

DATASUS

Unified Health System
(Sistema Único de Saúde - SUS)



DATASUS ALIGNS WITH COBIT

The Brazilian Health Ministry body in charge of the countrywide Unified Health System (Sistema Único de Saúde - SUS), has adopted Modulo technology to comply with best IT practices.



INFORMATION IS VITAL in hospitals and clinics. That is the reason why the Brazilian Unified Health System (SUS) - the Ministry of Health Network integrating hospitals, outpatient care centers and laboratories that provide public services to citizens - cannot fail. The heart that keeps this huge infrastructure running is Datasus (the SUS Information Technology Department), which is currently aligning with best practices for providing IT services efficiently and with a strategic view.

For this purpose, Datasus has decided to comply with the Cobit (Control Objectives for Information and related Technology) model, one of the several frameworks currently being adopted by managers of several types of organizations to increase IT value and reduce risks. The technology selected to assess the maturity of the organization's management processes according to international practices was Modulo Risk Manager. Datasus had already been making use of the software solution, initially acquired by the Ministry of Health for risk assessment and

information security management.

Since the SUS information technology department had become familiar with the technology, they decided to count on the support provided by Risk Manager to comply with the Cobit 4.0 management model. The feature was included in the system by Modulo in order to help technology executives improve their controls and implement IT governance.

Datasus is a national technology organization operating as a technical and normative support center for creation of information systems for public health, and therefore turned to Cobit 4.0 to align its processes with the strategic view of the Ministry of Health. The purpose of the organization is to provide faster responses to the members of the health service network. Presently, state units act as liaison with state and municipal health secretariats. The information security department is in charge of providing solutions, managing, and handling the maintenance of all SUS databases. In order to perform this job more efficiently, the body has been through a reorganization process.

Pedro Dobbin, standardization and software quality coordinator for Datasus, recalls that SUS had already adopted other frameworks such as those based on information security standards ISO/IEC 15408 and NBR/ISO 17799. The technician explains that, for compliance with Cobit 4.0, Modulo Risk Manager was the solution which best met the project's needs. "The Modulo technology has the advantage of providing a Cobit knowledge base that allows viewing the entire system history. This is a great competitive advantage of the tool", estimates Dobbin.

Datasus' goal was to produce an X-ray image of its systems in order to identify their level of maturity and compliance with Cobit 4.0. The project started in August last year and in three months the organization had a

detailed assessment of its management, comparing its 34 IT and business processes against the model adopted.

Dobbin highlights that interviews were conducted with Datasus managers to obtain the information fed into Modulo Risk Manager, and in very little time the software provided a map of the organization's actual IT situation. "Cobit was really helpful in defining what Datasus is already excellent at and what needs to be improved. We realized, for example, how well we were regarding project management", states the Datasus technician. He adds that based on this information the SUS information technology department can assess all of its processes to know what actions can be taken from now on. E.S.

The Heart of SUS

Is the Information Technology Department of the Brazilian Unified Health System (SUS) which integrates hospitals, outpatient care centers and public laboratories of the state and municipal secretariats to provide citizens with health services. The body operates countrywide and is subordinated to the Brazilian Ministry of Health. Datasus is responsible for the following areas:

- Maintenance of the national databases of the Health Information System;
- Dissemination of health-related information for SUS management and social control, as well as for supporting health research;
- Development of health information systems needed by SUS;
- Development, selection, and dissemination of information technology for health;
- Advice for development of systems for planning, control, and operation of SUS;
- Technical support for computerizing systems in which the SUS may have interest, at all levels;
- Standardization of procedures, software and information technology environments for SUS;
- Support in enabling the state and municipal secretariats of health to adopt the information systems at their competence level;
- Fostering and supporting the development of the National Health Information Network (Rede Nacional de Informações em Saúde – RNIS) on the Internet, and other supplementary services of interest to SUS, such as physical and videoconference networks.