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# Original Data Capture Package Data Model Comparison Workplan

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## 1.0 Introduction

In the March 1998 issue of The Data Administration Newsletter ([www.tdan.com](http://www.tdan.com)) a user submitted the following question:

*Should the customer be able to "demand" data models from software package vendors and what can be done to convince the vendors that supplying data models is in their own best interest?*

The position of Whitemarsh is as follows:

This question only arises when the RFP under which the package is procured is not well specified. All the metadata that exists within a package should have been available and been provided with the package as part of the contract. No metadata, then no contract. If you've acquired the package, done the conversion, and paid your money then you've lost all your bargaining position.

In addition to having the data model, you need to know how well the data model was done. There's a whole check list for evaluating the quality of a package's data model. If the data model is bad then so too is probably the rest of the package. If the data model is bad or not sufficient then the vendor probably had to create tens-of-thousands of extra lines of application code to compensate for the lack of schema based validations, referential integrity, referential actions, stored procedures, triggers, and the like.

Simply stated, if a vendor doesn't want to proudly show, share and give you the package's data model then the vendor is probably hiding something that will cost you a lot in the long run.

In support of that answer, the following data model evaluation work plan is offered.

