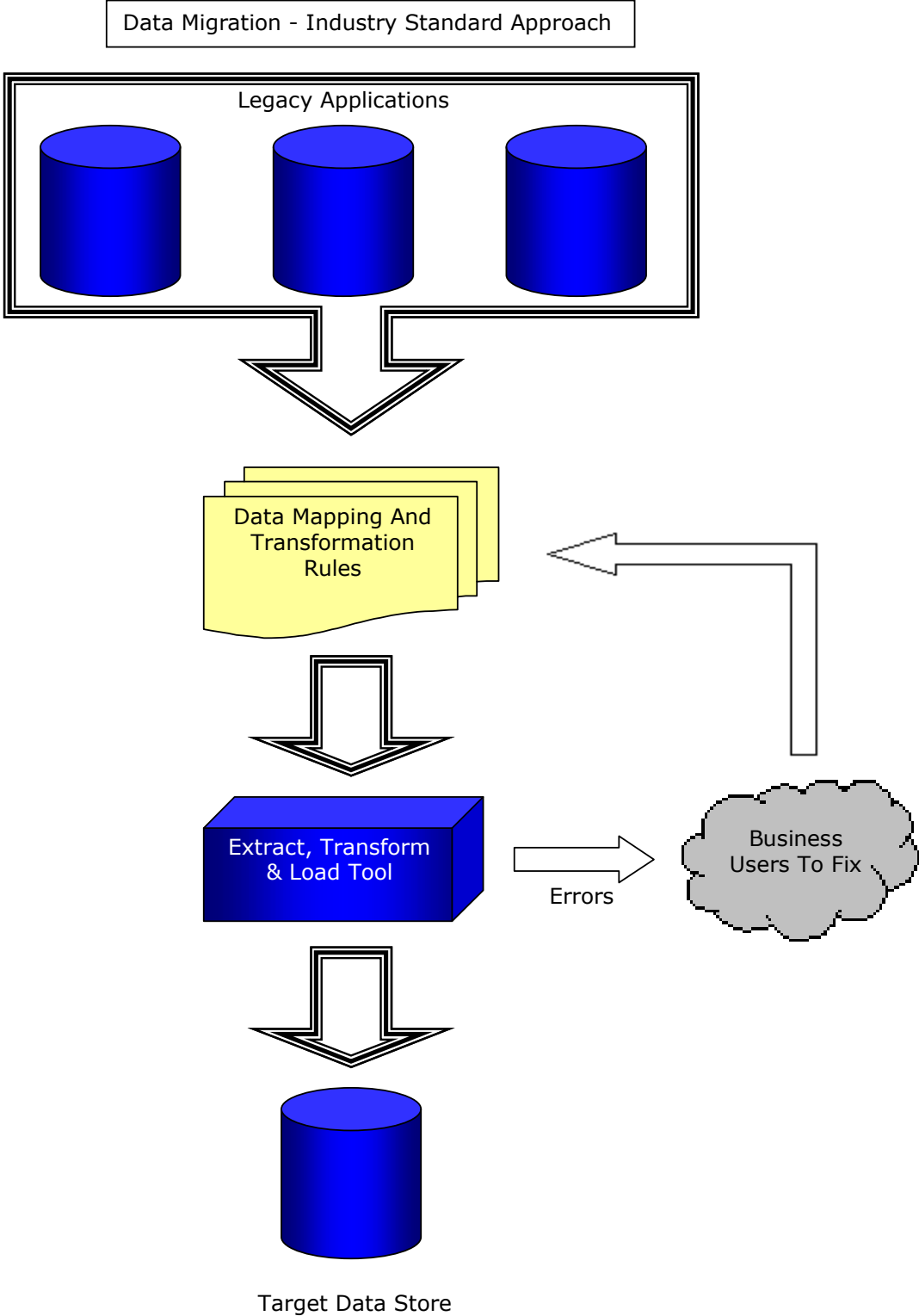
Problems Encountered

- Unforeseen data errors are encountered at load time
- Errors are cascaded back onto ill-prepared and ill-supported business users causing a legacy of resentment and ill will.
- The technologists typically ignore user built data stores that may have the best quality data. Our business community interprets this as typical technologist arrogance.
- No one takes responsibility for decommissioning obsolete data stores so they persist in a ghostly half-life.
- There are no mechanisms for enlisting the help of business domain experts or for gaining the support of data owners.
- Time constraints and over optimistic initial presumptions give way to a mad rush at the end to get what data we can instead of the most appropriate data.
- The project spirals into a vortex of mutual recriminations and damaged careers.

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The iergo[®] Approach to Data Migration

We believe that the technology, although essential, is only the final twenty percent of a well managed data migration project.

