



Consolidation and reporting using Excel!

For many holding organizations using only Excel, it is practically an impossible task to continue to meet the ever-changing and continuous reporting requirements within the constraints of tight deadlines.

As the number of reporting units increases, the Excel environment becomes more and more unmanageable and too laborious, as a result of which the integrity of the reported figures is liable to suffer.

ExQL Reporting effectively restores control of your Excel environment, resulting in 100% reliable figures, a considerable gain of time, and a flexible expansion of your current reporting capacity.



*“Changing from our old consolidation package to **ExQL Reporting** was a big leap forward. Time and again, with each reporting period, we experience the powerful capabilities of the system. Especially the analysing features, at any level of consolidation desired, have raised the level of quality of the whole process and increased the speed of reporting.”*

Bart Oprel • Cementbouw Bindmiddelen & Logistiek b.v.

*“When you have to report on a hundred companies according to different consolidation structures, using a flexible reporting environment is an absolute must. With **ExQL**, we have met this challenge.”*

Peter Kooij • Blauwhoed Holding b.v.

Switching to another solution for consolidation requires a well-balanced assessment of the pros and cons. After all, existing Excel models function satisfactorily; they represent a wealth of historical information and the reporting units are familiar with them. A new consolidation package is often costly and usually requires a totally different setup. This also leads to dependence on external consultants and the chance of having to go through a long implementation process.

ExQL Reporting is a readily available, perfectly manageable and affordable alternative. It maintains your Excel experience, while adding to it a central database, authorized communication and effective workflow management. **ExQL Reporting** is also SOX, GAAP and IFRS compliant.

Central database

The core of **ExQL** Reporting is a direct link between Excel and a central database. The result is one source, i.e. one version of the truth, from which all reports are generated. Everyone is working with the same, reliable figures.

Communication

Communication between users and the central database is carefully recorded and controlled.

Communication proceeds mostly via e-mail, affording global accessibility to the system: 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. **ExQL** users are assigned authorizations at functional, organizational and work-location levels as a result of which the system is optimally secured.

Workflow

Compiling consolidated reports is a cyclical process that lends itself quite well to being defined in a workflow model. **ExQL** Reporting applies this principle to two processes: the control of the reporting traffic and the processing of data into a uniform database content. In doing so, the number of manual procedures and Excel actions has been reduced to an absolute minimum, so that you will have more time to analyse the figures presented.

*"It is with confidence that I start working with **ExQL** Reporting for the second time. Also in my new job, **ExQL** has been selected as the most appropriate consolidation environment. This time not for 100, but for more than 500 companies."*

Ruud Gortzak • CRH Europe P&D

Functionality

A summary of the most important items of the reporting and consolidation functionality:

• Consolidation diagrams

These are lists of companies associated with the holding, which include the ownership relationships and their respective places in the consolidation structure.

From these diagrams companies can be 'hung' elsewhere by simple 'drag and drop' movements, taking automatically along all underlying figures.

Reports can be compiled from different diagrams, such as those for business, economics and legal matters.

• Reporting calendar

This calendar contains the reporting cycles and deadlines. On the commencing date the central database automatically sends Excel models, provided with data of the preceding periods, to all reporting units, asking them to add the figures for the new period to the models. If a particular

report has not been received before the final date, this automatically triggers a reminder. The reporting calendar provides a list of models that were sent and returned as well as those for which reminders were issued.

• Checks and authorization

At all processing levels, from reporting unit to the highest sub consolidation, there are built-in automatic checks which point to any corrections/adjustments required or figures that may be lacking. When submitting figures, they may be given the 'draft' status and be definitely included after final higher-level approval.

• Combined reports

On the basis of the figures received and processed, users can ask for all kinds of supplementary reports in combination with the available prognostications, budgets and rolling forecasts.

• Flexible and neatly arranged setting features include:

- consolidation levels
- division and holding-related corrections/adjustments
- intercompany relationships
- currencies
- eliminations

Reports

The result of **ExQL** Reporting is a central library from which every authorized user can fetch reports. In addition to these Excel reports, it is also possible to use downloads from the central database.

This makes it possible to compose overviews as one sees fit, for instance, to substantiate a request for investment or financing.

ExQL Reporting has two tools enabling users to proceed independently. Using the model generator, they can make their own reporting models. There is also an analysing tool for mapping trends or for ad hoc questions that may come up in specific checks or examinations. Both tools make use of Excel's powerful presentation features.

"If for some unexpected reason it should not work, the financial consequences would be minor we thought."

*The implementation of **ExQL** Reporting exceeded our expectations, however, just like the switch to IFRS.*

Each consolidation level receives its information customized."

Frank Noordsij • Smit Internationale n.v.



Holding information

At the holding level, **ExQL** Reporting offers many more possibilities than just consolidation and reporting.

The fact is that the use of Excel reports for exchanging information can be broad-based. After all, other departments within the holding organization are also dealing with data that need to be updated on an ongoing basis.

Collecting data from various locations in several countries using divergent automation systems and with diverse cultural backgrounds is no simple matter, especially not when the process must be executed under pressure of time.

