Migrating from IBM Cognos Consolidator to IBM Cognos 8 Controller
Customers reap big benefits from upgrading to Controller

Overview

IBM Cognos® 8 Controller follows the same application strategy and principles as user-friendly IBM Cognos Consolidator. Controller is Finance-owned, requiring no arcane programming languages or costly IT support. It features built-in financial intelligence, and is easily set up and configured. It puts customers in charge and provides the flexibility to allow customization in line with individual needs and requirements. Incorporating Consolidator features and capabilities, Controller is built on an advanced platform to deliver richer functionality and greatly improve reporting and analysis.

Technical specifications
IBM Cognos 8 Controller sports additional features and benefits over IBM Cognos Consolidator and does it all in a Web-based solution that uses modern industry standards. Capabilities include:

- Report preparation tools like date stamping, a counterpart registry, a tree-model account structure, security groups, and support for several data collection methods
- Data processing with a split method option for sub-consolidating units, support for structural changes, the ability to combine automatic eliminations as needed, and automatic entries that link to specific consolidation types
- Validation features for working reports as basis for an audit trail plus enhanced support for accountability and internal control
- Several standard reports that provide options for analyzing acquisition values in addition to new reporting features for selecting optional currency, performing standard analysis, querying amount, and additional information

System architecture
IBM Cognos 8 Controller is a Web-based solution using modern industry standards to help our customers become the world's best decision-makers. Controller is also a highly scalable, multi-tiered solution capable of handling large numbers of concurrent users.

Features and benefits
Across the typical five-stage consolidation process, IBM Cognos 8 Controller offers a number of features and benefits over Consolidator:

Consolidation Process
1. Preparation
2. Data collection
3. Data processing
4. Validation
5. Reporting and analysis

Preparation
Business reporting requirements change constantly, demanding solutions that can adapt easily to changes in corporate structure resulting from mergers, acquisitions, and divestments. Such solutions must also enable administrators

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software

to rapidly create forms for meeting new reporting requirements (IFRS, Sarbanes-Oxley, etc.), and to enable reporting schedules and areas of responsibility to be reviewed and adapted regularly. IBM Cognos 8 Controller enhances preparation with a number of new features.

Date stamps on company structures

There is no limit on how many company structures can be created for operational or legal follow-up in Controller. With date stamps, users can:

- Handle budgets and results in parallel using alternative structures
- Prepare for forthcoming changes (such as creating a new company for a future period)
- Define complex corporate structures to connect companies to more than one group
- Run simulations

Valid counterpart

In the company structure, users can specify whether a company should be included in the counterpart registry. Controller will only show "valid" counter companies in data entry, reducing the risk of reporting errors.

Account structure

Account structure is presented as a tree structure with summary levels, facilitating structural overviews.

Security groups and user rights

IBM Cognos 8 Controller supports centralized IT environments. Security groups are easy to monitor and maintain. Using a tree structure, administrators can easily set user rights on functional (i.e., menus) as well as data elements (i.e., period, legal entity).

Data collection

Data submissions from subsidiaries must be both rapid and secure. Much of the information needed for consolidation is stored in existing systems like general ledgers, HR information systems, or databases. Integrating such systems and data sources streamlines data collection and reduces the risk of error through manual data entry. At the same time, systems must provide the option of manual entry via Microsoft® Excel® or a Web-browser interface. Data collection must be highly secure and traceable.

IBM Cognos 8 Controller supports several data collection methods that allow incorporation of financial data, non-financial data (headcounts, volumes, etc.) from other systems or Excel spreadsheets. Data can be imported directly from Excel, third-party data sources, or by using system functions, and can be processed in batches triggered by a defined event.

Other key collection features include:

- Support for linked forms
- Direct link to the acquisition register
- Ability to check why a cell is locked
- Support for mandatory comments
- Document attachment during data entry (e.g., to allow users to attach invoices)
- Defining hyperlinks to external information
- Reverse journals within a chosen period.

IBM Cognos 8 Controller can be configured to handle multiple submissions during the same reporting period, so users can report sales flashes or reconcile intercompany transactions before the rest of the data is submitted.

Data processing

Although each country has its own statutory accounting principles, companies often need to align with other standards, such as IFRS and US GAAP. At the same time, companies must convert accounts to their base currency, reconcile inter-company transactions, eliminate investments in subsidiaries, and consolidate according to statutory and operational requirements. With its built-in financial intelligence, IBM Cognos 8 Controller automates these processes, reducing lead time for closing the books.

Controller's built-in financial intelligence saves time and increases report quality. New functions and enhancements greatly improve data processing. In addition to expected functionality for currency conversion, inter-company elimination, and built-in acquisition register, new data-processing features include:

- Split method option for sub-consolidating units
- Support for structural changes
- Automatic eliminations can be combined as needed
- Automatic entries link to specific consolidation types

Validation

The ability to validate and control input data and processed data is crucial. Businesses must be able to prepare a comprehensive package of working reports as basis for an audit trail.