(see Fig.1 Data Migration - The iergo[®] Approach to Data Migration)

Before it there is a hinterland of activity:

The Right Approach

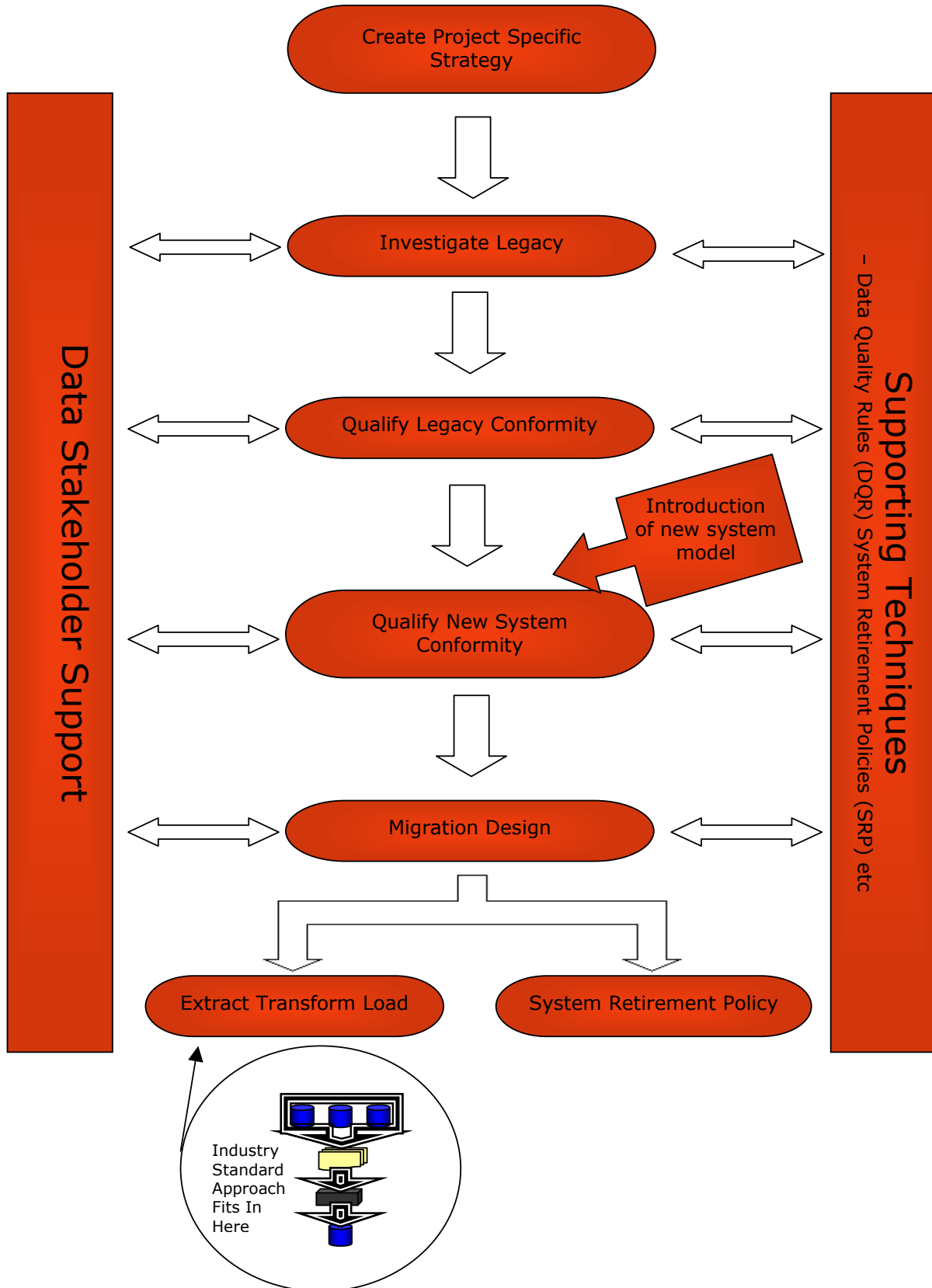
- We will analyse the environment, both technical and cultural in which the migration will work
- We will select from our extensive range of traditional and proprietary methods and project forms to create a bespoke project that fits your environment
- As we investigate the legacy systems we will show you how a data migration project can be used to build sustainable bridges with the user community
- We are not afraid of opening decommissioning discussions as a first order task
- We will show you how to enlist the best domain experts in the business to get the most appropriate data
- By getting maximum buy in from the business we will show you how to get the necessary compromise decisions made early, not as a matter of expediency as programme deadlines loom
- We recommend that data analysis (with an emphasis on data quality exceptions) of existing systems precedes the introduction of the new system model
- When the new system design is introduced the project will have the maximum awareness possible of existing data gaps and issues
- When the new system design is introduced a virtual team of business led data experts will be on tap to aid the project

Only then – with the aid of system retirement policies, the business domain experts and the detailed knowledge of legacy data stores do we commence on the extract, transform and load design of an industry standard approach.

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