The use of Excel makes **ExQL** Reporting a quick and easy solution to these problems, and an excellent alternative to any group portal or a corporate performance system.

*"We are using **ExQL** for both financial and other management information. The Excel presentation features are being utilized in an optimum manner. Our intercompany relationships are now completely under control."*

Wim van Mol • Dumeco b.v.

Besides the Finance & Control department, the colleagues of Treasury, Human Resources or Legal Affairs can also utilize the versatile possibilities of **ExQL**. The use of **ExQL** Reporting also opens up interesting possibilities for central production and sales organizations.

Similar to the reporting cycle for financial matters, these departments can also bring their data up to date on a regular basis. Just a few examples:

Treasury:

- cash reporting
- investment expectations
- methods of financing
- currency management

Human Resources:

- keeping records of the number of jobs and changes
- mapping the level of education of employees
- recording various management trainee and development schemes
- risk management

Legal Matters:

- registrations, board compositions, powers, filings
- patent rights, licences, contracts
- current lawsuits, complaint procedures

Production:

- project monitoring
- capacity utilization of means of production
- logistics coordination
- purchase of raw materials

Sales:

- coordination of quotation requests
- expected order intake

*"When implementing **ExQL**, we seized the opportunity to streamline the process of reporting from our financial and logistic system within Dynamics NAV. In addition to **ExQL**, we are also using another HBSoftware tool which is **ExSION**, to report with Excel directly from Dynamics. This way, we kill two birds with one stone."*

Frank Gordijn • DGV Texaco

	A	B	C	D	E	F	J	K	L	M	
1	Schema						B2005				
2	Omschrijving						Consolidatieschema budgetronde 2005				
3	Niveau						Organisatie	Code	%	Methode	
4	1						Nederland	1000	100	Onbepaald	
5		2					Friesland	2000	100	Integraal	
6			3				Leeuwarden regio	2010	50	Proportioneel	
7				4			Leeuwarden	2020	100	Integraal	
8					4		Dokkum	2030	100	Integraal	
9			3				Heerenveen regio	2040	100	Integraal	
10				4			Wolvega	2050	100	Integraal	
11					4		Woudsend	2060	100	Integraal	
12						4	Lemsterland	2070	100	Integraal	
13						5	Echtenerburg	2080	75	Integraal	
14						5	Lemmer	2090	100	Integraal	
15		2					Zuid Holland	3000	100	Integraal	
16			3				Den Haag Regio	3010	100	Integraal	
17				4			Den Haag	3020	50	Proportioneel	
18					4		Leiden	3030	50	Proportioneel	
19						4	Gouda regio	3040	100	Integraal	
20						5	Gouda	3050	100	Integraal	
21						5	Woerden	3060	100	Integraal	
22		2					Nederland (correcties)	1001	100	Integraal	
23											

ExQL Reporting uses diagram techniques for defining interrelationships of organizations, accounts and free dimensions.

*"By converting the existing Excel reporting set into Excel templates, the users hardly noticed that we are now using a professional consolidation package. To me, the power of **ExQL** Reporting lies in the infinite reporting possibilities which you can organize yourself and control with ease. Users have the possibility of asking by e-mail for internal reports compiled on the basis of their own input. A supersystem in terms of the price/quality ratio!"*

Ton van Dijk • Koninklijke NedSchroef Holding n.v.

System information

ExQL Reporting is completely based on Microsoft technology. The database is SQL Server. Outlook takes care of the e-mail traffic, and Excel is the user interface. Since this standard is used throughout the world, the costs of rolling out **ExQL** Reporting over the various reporting units are low. The Microsoft licences have been paid for, and everyone already works with Excel so that training is limited.

A standard PC is set up as a server at a central location. Several servers can be synchronized according to reporting volume and peak load. This results in a maximum uptime, an extremely high processing speed and great system flexibility. If one of the servers should fail, others will take over immediately. After all a Holding Information System must be operational at all times.

*"HBSsoftware has supported us in converting our existing Excel models into **ExQL** templates.*

We have added a treasury module ourselves."

Jurjan van der Laarse • Florimex International b.v.

Implementation

The implementation of **ExQL** Reporting is realized in close consultation with the management. The work to be carried out depends on the suitability of the existing Excel models, the degree of involvement and time available of departmental workers, the total processing time desired and the level of Excel knowledge.

These are also the starting points for the customized training setup. The objective is to offer you as an organization as much autonomy as possible. This is possible because **ExQL** Reporting is very reliable and requires minimum support since everything is Excel, an environment users are already familiar with. In addition, you can of course always fall back on our helpdesk and our Reporting specialists.



HBSsoftware b.v.

ExQL Reporting is a product of HBSsoftware b.v. in the Netherlands. Our experience in the area of reporting processes at the holding level, in combination with ERP implementations at individual companies, enables us to define our automation solutions both by groups and by processes.

'Decentralize to the extent required and centralize to the extent possible' is our starting point for a process in which activities that can take place at the group level are brought together at one point so that synergy benefits are not just created on paper, but actually utilized in practice. HBSsoftware is a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner for Dynamics NAV.

HBSsoftware
Integrated Business & Reporting Solutions

Microsoft
GOLD CERTIFIED
Partner

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