Digital Strategy

Building a tailored approach to data-driven decision-making with systems, information and people.

At Abt Associates, we help clients unlock the maximum value from their data and technology platforms.

Our experts look at systems architectures to assess, plan and implement changes that will enable more effective information workflows. We also identify and respond to key data gaps and pain points.

Abt’s expert data scientists are poised to interpret data and information ecosystems so we can provide guidance on packaging, aggregation, analysis, reporting and dissemination across all data formats and from any number of systems—from traditional statistical methods to machine learning and predictive analytics.

Data without context leads to poor decision-making. We go a step further in helping to tell the story of data insights through dynamic systems, visualizations and digital storytelling. This enables our clients to access the data when they need it (real-time), on the device at-hand (mobile), drilled down to the relevant indicator (dashboard).
Decision Science

Developing user-centered interfaces around service design and quick feedback cycles to learn and iterate.

Our experts deconstruct the **usability of a system** to understand how it works, where to make improvements and how to focus on using data and systems to facilitate service delivery to make an impact with those services.

Abt’s research and development initiative (AbtX) uses **rapid prototyping** and nimble teams for rapid building of proof-of-concepts, working prototypes and pilots. This enables us to test ideas, ensure that that the technology aligns with the expected outcomes and make the best use of new technologies and best practices.

“Solutions for the problems of today and tomorrow are not simply about speed and cost, but agility, digitization and transformation to build a better world.”

Michael W. Link, Ph.D.
Division Vice President, Data Science, Surveys, and Enabling Technologies
Merging AI with subject matter expertise.

We use AI as a tool to tackle our toughest challenges. AI in its current form combines computing power and various types of data to make categorizations, often in the form of predicted outcomes or themes in text. Abt takes a holistic approach in empowering subject matter experts to create their own algorithms to assist their work, ranging from developing literature reviews to predicting health outcomes.

The Applied Innovations in Artificial Intelligence (AI)$^2$ initiative democratizes AI. It provides subject matter experts with the tools in AI to enhance their work and to promote new applications of AI to future challenges. The initiative is mainly driven by the Abt Data Science Fellowship, a year-round initiative which provides training in natural language processing, predictive analytics and deep learning applications. (AI)$^2$ offers a coordinated approach to implementing these tools and demonstrated benefits in improving the quality of work or increasing efficiency. The initiative also provides internal investments in projects that expand the use of AI through work-enhancing bots and other automated applications.

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**Abt Associates’ Data Science Hierarchy of Needs**

- **Collect**
  - Surveys, Sensors, Logging, Data Collection, External Data

- **Move / Store**
  - Infrastructure, Pipelines, Structured and Unstructured Data

- **Explore / Transform**
  - Curation, Cleaning, Anomaly Detection

- **Aggregate / Label**
  - Analytics, Metrics, Aggregates, Training Data

- **Optimize / Learn**
  - Rapid Testing, Machine Learning

- **Automate**
  - AI

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$^2$Abt Associates' Data Science Hierarchy of Needs
The Abt Advantage

Abt Associates is an industry pioneer and innovator of data-driven technology solutions and digital transformation. We cross disciplines, methods and geographic borders to improve the lives and economic well-being of people worldwide. Our experts have deep experience in developing and capturing high-quality data via complex surveys, administrative data, social media and sensor information and the ability to store, analyze and transform data into actionable insights.
Bold Ideas. Real Results.

Abt Associates uses data and bold thinking to improve the quality of people’s lives worldwide. From increasing crop yields and combatting infectious disease, to ensuring safe drinking water and promoting access to affordable housing—and more—we partner with clients and communities to tackle their most critical challenges.

Key Focus Areas

- Education, Youth & Families
- Environment & Energy
- Food Security & Agriculture
- Gender Equality & Social Inclusion
- Governance & Justice
- Health
- Housing, Communities & Asset Building
- Workforce & Economic Mobility

Cross-Cutting Core Capabilities

- Communications & Behavior Change
- Data Capture & Surveys
- Digital Transformations
- Research, Monitoring & Evaluation
- Technical Assistance & Implementation