



Columbus Accounting delivers business intelligence on your digital delivery and printing processes to drive continuous process improvement

Columbus business intelligence

Creating actionable insights from your operational data

Columbus Accounting is an enterprise-level business intelligence (BI) framework for the Columbus suite. Columbus Accounting collects data about your Columbus systems and how they are being used, and provides rich reports to help you optimize your enterprise information management environment.

The Columbus Accounting framework works with all standard BI tools, so you can create additional reports using any report designer, and generate actionable insights using your chosen solutions for predictive analytics, data mining, online analytic processing and more. Columbus Accounting supports a wide range of business activities, including:

- Forecasting and capacity planning, using current, historical and predictive views of your business and technical operations
- Service level reporting, by monitoring performance indicators such as system response times and document delivery timescales
- Cost analysis, billing and cross charging, based on usage figures such as documents accessed or processed
- Technology infrastructure optimization, for example by tackling recurrent problems and underutilized resources

A flexible BI platform

Columbus Accounting captures, aggregates and organizes operational data, such as how your Columbus systems are performing, how they are being used, and how they interact with your other enterprise applications, providing a wealth of information that can be analyzed to help you make well-informed business decisions and discover new ways to make efficiency gains, raise service levels and reduce costs.

Columbus Accounting comes with a range of reports, ready for use with the TIBCO Jaspersoft® reporting and analytics suite. It is also easy to create reports and perform analysis using other BI tools as the data is stored within an industry-standard data mart.

Install and forget

Over time a typical business will generate vast quantities of data that are valuable for business intelligence. Columbus Accounting eliminates the overheads of collecting and managing that data. The software runs as a 'black box' operation, with high levels of resilience, so there is no need for regular system administration. Data processing has no performance impact on your day-to-day operations as the system listens out for data periodically.

An easy-to-use web user interface is available for initial system configuration and ongoing activity monitoring, and for operator intervention on the rare occasions when it is required.

The Columbus suite, for enterprise information management:

Columbus Central
Digital orchestration

Columbus DoXite
Intelligent document composition

Columbus DW
Enterprise content management

Columbus OM
Enterprise output management

Columbus Z
Output management on IBM zSystems

Columbus Accounting
Embedded business intelligence

Columbus data collection

Operational data from your Columbus systems can be collected at regular intervals to provide the full picture of what is happening across your enterprise information management infrastructure, including all of your digital delivery channels and business-critical printing. Connectors for products within the Columbus suite get you up and running quickly as they handle data capture automatically, with no additional configuration required. Connectors are also available for a range of other Macro 4 products.

Extended data collection

The Columbus Accounting solution connector makes it easy for you to gather information from other enterprise applications, solutions and processes, and combine it with your Columbus data to deliver actionable insights across your IT and business operations.

Fully automated operation

Columbus Accounting requires no operator intervention to capture and process your data. An automated extract, transform, load (ETL) process produces report-ready data:

- **Extract** – data is imported into a staging area in its original format to avoid any processing overhead on the source system
- **Transform** – data is cleansed and transformed into a standard format for ease of analysis
- **Load** – data is aggregated and data roll-up is performed, such as creating totals and data groups, before loading it into a product-specific data mart

The ETL procedure can be scheduled for a specific time or interval, fine-tuned to your requirements. Data processing is tightly monitored and controlled, and includes automated error handling, optional operator notifications and purging of old data.

Data mart and star schema

The Columbus Accounting data mart is based on a star schema, a structure designed for simplicity, ease of use, integrity and optimal performance. BI tools can be used to explore the data and create reports without the need for you to understand the underlying structure of the source data. Historical data can be retained to enable analysis of long-term trends, alongside current data.

Flexible reporting options

Columbus Accounting works seamlessly with JasperReports Server, an open source BI engine that allows you to manage reporting centrally and schedule regular reports. A range of ready-to-run reports, including data visualizations such as charts and graphs, is supplied for each of the Columbus products. Reports can be distributed by email or accessed from a web interface. Non-technical users can perform drill-down analysis, run ad hoc reports, and tailor content to their needs simply by changing parameters such as date ranges and thresholds.

The Jaspersoft Studio report designer can be used to modify standard Columbus reports or create new ones, containing interactive charts, images, widgets, maps, custom visualizations, sub-reports and crosstabs. You can design reports once and export them in multiple formats, with no redevelopment needed.

Alternatively, any standard BI or reporting tool can be used with Columbus Accounting in addition to or in place of the Jaspersoft suite.

Robust and scalable

Columbus Accounting is a scalable, secure solution which runs on Windows, Linux and other major UNIX variants, and supports PostgreSQL, Oracle® Database and Microsoft® SQL Server.

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