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Subject: "Correct" Data Philosophy

Posted by [David Fanning](#) on Thu, 17 Dec 2009 16:43:48 GMT

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Folks,

Every couple of weeks I get an e-mail from someone whose data is "missing" and they want to replace it with the "correct" value. These e-mails bug me because if the data is "missing" how the hell would I know what the "correct" value is suppose to be?

But, generally speaking, they want some method to guess at the "correct" values by looking around the neighborhood, shuffling their feet, etc. I guess we have all been tempted to fudge data, if only for aesthetic reasons, so maybe it is a legitimate request.

What would you tell them to do?

If I get some good suggestions I'll write an article so I can get rid of these requests in the future. :-)

Cheers,

David

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Sepore ma de ni thui. ("Perhaps thou speakest truth.")

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