IBM

XBRL Performance Blueprint

Connects data, accounts and legal entities from IBM Cognos 8 Controller directly to a solution that delivers XBRL output and reports

Sharing financial performance information with regulators, auditors and others in a form that complies with international standards has become critical as more and more countries mandate greater transparency in financial reporting. XBRL (eXtensible Business Reporting Language) has developed as the worldwide-accepted standard for defining data, business rules and reporting requirements and, as a result, regulator bodies are requiring that reports submitted to them be in XBRL.

Companies that are required to file financial data electronically in XBRL filings must now combine the processes of financial consolidation and corporate reporting with the creation of XBRL output. Although XBRL is very flexible, the standard itself includes more than 1,200 pages of specification. It is not likely that they have the funds or a team of developers with a deep understanding of the standard and many years of hands-on experience to create such a solution.

So, companies need a tool or solution that not only can generate XBRL reports but can also integrate with the close, consolidate and report

solutions they already have in place. IBM Cognos® 8 Controller is the optimum solution for the consolidation and reporting tasks, but can it be extended to enable XBRL output?

With the *XBRL Blueprint*, it can.

The right tool

Delivering financial statement output to legislative and regulatory bodies in XBRL is already required in some countries and others are planning on making it a requirement. The United States, with its large number of companies under the jurisdiction of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), is moving towards mandatory adoption. In fact, the SEC has already mandated the delivery of XBRL filings for quarterly and annual reports.

The *XBRL Blueprint* enables data, accounts and legal entities from IBM Cognos 8 Controller to be connected directly to a solution that delivers XBRL output and reports. Developed with Semansys Technologies, the *Blueprint* extends IBM Cognos 8 Controller to include XBRL reporting. It does this by providing direct data integration between IBM Cognos 8 Controller and Semansys XBRL Reporter, an XBRL solution.

The *Blueprint* also features design examples and templates for mapping the charts of IBM Cognos 8 Controller accounts to any XBRL taxonomy. It is the tool your company needs for submitting reports in XBRL to regulatory and legislative bodies.

Advantages of a partner solution

The XBRL movement has been under way for a number of years, and has evolved from its early days to a robust language that includes more than 1,200 pages of specification. IBM partnered with Semansys to develop the *Blueprint* because they have a long history of XBRL expertise and they offer a unique insight into the business and technical value of XBRL. The partner-based *Blueprint* offers three compelling advantages:

- **You work with best in class XBRL reporting software:** You can easily work with local taxonomies; establish links not just to IBM Cognos Controller data, but also to the third-party data; and add commentary necessary for financial reporting.

Cognos software

- **It evolves with changing standards:** Our partner is directly connected to the XBRL community and committed to keeping up with process and technical changes to take advantage of new and critical extensions to the core language.
- **It was developed by experts:** IBM's partners are engaged in all levels of conversation relating to XBRL. This is because XBRL is their only business and they are ready to meet the requirements of all customers.

Inside the XBRL Blueprint

The *XBRL Blueprint* eliminates manual steps and processes with automation and can incorporate other data sources, additional reports and supporting commentary into its XBRL output. Its components include:

- Predefined direct connections to IBM Cognos 8 Controller
- Sample reports for key financial statements
- Customizable data access, account mapping and report layouts

The *Blueprint* setup is automated and configurable so customers can use it to export finance information automatically from IBM Cognos 8 Controller with a single click of a button. The *Blueprint* is easy to use and manage and can integrate data from multiple sources, including financials, non-financial data and text.

The *Blueprint* takes all the guesswork and complexity of creating XBRL

reports from different sources and streamlines it into a very simple process. You start by selecting Semansys XBRL Reporter from a menu, which opens a window that shows the reports.

