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### **BenchmarkQA Advocates for Testing of Data in Data Warehouse and Business Intelligence Projects**

May 20, 2010, Minneapolis, MN . BenchmarkQA today welcomed IT professionals to their 12<sup>th</sup> Software Quality Forum, a free quarterly seminar focused on issues relevant to the software quality assurance industry. This event highlighted the importance of testing the data used in data warehousing and business intelligence projects to ensure the data is relevant, accurate and reliable.

According to Molly Doyle Decklever, BenchmarkQA vice president of Operations, "Whether the value of business intelligence and data warehouse projects is to aid in good financial decision making, guide product development, or get ahead of marketing trends, the potential business value can be completely eliminated by data that is wrong, misleading, or incomplete. Reports, graphs, and dashboards are only as useful as the data is accurate and meaningful." She concedes that although there are many valid and complex reasons why best practices and standards for testing are disregarded for data warehouse projects, this is often done at the peril of the project and ultimately the users of the data.

BenchmarkQA consultants Sheila Conway and Santosh George, and Frank Kadwell of D3 Information Systems, Inc., participated in a panel discussion that began with an in-depth introduction to data warehousing and what is unique - and not so unique - about testing in this environment. The presentation then segued into the presenters' individual experiences with projects challenged by sub-standard data. There were many issues that lead to the compromised data including data security requirements, access to data sources, complicated regulatory analytical requirements and management political battles. The presenters shared their expertise on working in less-than-perfect testing environments and ways the issues could have been avoided or overcome.

BenchmarkQA, headquartered in Minneapolis, MN, has provided exceptional quality assurance consulting and testing services to its clients for more than 23 years. They help software project teams deliver high-caliber software with greater efficiency and cost control, through process improvement strategies, training, guidance, and the productivity of highly-skilled QA professionals. As a service to the Twin Cities QA community, BenchmarkQA offers Software Quality Forums on a quarterly basis. For more information, please visit [www.benchmarkqa.com](http://www.benchmarkqa.com).

D3 Information Services works with businesses of all sizes, and partners with them to best utilize technology to properly deliver information that will improve efficiencies and the business' return on investment. Their services include Business Intelligence, Project/Program Management, Business Analysis and Information Management Process Improvement. For more information please call 763.442.5620 or email [fkadwell@d3informationservices.com](mailto:fkadwell@d3informationservices.com).

For additional information about this or upcoming events, or services available through BenchmarkQA, contact Molly Decklever, VP of Operations, 952.392.2384, [molly.decklever@benchmarkQA.com](mailto:molly.decklever@benchmarkQA.com).

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