



references

Controlling funds for charitable causes

Cubeware Importer speeds up reporting at Bertelsmann Stiftung

The Bertelsmann Stiftung, one of Europe's largest operative foundations, is dedicated to promoting social change both within Germany as well as internationally. With an annual budget of over 965 million, the organization supports projects in the areas of social development, education, health, economy, culture and integration. Founded in 1977 by Reinhard Mohn, the Bertelsmann Stiftung is the majority shareholder of Bertelsmann AG.

Managing personnel and projects

Optimizing resources, controlling costs, managing human resources and proving that the funds are used for charitable purposes are a few of the main responsibilities for the foundation's controlling department. Instead of focusing on profitability, however, the controllers monitor if the resources used for different projects deliver the desired social effect. To gain better insight, the department decided to combine its financial, personnel and time management data into a single system for reporting and analysis.

Managed by business users

Automated data import from different source systems

The controllers at the Bertelsmann Stiftung chose Cubeware because its products and pricing met the expectations of the midsize organization. In particular, they were impressed with Cubeware Importer, a tool which automatically imports data from different operative systems into the reporting system where the users can analyze them.

The new reporting solution currently extracts and integrates data from SAP systems, an HR solution as well as Excel and CSV files. The controllers can then use this data to run complex analyses without requiring extra IT support. In fact, the software is so easy to use that tasks such as generating all new reports for other departments or even integrating additional source systems are all done within the department.

Standard reports now ready in 2 (not 8) days

With that step the project team already achieved one of its prime goals – to free itself from the dependence on external resources (e.g. SAP programmers) for day-to-day operations and further development. The controlling department has automated routine processes such as transferring data or significant cost savings.

Solution

The controlling department at the Bertelsmann Stiftung monitors how its funds are used for charitable purposes. To evaluate the resources used in its various projects, the department consolidated its financial, personnel costs, staffing and timekeeping systems into a single reporting solution. Cubeware Importer automatically transfers the data from SAP and other source systems. The controllers can now easily analyze current, reliable data. In addition, they can maintain and extend the system on their own.

Services

- Training

Technology

- Various data sources (SAP, HR system, Excel and CSV files)
- Microsoft SQL Server
- Infor Alea
- Cubeware Importer
- Cubeware Connectivity for SAP® Solutions
- Cubeware Cockpit



"Cubeware Importer automatically merges our different data sources so we can analyze it from multiple angles. We no longer need external help with programming and analysis."

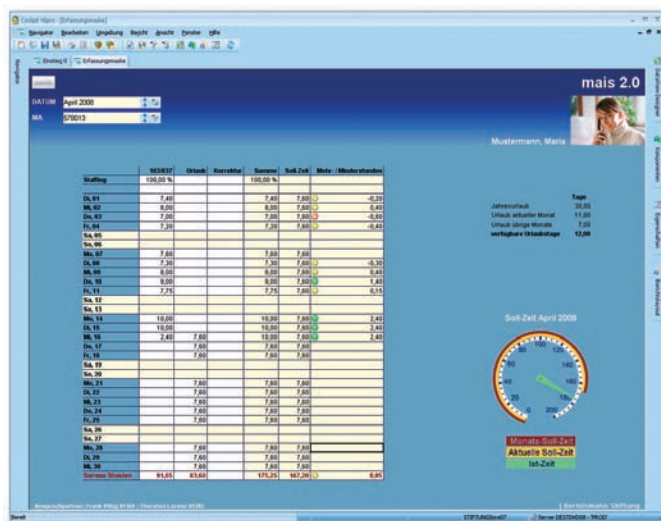
Frank Pittig, Project controller at the Bertelsmann Stiftung



"Cubeware has drastically shortened our processes. We now have the leeway we need to truly consult and support the foundation's work."

Thorsten Lorenz, IT controller at the Bertelsmann Stiftung

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Timekeeping report with graphical analysis

Reliable information for sophisticated analysis

The controllers implemented the system themselves with support from internal experts within the Bertelsmann Group. The system, which runs on Microsoft SQL Server and Infor Alea data-bases, includes cubes for staffing, personnel costs, finance, budget-actual variances, and project costing. Currently, 20 decision-makers, controllers and HR specialists access these reports through the Cubeware Cockpit front end. To date, the team is converting the solution into an intuitive online reporting tool for 100 additional users.

The controllers at the Bertelsmann Stiftung value the intuitive look and feel of the Cubeware solution. Thanks to the new system, users can map structural changes, plan scenarios in parallel hierarchies, integrate new source systems and create ad hoc analyses quickly and easily.

Full cost accounting on a daily basis

Thanks to the consistent pool of data and flexible analyses, the controllers can now evaluate their data in ways that were previously impossible. Using a HR costing system based on central timekeeping data, they can now assess the full costs of projects and internal services. Thanks to automatic daily imports, all analyses are based on current, reliable data.

Automating routine processes

The company uses Cubeware Importer's mail function to document and publish changes made in databases located outside of the department. Since these changes are immediately displayed in Cubeware Cockpit, the controllers save considerable routine work.

With the implementation of Cubeware Cockpit V6pro, the company has expanded the system for online reporting and timekeeping. Further plans include the implementation of a facility management tool and the transfer of qualitative project data into a data pool using Cubeware Importer.