



# Document Critical Data Elements With a 'Click'



## NORD/LB

Norddeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale (NORD/LB) is one of the largest commercial, federal state-owned banks in Germany. Headquartered in Hanover, Germany, NORD/LB comprises more than 6,000 employees and spans 21 cities worldwide, including Paris, New York, London, and Shanghai. NORD/LB partners with 65 savings banks across Northern Germany and beyond, in addition to operating as a service provider for individual savings banks.

### Challenge

As a systemically important bank (SIB), NORD/LB houses massive amounts of data related to business (e.g., several reporting systems) and IT (e.g., millions of tables and fields contained in databases) and has long-required solutions for governing that data.

When NORD/LB was faced with a new regulation in 2015—the Basel Committee on Banking Supervision's regulation number 239 (BCBS 239)—the bank needed to quickly enhance its data governance strategy. BCBS 239 necessitated proof of risk data aggregation capabilities and internal risk reporting practices to bolster overall risk management. To comply with BCBS 239, NORD/LB sought a solution that would enable more comprehensive documentation of the bank's most important critical data elements (CDEs); risk data aggregation processes (especially for new staff); and the flow of data and metadata within the bank's IT architecture.

NORD/LB elected to use the Rocket® Data Intelligence solution to meet the demands of BCBS 239. Leveraging Rocket Data Intelligence expanded its capabilities by providing data quality management, enterprise data dictionary, business intelligence, enterprise metadata management, and most importantly, data lineage. These functionalities would be critical for providing NORD/ LB with the data visibility and governance capabilities needed to comply with regulations.

### The challenge

The bank identified a critical need to keep up with regulations by enhancing its data governance strategy.



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**HERBERT FEHSE**

Applications Manager, NORD/LB

## Solution

In 2017, Herbert Fehse, an applications manager from NORD/LB’s IT department and the BCBS 239 project team, partnered with Rocket Software to embark on a multi-phase data intelligence implementation process. This process was strongly supported by the BCBS 239 program manager Horst Thanbichler and the project manager for the metadata management part in the BCBS 239 project, Kim-Janice Breuer.

The first phase focused on educating NORD/LB business users about the data intelligence product—not only offering a proof of concept but also mapping its capabilities against the needs of NORD/LB. Through conversations with the NORD/LB team, Rocket Software and NORD/LB were able to design a data intelligence solution that would optimize the company’s compliance and reporting processes. This required adapting both the data models and the visualization of their top metrics to enable NORD/LB to use and present data enterprise-wide, including to the bank’s subsidiaries. “Once the solution was implemented and tested, Rocket Software made sure NORD/LB stakeholders were trained on data intelligence so they could use it to its full potential,” Fehse said.

Next, the Rocket Software and NORD/LB teams began discussions for phase two, commencing in July 2018. This phase would involve synchronizing the data intelligence solution with NORD/LB’s data quality group to further manifest benefits to the bank, such as integrating the organization’s entire data quality and data lineage information, including data glossaries. Next, Rocket Software would integrate data intelligence with the SAP software that generates risk reports, documenting how the SAP systems transform relevant data—a critical step to help regulatory auditors understand where data is coming from across the bank’s different systems.

## The solution

The new solution optimized compliance and reporting processes and synchronized data intelligence with NORD/LB’s data quality group, manifesting benefits to the bank.

## Results

With the data intelligence solution, NORD/LB can now efficiently document summaries, applications, processes, and critical data elements. By being able to track and report data lineage, NORD/LB can quickly meet requests from regulatory authorities. When regulators from the European Banking Authority come to NORD/LB, as they do every six months to examine compliance, NORD/LB is able to quickly pick out two pieces of record and show the auditor where that information comes from, what its lineage is, how it's changed and from which system it originated. This process used to require three to four weeks of preparation from NORD/LB—involving close examination of systems, Excel spreadsheets, and paper trails to identify requested data—it can now be conducted with the click of a button.

In addition to making NORD/LB more agile in responding to regulatory requests, data intelligence has also proven effective at mitigating potential compliance issues in the future. Using extensive database systems and modeling tools, data intelligence allows the bank to compare releases every six months to identify what data has changed and what is new. Through this process, and with visibility into the repository, NORD/LB can generate updated databases and perform impact analyses to identify problems within the organization before they occur.

Data intelligence has become an integral part of NORD/LB's compliance process. Helping the bank comply with existing and future regulatory requirements, like BCBS 239 and freeing up employees to focus on more strategic work enabled NORD/LB to maintain customer trust and loyalty.

## Rocket Software's impact on NORD/LB

### Visibility

Completed documentation of its glossaries, bank auxiliaries, and critical data to show regulatory authorities.

### Time Savings

Data Intelligence made preparing for compliance audits easier, reducing the time needed by as much as 3-4 weeks.

### Productivity

Applying Data Intelligence to the compliance process freed up employees to focus on more strategic work.

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