



Tenth Anniversary of Granite Falls: A Retrospective and Looking Forward

Happy Tenth Anniversary, Granite Falls! It's hard to believe that ten years have passed since starting my own consulting company, offering solutions related to information quality and data governance.

Ten years ago when I was considering next steps in my career and life, I had other opportunities - some not related to data at all. I was inspired to use my then 13+ years of experience gained from leading data initiatives in global high tech companies.

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Since the beginning of Granite Falls, I have had the pleasure of working with clients from industries as varied as biotechnology, insurance, finance, retail, direct sales, automotive, oil and gas, health care, public utilities, and education, among others. It has been very gratifying to aid those who are dedicated to improving upon the quality of their organizations. Granite Falls has been honored to be included in those efforts.



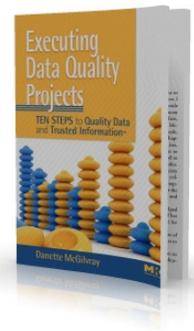
London Heathrow
Airport, Dec. 2014

I have been fortunate to travel across the US and the world, including the UK, Australia, and South Africa. In both Brazil and Italy my training was offered with simultaneous translation into Portuguese and Italian respectively. In the course of my travels, I have worked with people from many additional countries and industries who have attended my various training workshops, conferences, and presentations. I appreciate the feedback that my methods are broadly

applicable. It has been fascinating to work with others from different backgrounds and cultures—the perspectives they contribute help me to broaden my own.

I offered my methodology through writing [*Executing Data Quality Projects: Ten Steps to Data Quality and Trusted Information™*](#) (Morgan Kaufmann, 2008), also available in a Chinese language edition. The response to the book has been impressive – with the most frequent response being “It is so practical!” It has been rewarding to share my perspective and expertise to help others use these methods to their benefit.

Though I am most known for my Ten Steps™ approach to data quality projects, my firm has helped clients with all things data quality and governance from strategy to implementation and programs to operational processes. Many of these ideas are presented in a range of articles in various publications and in my chapter of the book [*Handbook of Data Quality: Research and Practice*](#) (Springer, 2013).



Granite Falls’ success in all of these efforts is in large part due to the clients, colleagues, employees, subcontractors, suppliers, third-party tool vendors, conference organizers, publishers, training companies, family and friends who we have worked with, or who have supported us over the years. We have learned from all of you and benefitted from your experience and expertise.

I am often asked where the name Granite Falls came from. I asked a friend of mine for ideas and he said simply to make it meaningful to me. He owned five companies at the time and one of his companies was named after his grandmother.



I thought of a place in Nevada that my husband and two of our friends “found” when we spent a weekend together at Lake Tahoe. While wandering about, we spotted a beautiful set of

falls. Upon closer inspection, we realized the surrounding granite boulders allowed us to climb among the waterfalls—a fact we took full advantage of. I have no idea the real name of this place (and I probably don't want to know), but we referred to it as Granite Falls.

This experience and the feelings it prompted inspired the name of Granite Falls Consulting—granite for strength, water for flexibility, rock-solid solutions. It represents how I want to show up for my clients.

Looking forward, I know the world will continue to depend on information. It becomes more and more true every day.

“We are changing the world,
one data element at a time”
-Navient

I am still convinced that what any of us provide related to data is important to this world. As one of my clients, Navient (formerly Sallie Mae), said “We are changing the world, one data element at a time.” I am thankful for the years that I've enjoyed so far with Granite Falls, and I look forward to many more years, more new experiences, colleagues, friends, and opportunities.

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