

Introduction to the STORET Program and WQX Web

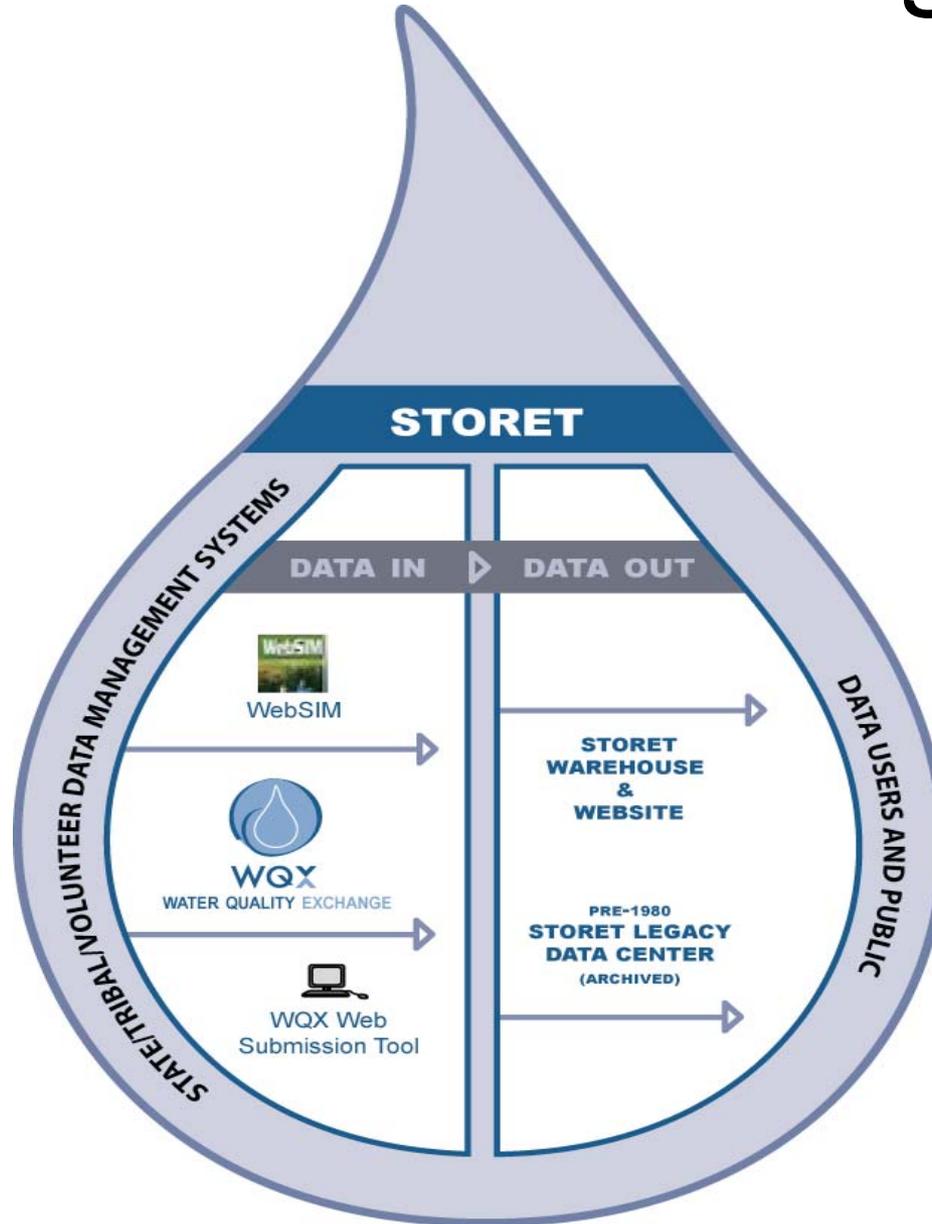
The STORET Program

- STORET: STORage and RETrieval of water quality monitoring data



- EPA's STORET Program:
 - promotes sound data management practices
 - stores and maintains water quality data submitted by agencies/groups across the nation in the STORET Data Warehouse

