



Taming Reporting Requirements Leads to More Transparency and Less Risk

Toru Matsuura, Controller for The Sumitomo Trust & Banking Company, Ltd. had his objectives clearly-defined when he set out to find a reporting solution for his organisation. He wanted to simplify his trust company's regulatory reporting process with a product that would readily adapt to the organisation and be easy to manage and maintain.

While this seemed straightforward enough, there were many complicating factors, not the least of which were the need to accommodate his global organisation, disparate accounting systems, and a changing regulatory environment. Finding the best reporting system would be a challenge. Fortunately, Lombard Risk had the solution.

Background

The Sumitomo Trust and Banking Co., Ltd., is leading world-class Japanese trust bank that also provides securities lending services to its clients in 20 major markets worldwide. The company is highly regarded within the financial community for its services and for placing the highest priority on policies, procedures, and state of the art technologies to ensure that business processes are in compliance with applicable laws and best practices.

Like many banks, Sumitomo Trust was finding it increasingly difficult to prepare regulatory reports with internally developed reporting tools. Although there were no major breakdowns from the use of such tools, Toru Matsuura identified the lack of data transparency as a potential risk area. In fact, ensuring the transparency of reporting logic and the accuracy of the data required was becoming more time consuming as reporting requirements became more complex, and more difficult to coordinate across different IT platforms and accounting systems.

Simple Data Access, Consolidation, & Viewing

Both Lombard Risk and STB-Reporter proved to be the right fit for Sumitomo Trust. Toru Matsuura's first priority focused on streamlining the business process. This required a solution that would allow them to easily access and consolidate data from multiple sources. STB-Reporter's Super-Consolidator was unparalleled in this category, as it was designed to eliminate all practical barriers to data consolidation with minimum IT overhead. It was the ideal interface because it could link all of their data sources, regardless of database structure or data format, and it could be maintained with minimum dependence on IT.

In addition to the power of Super-Consolidator, STB-Reporter provides a powerful data viewer, called GlobalView, which allows the user to easily navigate to data within the report, regardless of its source. It also comes with a report writing facility to generate daily reports for management.

Toru Matsuura preferred a solution with off-the-shelf functionality; a "Sumitomo Trust Special" presented more risk, would be more difficult for his group to maintain, and less cost-effective. When Toru Matsuura considered the system's total cost of ownership, STB-Reporter was the clear winner once again.



Reputation and Experience

Aware that the acquisition of any business-critical solution is the beginning of an important long-term relationship, Toru Matsuura sought a vendor whose size, experience, and expertise were a good fit with Sumitomo Trust. He felt that a global provider would be best qualified to manage the transference of the technology to other Sumitomo Trust branches. He also felt it was equally important to select a provider who was accustomed to working with banks similar in size to Sumitomo Trust.

Lombard Risk scored high on all counts. They had many successful installations in organisations of similar size and with similar resources as Sumitomo Trust, as well as live sites in the Asia-Pacific region. Of greater significance was the fact that Lombard Risk was in the final stages of developing its Japanese regulatory reporting requirements. This combination of reputation, experience, and product functionality provided Sumitomo Trust a high level of confidence that the deployment would go smoothly, that the technology could be extended to its branches, and that Lombard Risk was the right partner for Sumitomo Trust.

More Control, Less Risk

Lombard Risk's project implementation plan was streamlined and efficient, yet comprehensive enough to make Sumitomo Trust self-sufficient as soon as possible. As a result of fully automating the reporting process, Sumitomo Trust has reduced the time and resources needed to comply with regulations and reports are timelier and more accurate. Errors associated with handling paper are eliminated and because the source of the audit trail is transparent, the audit process is more efficient.

"In addition to the added efficiency that accompanies automation, we have a solution that we can operate with minimal reliance on IT."

Sumitomo Trust recognises project excellence and emphasises the importance of meeting and

exceeding project goals and expectations. Toru Matsuura was recognised for delivering the new, automated solution on time and on budget.

"We anticipate our first regulatory reporting audit using the new reporting framework in November. Thanks to STB-Reporter, the numbers will have transparency and the auditors will have a clear trail and access to their source. For the Sumitomo Trust, this translates into greater control, more confidence and less risk, which is the ultimate goal."

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