

CRAIN'S

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DAVID MARCO

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President

EWSolutions Inc.

When the Federal Bureau of Investigation urgently needed to create an easy-to-use database of all the information it had on terrorist activity, it tapped David Marco.

Not to get metaphysical about it, but think of Mr. Marco as Melvil Dewey, rein-

carnated. The 19th century librarian who invented the well-known system for keeping track of books has a lot in common with Mr. Marco, a Chicago native considered by many to be the nation's leading expert in helping corporations and governments make sense out of huge amounts of computer data. His specialty is metadata, or data about data.

Mr. Marco founded and owns EWSolutions Inc., a Hinsdale-based consulting firm with 33 employees and estimated 2004 revenue of \$8 million to \$10 million.

Three years ago, the FBI hired him to design and build the Investigative Data Warehouse, a mammoth job that's still under way.

Any counterterrorism successes so far are classified. But, says FBI project manager Jeff Scudder, "Let's say management has been very, very happy with what's been accomplished and excited about what we can do with it in the future."

He's doing similar work for the U.S. Department of Defense's worldwide procurement system, reorganizing

and creating a unified database for the world's largest and longest supply chain.

He has written two top-sellers in the field: "Universal Meta Data Models" and "Building and Managing the Meta Data Repository."

"I could always look at something and say, 'This is what we need to do,'" says Mr. Marco, who started consulting while enrolled at DePaul University, where he's still a courtside season ticket holder and frequent guest lecturer.

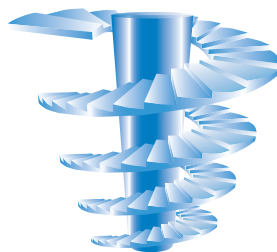
Paul Merriam

A CRAIN'S SPECIAL REPORT

40 UNDER 40

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