Overall STORET Program

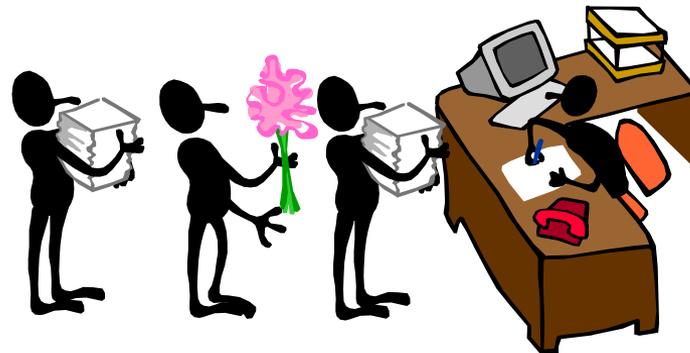


The National STORET Data Warehouse

- Stores water data of all types (biological, chemical, physical) submitted by states, tribes, watershed groups, other federal agencies, and universities
- Web-enabled: Data are available -- and can be submitted -- using the Web
- Encourages data sharing at a national level

Who Puts Data in?

- State environmental agencies
- Tribal environmental agencies and groups
- Volunteer groups and watershed organizations
- Universities



Water Quality Monitoring Data

- Raw monitoring results along with information about
 - Where sample/measurement was collected
 - When it was collected
 - What was collected
 - How it was collected
 - Why it was collected
 - Who collected it



What is Data Management?

- The process of converting your monitoring results into a set of useful data that you can use in order to make decisions about your program
- Data re-use is possible if data is current and accurate and in one central place

Well Managed Data

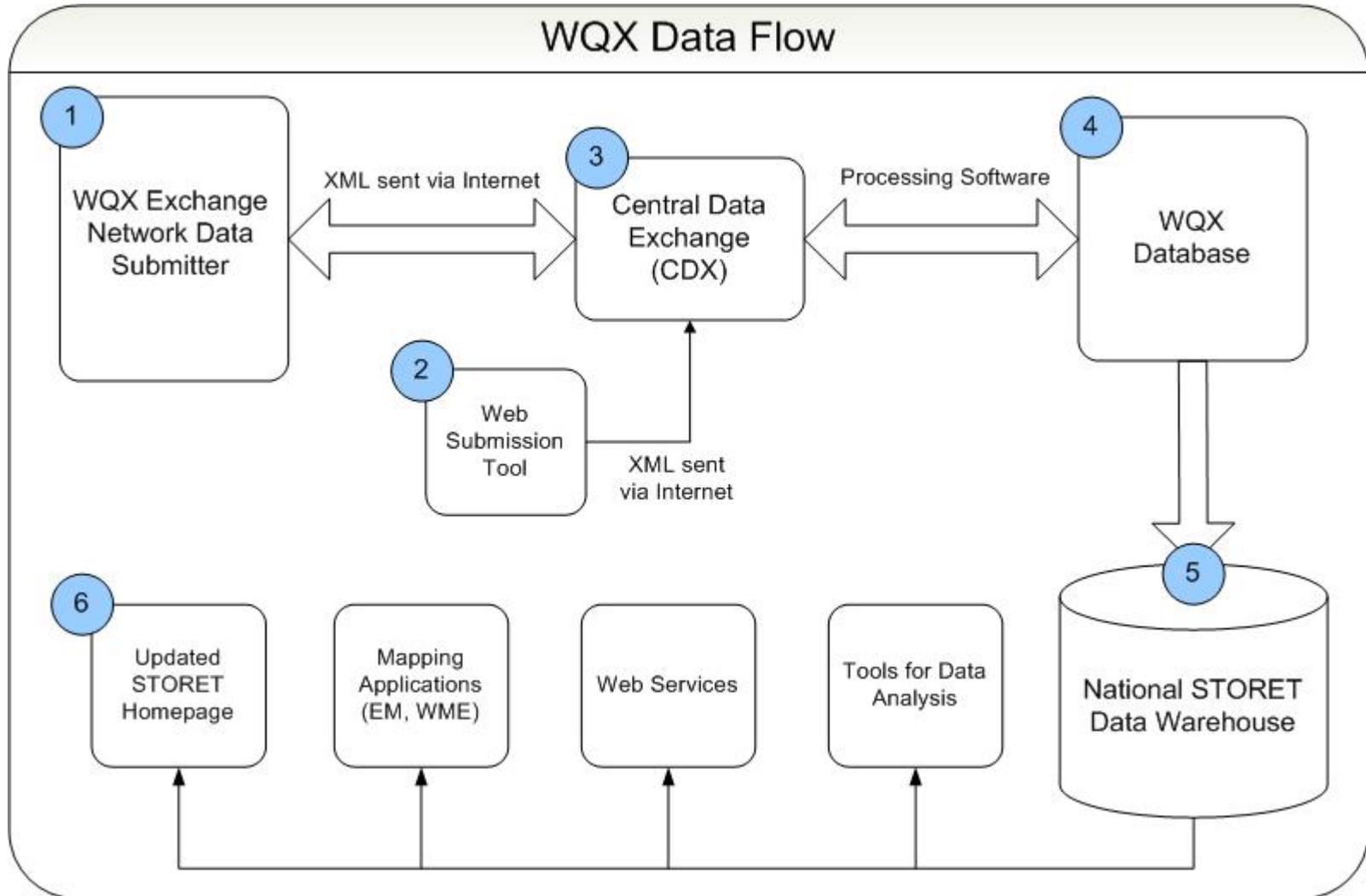
- Placing data and metadata in a manageable electronic format provides many benefits:
 - **Electronic input forms can help ensure data are in the correct range or format**
 - **Metadata helps you make comparisons between samples or over time by capturing context of the sampling event**
 - **Quality assurance results can be compared to expected results**
 - **Your data can be used by others and safely stored for future use**