Choose the report you want to run

and provide details (such as period and year if you are running a Profit and Loss report). After indicating that you want the solution to import information, it will display that information. You then click a button to get your report, which you can also have presented in different formats.
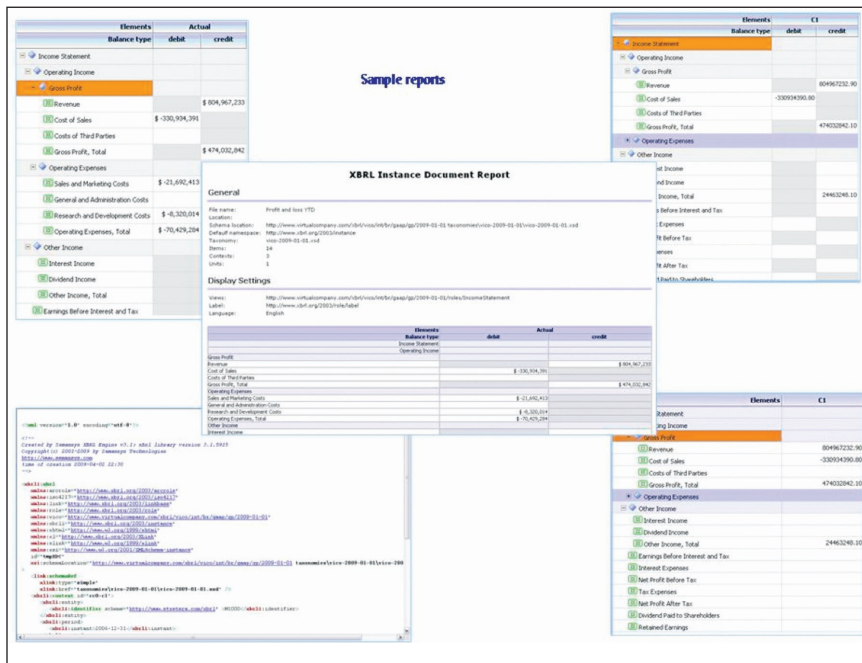
Sample reports

IBM Cognos 8 Controller

Using centralized control and management and up-to-date standards and methods, IBM Cognos 8 Controller brings a modern perspective to managing the close, consolidate, report cycle. This cycle embodies the complete set of steps required to close the books correctly, with the right controls, to deliver accurate financial results.

IBM Cognos 8 Controller delivers on these three core values:

- Finance owned and managed: From reconciliation of submitted and posted data, to applying the most sophisticated consolidation rules, IBM Cognos 8 Controller is built for finance.

- Built-in best practices: All financial consolidation rules, in-process close cycle reporting and analysis and associated close activities are embedded into the solution.
- Integrated with the IBM Cognos 8 performance management functions: IBM Cognos 8 performance management functions provide the foundation for delivering and executing decisions.

Within the close, consolidate and report cycle lie very specific process, system and accounting policy steps that are critical to a quality fast close complete with the necessary internal controls, data quality checks and certified accounting policy steps. Once the close cycle is complete, IBM Cognos 8 Controller consolidation reporting has all the components

necessary for providing reports to the SEC and other regulatory bodies.

Putting it all together

The *XBRL Blueprint* enables IBM Cognos 8 Controller customers to import data directly into Semansys XBRL Reporter for publishing. It provides:

- A direct connection to IBM Cognos 8 Controller data and metadata (accounts, time, entities, dimensions)
- A rich, finance-owned, desktop solution for XBRL tagging and reports
- Extensibility for additional XBRL requirements

In essence, the *Blueprint* extends IBM Cognos 8 Controller with capabilities supported and enhanced by experts in the XBRL community.

About Semansys

Semansys is a leading vendor of solutions for financial reporting and monitoring based on semantics and XBRL. A specialist technology company, Semansys focuses on developing software solutions that support the XBRL standard for business reporting, delivering sophisticated and professional XBRL platforms and core technologies. Based on its major investment in XBRL platforms, Semansys is the only software company in the world to cover the complete financial supply chain.

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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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