



Volume 4
Issue 4
Aug 2004

Headline News

Insights 2004, Best's annual partner conference was held in mid-June. Best made sweeping announcements covering virtually all of its products. One particularly interesting development was the announcement of the Best Software Integration Framework and Best Software Common Desktop, planned for roll out over the next two years and serving to integrate the Best Suites' product portfolios. Integration Framework, which is based on Microsoft .Net and XML standards, will provide a common protocol to integrate Best Software front- and back-office applications and third-party solutions.



MAS 90 MAS 200 MIP
BUSINESSWORKS GOLD

FRx

Financial Reporting Power On Your Desktop

It's 5 p.m. Friday. Just as you're headed for the door, your boss requests a complex what-if analysis report based on restructuring your cost centers—for a Monday morning meeting! Forget your daughter's ballet recital. Forget the football game. You'll be in the office all weekend long, right? Not if you've been using FRx Desktop—the premier Financial Report Writer. Now those difficult reports are at your fingertips. Any way that you—or your boss want them.

Are you frustrated with the lack of flexibility of your standard reporting tools? Do you spend hours in Excel building customized reports only to redo them next month when something changes? It's time to consider using the best-of-breed financial report writer bundled with MAS 90—FRx. With FRx, you can produce presentation-quality general ledger reports, with more flexibility than ever before, and with far more functionality than Excel offers.

You can restructure account segments, produce multi-company consolidation reports, perform division-specific calculations, and much, much more.

Building Blocks

Flexibility is FRx's biggest asset. Column layouts, row formats, and reporting trees are each created and defined independently, forming what FRx refers to as report building blocks. You can then use these building blocks to create virtually any report desired. Use the templates provided and modify them to your exact needs. You can elect to include or exclude departments for different views, perform division-specific calculations, then view your reports on screen before you print them.

Row And Column Formatting

Creating a report row is as simple as indicating

the source of the data and what you want to do with it. FRx is linked to your MAS 90 general ledger data, so you can use your chart of accounts to select individual accounts, a range of accounts, a saved group of accounts, or a list of accounts to include in a report. Then you can



Do you need more reliable sources for your company's financial information?

specify how you would like each row to perform. A few of the choices include: descriptions, totals, and math calculations, which can be anything from simple formulas to embedded *if/then* logic. Once created, save your Row Formats and use

Continued on Page 2

Compliments of:



**COMPUTER
ACCOUNTING
SYSTEMS, INC.**

1855 58th Street NE
Tacoma, WA 98422

(877) 952-6098 toll free
(253) 952-6206 fax

Email:
mike@caserv.com

Web Site:
www.caserv.com

FRx Financial Reporting Continued

them again to speed the creation of new reports.

For each report column, you simply specify the source of the data and the type of column you want from a list of several types. You can define relative ranges of time periods, such as rolling quarters or trend reporting, by automating the columns to update every time the report is run, using the base-period information you provide. Once you set-up a column layout the way you want, save it for use in other reports.

Reporting Trees

Reporting Trees are the key to this report writer's flexibility. Think of a Reporting Tree as a hierarchical picture of your organization—departments within locations under corporate, for example.

Imagine the following example corporate reporting structure. At the top you've got a Corporate Summary, underneath are your Denver and your Cleveland offices. Under each location are sales, accounting, and customer service centers. What would happen if you consolidated accounting functions out of the Denver office? With FRx, you can simply drag and drop Cleveland's accounting under Denver and you've got a new report! The ease of changing or reorganizing the reporting structures by merely dragging and dropping—without touching your chart of accounts—is all contained within FRx.

Share Your Reports

Because you no longer have to build custom reports from scratch, then manually review them to determine which managers get what report, you can expand your distribution list to reach even more people, more quickly and more effectively than ever before.

FRx allows you to schedule your reports for automatic email distribution or publish them for on-line viewing. A **DrillDown Viewer** simplifies on-line report viewing. You can distribute this viewer with your reports. It allows others to view the report without access to your data, and without requiring that they run FRx. Managers can drill down from the summary level all the way down to core transaction level detail.

Licensing And Options

A single-user copy of **FRx Desktop** is bundled with your MAS 90 General Ledger module. It allows you to design, generate, and view finan-

cial reports. Additional seats are available for purchase in three-user increments.

Report Distribution Add-Ons

Many options are available for distributing and sharing your reports, and we've provided an overview of this additional functionality below.

► **DrillDown Viewer**

Using the FRx DrillDown Viewer, you can allow your report recipients to drill down from the summary level all the way down to core transaction level detail, answering their own questions. You can generate a single, comprehensive report and comfortably send it to all report reviewers. Because security rights are predefined at the "Reporting Tree" level, each recipient can access only the information that is allowed under their viewing rights. DrillDown Viewer licenses are sold individually.

► **Report Launcher**

You will likely have personnel who need to generate and view FRx reports, but do not require the ability to create new or modify existing reports. For these users, the **Report Launcher** is less expensive than buying a full Desktop user license. Using the Report Launcher, users can modify report properties including the report date and output format but can not change the report design. The drilldown viewer is embedded in the report launcher license. Report Launcher licenses are sold individually.

► **Report Server Engine**

If timesaving automation appeals to you, the Report Server Engine is sure to please. Using this tool, you can set the schedule (e.g. daily, weekly, monthly) for reports to be automatically generated and distributed—without further interaction. The reports generated can be automatically emailed in a variety of formats to the finance department, department managers, and other stakeholders in the business. The Report Server engine is sold on a per machine basis.

► **WebView Server**

The WebView Server is a fabulous tool to provide for your remote or mobile users, your accounting firm, even select customers. It allows users to view generated FRx reports from a browser, over the Internet or Intranet. Full drill-down capabilities are available, but users are unable to make changes to the reports. Each

WebView Server is bundled with 20 viewers and is sold on a per server basis. Additional WebView Viewers can be purchased in blocks of 10.

► **WebPort Server**

The WebPort Server is a powerful extension to WebView Server. It is a financial portal that offers publishing, storing, and managing of FRx reports via the Web, providing both report administration and report viewing on-line via a Web browser. WebPort also can store and view other documents and files such as Word documents, Excel spreadsheets, Adobe Acrobat documents, and OLAP cube files.

Reporting Power On Your Desktop

With the flexible design of FRx, you can measure the financial health of your organization more efficiently and more often. You can track key performance goals in real-time, generate customized reports on the fly, and perform complex consolidations with just a few mouse clicks. This means a shortened quarterly closing cycle, improved productivity, quicker decision-making, and a direct impact to your bottom line.

We would like to help you learn more about this powerful tool. Please call us for additional information or training on FRx. ★

A Whole New Approach To Budgeting: FRx Forecaster

Within most companies, the mere mention of budget planning is enough to clear the room. It's a difficult, inexact, complicated, and time-consuming task. However, a task so vital to the current and future success of a company requires the full input and participation of management and effected employees. The new FRx Forecaster supports such participation with an intuitive spreadsheet-style interface and powerful, flexible features. Forecaster is a Web-based budget tool that works with FRx Desktop and your MAS 90 General Ledger data to make budget forecasting as efficient—and painless as possible.

If you would like more information about FRx Forecaster, or to view a demonstration, give us a call. ★