What is WQX?

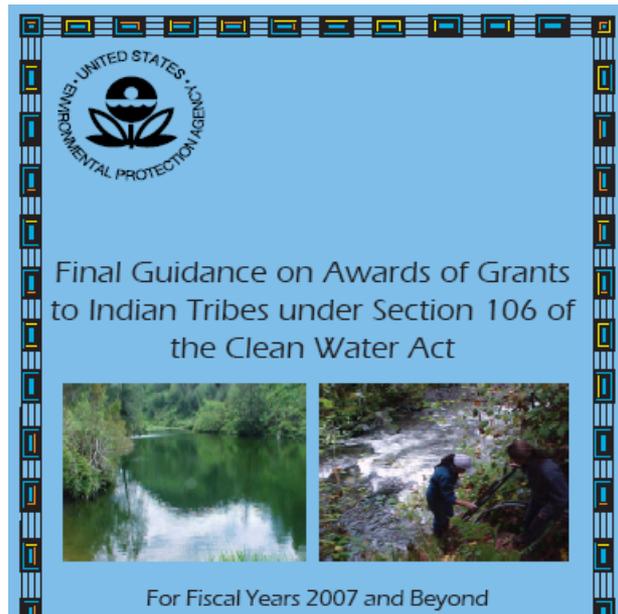
- WQX defines the framework by which EPA compiles water quality monitoring data in the STORET (STOrage and RETrieval) Data Warehouse
- The WQX schema allows for anybody to share data regardless of what the original source of the data was

How does WQX work?

