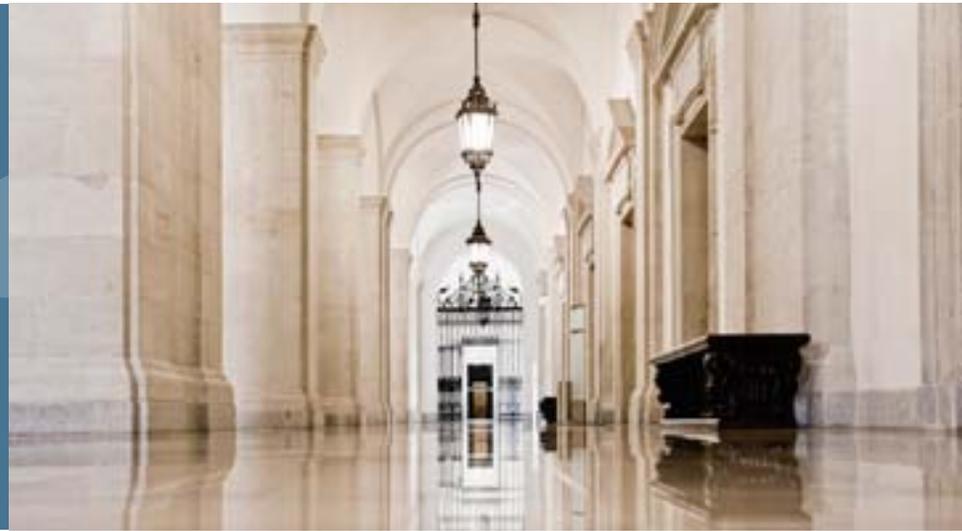


The CAFR is the single most important publication for state and local government. Most governments lack a unified framework that allows for merging the critical CAFR reporting processes with their compliance efforts.



## THE PROBLEM

Today, state and local governments that prepare CAFR reports face an extensive challenge: completing an accurate and timely CAFR while using manual and error prone processes that are inefficient and lack strong internal controls.

For many states, counties, cities and independent agencies, the annual CAFR reporting process usually takes months to complete. Complex spreadsheets are exported from multiple IT systems across various funds and re-keyed into 'master' spreadsheets with little or no controls in place. Text documents containing MD&A and RSI disclosures, as well as notes to financials, are then wrapped around key financial and statistical data, and emailed through the government organization for review, editing and approval.

Because there are so many people involved with so much data from disparate sources, there are little or no controls in place to mitigate risk of errors and virtually no audit trail documenting who made changes.

## THE SOLUTION

IBM Cognos provides a secure collaborative environment where many contributors can participate in the creation of the CAFR with a tight audit trail and a seamless connection to the underlying source data.

### AUTOMATE AND STREAMLINE THE CAFR

Creation of reports is still accomplished using Microsoft® Excel® and Microsoft Word and are stored, managed and secured directly in the IBM Cognos encrypted database.

### CONNECT WITH ANY SOURCE DATA

IBM Cognos was built to pull data from a variety of data sources including relational databases, OLAP cubes, ERP systems, GL systems, financial consolidation applications and Excel files.

### ENHANCE INTERNAL CONTROLS OVER FINANCIAL REPORTING AND OPTIMIZE THE AUDIT PROCESS

IBM Cognos provides a comprehensive set of internal controls to ensure that proper steps are being followed in the creation, review and approval of each section of the CAFR.

### WORKFLOW, CHECKLISTS AND E-SIGNATURES

Using workflows, the controller or project leader can track the status of each section of the CAFR with due dates and responsibility assignments. Workflow enables the administrator to see the status of each section of the document, which sections are overdue, and who is responsible for each section.



## AUDIT TRAIL

Since users must login to IBM Cognos to access the CAFR, IBM Cognos captures the incremental changes made to the document. The audit trail data is saved within the IBM Cognos database and can be used for subsequent audits after the CAFR is completed.

## BUSINESS RULES AND VALIDATION

Create business rules and schedule tests to ensure the financial data ties out during the aggregation of fund and agency financials into the government-wide financial statements.

## GENERATE OTHER REGULATORY REPORTS

IBM Cognos is ideal for the creation and submission of any regularly submitted complex report that contains data and/or text. Synchronize financial, statistical and narrative data used to prepare the CAFR report with other required reports.

## THE BENEFITS

### REDUCED PERSONNEL WORKLOAD = INCREASED CAPACITY

With the ability to pull data from multiple sources, built-in workflow, multiple output options and a familiar user interface, your CAFR reporting departments will be more efficient providing them with greater capacity to do more.

### REDUCED RISK

Risk of material deficiencies are mitigated via IBM Cognos workflow, collaboration, audit trail and central database features.

### REDUCED PREPARATION TIME

By automating the overall CAFR process to reduce production timelines, time is gained to conduct more comprehensive internal reviews, discussions, and analysis, in plenty of time to meet submission deadlines. And a single version of the truth means not having to re-apply formulas and re-key data, resulting in increased confidence in 'the numbers'.

### LOWER EXTERNAL COSTS

With built-in internal controls, audit trail and output options including printer-grade and web-ready, governments realize significant savings using IBM Cognos by reducing the time spent by external resources to check and then produce CAFR reports.

## ABOUT NEXDIMENSION TECHNOLOGY SOLUTIONS

nexDimension has a single vision: We provide the most focused, comprehensive and cost-effective performance management, business intelligence and ERP solutions available.

Our goal is to provide better information to your team, greater public clarity and improved constituent service. We focus on applications that use existing and future data to enable public sector entities to increase service levels while working to reduce costs. These technologies could replace an existing system or be deployed in conjunction with them.

We understand that the investments you make today in business applications and technology will have an impact on tomorrow's public image. At nexDimension, we guide you to a future powered by a new perspective – one that will make you more efficient and agile.



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