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## Highlights

- Merges enterprise data with narrative analysis in a controlled, auditable environment
  - Creates dynamic reports that update automatically when numbers change in underlying data sources
  - Automates manual “copy and paste” processes
  - Enhances security, control, and governance for recurring, multi-author reports and presentations
  - Integrates with IBM Cognos TM1 and IBM Planning Analytics to update financial statements automatically
  - Generates high-value documents in various output formats, including management books, KPI reports and regulatory reports with XBRL tags
  - Supports both cloud and on-premises deployment options
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# IBM Cognos Disclosure Management

*Collaborative report production management—  
combining numbers with narrative*

## Overview

Many companies have experienced growing pains in recent years with both internal and external reporting and disclosure processes, because of increasing data volumes and increasing demands from regulators and stakeholders. To produce any number of these required reports in different departments across the organization, contributors commonly work in Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word, and Microsoft PowerPoint. Hours are spent manually copying and pasting data from source systems or disparate spreadsheets, and then passing these files back and forth over insecure channels, such as email, until the reports are complete.

Recent years have seen many companies beginning to automate a handful of these reports, including financial statements and regulatory reports, in “first generation” software solutions. But these companies have realized that the manual, error-prone processes that these solutions were meant to address could not only be found in the financial reporting process, but were pervasive in nearly all reports and in all departments. In addition, most of the available solutions lacked the functionality, security, and scalability necessary to meet the needs of a global company—until now.

## The next generation of disclosure management

IBM® Cognos® Disclosure Management is a secure, collaborative, enterprise-scalable reporting and process automation platform for recurring, multi-author reports and presentations. It enables users to collect enterprise data from different sources and merge it with narrative analysis in a controlled, auditable environment—and it enables finance teams to create dynamic reports that update automatically when the numbers change in underlying data sources.

Cognos Disclosure Management is purpose-built to transform manual processes and enhance controls across a global operation. It helps companies meet an ever-increasing array of regulatory and statutory mandates as well as a growing list of internal reporting demands with speed and confidence.



### **A “single version of the truth” for departmental and enterprise operations**

Business leaders and managers need real-time data along with focused narrative analysis to communicate effectively with their stakeholders and to make better strategic decisions. Yet, because of an overreliance on general-purpose tools and manual processes, many companies struggle with creating timely, accurate reports that marry quantitative data with qualitative analysis. In addition, most companies don't have an efficient, effective way to ensure data consistency throughout their business intelligence, budgeting and planning applications as well as management and performance reports. This leads to a lack of confidence in the data, which can have a direct impact on an organization's ability to respond quickly to risks or take advantage of market opportunities.

Cognos Disclosure Management automates the assembly of business intelligence and performance management data with a single reporting solution, ensuring that there is a single version of the truth at all levels of the organization. For example, in the finance organization, corporate and entity-level professionals can combine business intelligence with valuable performance management data and insights from throughout the company to produce a holistic picture of performance and greatly improve the strategic decision-making process.

### **Intelligent process design and automation**

Poorly designed performance management processes present obstacles to achieving consensus in business decision making, often leading to less than optimal outcomes. Many daily processes suffer from multiple bottlenecks related to data access—preventing highly paid professionals from working efficiently and effectively. An overreliance on uncontrolled spreadsheets and email can lead to material errors in reports, offer no audit trail, and force the finance team to rely on complex manual processes to ensure that reports are up to date and correct.

With Cognos Disclosure Management, users can create and enforce intelligent processes with integrated controls, compliance checklists and full visibility into each step of the process. Workflow and process dashboards help managers identify bottlenecks and refocus resources quickly. Standardizing processes throughout the organization—and using a single version of the data—minimizes debate over whose numbers are correct and speeds the process of reaching consensus, which means being able to react quickly to risks or take advantage of new opportunities.

### **Enhanced controls and reduced risk across operations**

There are material risks associated with many of the traditional processes performed daily by teams responsible for legal reporting, tax, treasury, financial planning and analysis (FP&A), budgeting, and external reporting. Cognos Disclosure Management reduces these risks with controls, security, data validation, and robust audit trail reporting for documents in Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint. The ability to quickly identify audit trail reports and control mechanisms can save auditors from having to perform costly tests and inspections of these processes to ensure that the proper checks and validations have been completed at the end of each reporting period.

### **Integrated tagging for taxonomies**

Cognos Disclosure Management helps global organizations address many of the complex statutory and regulatory reporting requirements in effect around the world. For example, it integrates eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL) into the external reporting process and helps make the creation, validation and tagging of XBRL documents more efficient. Users can tag financial data and commentary just once and have the tagging automatically flow to future reports.