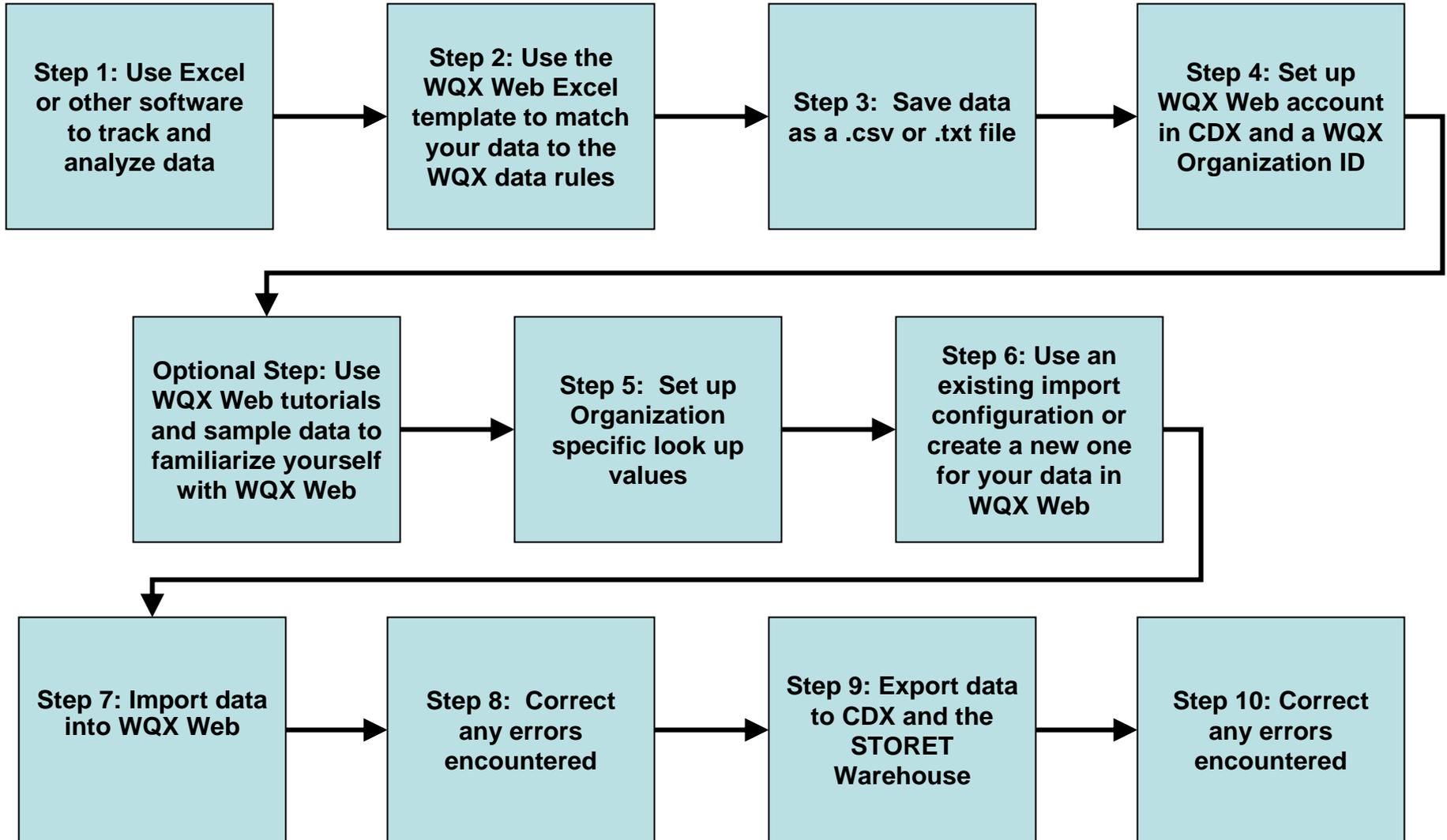


The WQX Web Submission Tool

- Accepts basic input formats (i.e. Excel or Text files)
- Has translations for mapping data to WQX domain values or defaults
- Creates WQX XML that a user can send through WQX



WQX Web Data Submission Process



Data in the STORET Warehouse

- Once data has been submitted to WQX Web, you will see your data within the STORET Warehouse within a week
- www.epa.gov/storet

Web Resources, Support and Contacts

- www.epa.gov/storet
- www.epa.gov/storet/wqx.html
- storet@epa.gov or 1-800-424-9067
- Kristen Gunthardt – US EPA Office of Water
 - (202) 566-1194
 - gunthardt.kristen@epa.gov