Audit and compliance

IBM Cognos 8 Controller provides enhanced support for accountability and internal control, featuring:

- Validation and approval of journals
- Security groups for import specifications and lookup tables
- Built-in reports for tracking and validating imported data, enabling users to check for change of signs, changes to calculations, and so on
- Approval of company and group journals

Standard reports

IBM Cognos 8 Controller also includes several standard reports – unavailable to Consolidator users – which provide options for analyzing acquisition values, including a calculation of good will, a trial balance with drill-down functionality for all system structures, a group balance sheet with a breakdown of companies, drill-down into business areas, switch views, show product totals, and much more.

Other new reporting features in Controller include:

- Selection of optional currency in the report with journals in columns
- Several new standard reports to analyze acquisition calculations
- Query of amount in reports and journals
- Additional information in standard reports (e.g., batch IDs)

Reporting and analysis

When the accounts are closed and approved, the result must be distributed across the organization. Executives need this information to monitor corporate performance and to determine whether business targets have been met. They also need powerful analysis tools at their disposal that enable rapid reviews of individual organizational units and markets.

IBM Cognos 8 Controller offers a wide range of options for reporting and analysis. It includes a more than 200 standard reports, as well as a report generator for creating company-specific reports. The IBM Cognos platform integrates solutions for group reporting and decision support, greatly simplifying the process of creating professional statutory and operational reports.

Report generation

A structured, yet flexible reporting tool, Report Generator features a wizard to help users define axes, rows, and columns. Layouts are automatically created in Microsoft Excel, providing broad capability for report formatting and for defining logic for KPIs, variance reports, and other tasks. Custom reports – for a variety of periods, groups, companies, complete with auto-updated charts and diagrams – are a snap.

Integrated output to IBM Cognos 8 BI

IBM Cognos 8 Controller supports integrated output to IBM Cognos 8 BI, letting users create analyses and reports of all kinds in a single, highly flexible drag-and-drop environment, including standardized company business reports, production reports, dashboards, and ad-hoc queries. IBM Cognos 8 BI scales to support hundreds – even thousands – of users. These capabilities take pressure off IT departments and accelerate time-to-reporting.

Migrating from Consolidator to IBM Cognos 8 Controller

- IBM Cognos 8 Controller incorporates familiar Consolidator features and capabilities.
- IBM Cognos 8 Controller goes far beyond Consolidator to deliver richer functionality in data preparation, data processing, consolidation, validation, and–especially–reporting and analysis.
- IBM Cognos 8 Controller features built-in financial intelligence, and is easily set up and configured.
- IBM Cognos 8 Controller is finance-owned, requiring no arcane programming languages or costly IT support.
- IBM Cognos 8 Controller puts users in charge and provides the flexibility to allow customization in line with individual needs and requirements.

Ensuring successful migrations
Leverage resources and services from *Cognos Professional Services, Education, and Support* to help ensure success with your migration from IBM Cognos Consolidator to IBM Cognos 8 Controller.

Cognos Professional Services, working jointly with our partner Addedo, developed the Controller Implementation Roadmap, part of the IBM Cognos Solutions Implementation Methodology, to acquire a structured approach for managing implementations. IBM

Cognos Consulting offers a flexible range of services to fit your needs. Whether you're looking for end-to-end migration services or to fill out your project team with specific skills, we deliver certified expertise to help maximize business benefit, mitigate risk, and maximize ROI.

Cognos Education has developed a training curriculum to meet the diverse needs of your IBM Cognos Controller users. Your everyday report consumers, report authors, and application administrators are assured a fast, effective, and convenient way to maximize success with IBM Cognos Controller courses.

Cognos Support provides valuable knowledge assets to ensure a successful migration, including proven practices, articles, webinars, and much more.

To learn more about the Controller Implementation Roadmap, and how Cognos Professional Services, Education, and Support can help you, visit http://support.cognos.com.

Feature overview

Across the typical five-stage consolidation process, IBM Cognos 8 Controller offers a number of features and benefits:

- Preparation of reports, including a date stamp capability, a counterpart registry that shows only "valid" counter companies, a tree-model account structure, easily monitored and maintained security groups, and support for several data collection methods.
- Data processing with a split method option for sub-consolidating units, support for structural changes, the ability to combine automatic eliminations as needed, and automatic entries that link to specific consolidation types.
- Validation features to prepare a comprehensive package of working reports as basis for an audit trail.
- Enhanced support for accountability and internal control.
- Several standard reports–unavailable to Consolidator users–which provide options for analyzing acquisition values.
- New reporting features, including selection of optional currency, new standard analysis, query of amount in reports and journals, and additional information in standard reports.
- Reporting and analysis, including Report Generator and integrated output to IBM Cognos 8 BI, presented as a Web-based solution using modern industry standards.

**About IBM Cognos BI
and Performance Management:**

IBM Cognos business intelligence (BI) and performance management solutions deliver world-leading enterprise planning, consolidation and BI software, support and services to help companies plan, understand and manage financial and operational performance. IBM Cognos solutions bring together technology, analytical applications, best practices, and a broad network of partners to give customers an open, adaptive and complete performance solution. Over 23,000 customers in more than 135 countries around the world choose IBM Cognos solutions.

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