Cognos Disclosure Management supports GAAP and IFRS-based taxonomies, as well as industry-specific taxonomies such as Solvency II for the insurance industry and the Basel III-based Common Reporting Framework (COREP) and Financial Reporting Framework (FINREP) mandated by the European Banking Authority (EBA). It also facilitates the creation and maintenance of extension taxonomies and includes a highly intuitive, easy-to-navigate XBRL viewer to ensure easy review.

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### **Meets Solvency II “Full Measures” XBRL reporting requirements**

Cognos Disclosure Management can generate high-value documents for many required reports in the insurance industry, including Own-Risk Solvency Assessments (ORSA), Solvency and Financial Condition Reports (SFCR), Regular Supervisory Reports (RSR), and XBRL-tagged, updated Quantitative Reporting Templates (QRTs) in the European Insurance and Occupational Pensions Authority (EIOPA) framework.

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### **Deploy on the cloud to lower cost and risk—and speed time to value**

Companies can accelerate their time to value and lower adoption costs with the subscription-based cloud offering for Cognos Disclosure Management. The availability of cloud deployment enables you to choose the best delivery mechanism for your corporate environment—without sacrificing capabilities or limiting future deployment options. When you deploy on cloud, you can add users as needed while minimizing the costs related to capital equipment, software licenses and IT infrastructure. You also gain benefits in cost accounting by shifting costs from capital to operating expenses.



### IBM Cognos Disclosure Management features

Cognos Disclosure Management enables teams throughout an organization to:

- **Marry qualitative narrative analysis with enterprise data.** Combine financial and operational data from a variety of sources with in-depth narrative analysis for internal and external reporting.
- **Link report data directly to enterprise data sources.** Create dynamic reports that update automatically when the numbers change in underlying data sources—ensuring a single, consistent version of the truth.
- **Configure and enforce intelligent processes.** Drive process consistency and automate many manual processes in reporting and in the financial close.
- **Enable controlled collaboration.** Rely on a single, secure, enterprise-scalable solution for recurring, multi-author reports and presentations. Let multiple users view and edit reports simultaneously without causing versioning problems.
- **Employ workflow and task management capabilities.** Gain insight into critical performance management and reporting

processes through dashboards and alerts.

- **Optimize controls and auditability.** Standardize review and validation procedures and ensure they are performed at each level of the organization—from department to business entity to corporate headquarters.
  - **Enhance security over sensitive data and reports.** Power a comprehensive set of internal security features with secure, user-based logins to prevent data leaks and insider trading.
  - **Leverage the intuitive user interface of Microsoft Office.** Take advantage of staff expertise with the calculation capabilities of Microsoft Excel and formatting in Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint, while utilizing the additional functionality and capabilities of an enterprise solution.
  - **Integrate with IBM Cognos TM1® and IBM Planning Analytics.** Update your financial statements automatically and manage last minute changes.
  - **Create documents with integrated tagging.** Employ high-volume tagging to comply with industry-specific XBRL requirements such as Basel III for banking and Solvency II for insurance.
  - **Support multiple mandates.** Tag financial data and commentary just once and have it automatically flow to future reports to support multiple compliance mandates.
  - **Deploy on cloud.** Speed time to value and lower adoption costs with cloud-based IBM hosting and consulting services.
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## Conclusion

For many companies, the processes and tools they use every day to support critical activities directly affect their ability to gain insights for decision making. Cognos Disclosure Management enables companies to create the reports they need while reducing the risks, costs and data inaccuracies that often plague the entire organization. By integrating financial and business intelligence operations, Cognos Disclosure Management can transform report production, making processes more efficient and effective, while ensuring data accuracy. It delivers fast time to value and a rapid return on investment by employing existing technologies such as Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint directly in the application layer.

Most important, Cognos Disclosure Management frees your overworked finance and reporting teams to spend their time on high-value analysis instead of on gathering and verifying data. It helps them gain the insights they need to deliver better decision support, and drive better performance in today's fast moving marketplace.

## About IBM Analytics

IBM Analytics software delivers data-driven insights that help organizations work smarter and outperform their peers. This comprehensive portfolio includes solutions for business intelligence, predictive analytics and decision management, performance management, and risk management.

IBM Analytics solutions enable companies to identify and visualize trends and patterns in areas, such as customer analytics, that can have a profound effect on business performance. They can compare scenarios, anticipate potential threats and opportunities, better plan, budget and forecast resources, balance risks against expected returns and work to meet regulatory requirements. By making analytics widely available, organizations can align tactical and strategic decision-making to achieve business goals. For further information please visit [ibm.com/analytics](http://ibm.com/analytics).

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