Management Reporter for Microsoft Dynamics ERP

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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Microsoft Dynamics

Contents

Who is this document for?

This FAQ document is designed for partners, independent software vendors (ISVs), prospective customers, and existing customers currently using Microsoft® FRx®, Microsoft Forecaster, or Microsoft Enterprise Reporting.

Introduction to Management Reporter

Microsoft Dynamics® is committed to providing powerful performance management capabilities to our customers. Our goal is to consolidate the capabilities represented by our existing performance management assets into a single solution that covers all core mid-market performance management scenarios.

Management Reporter represents a key milestone in the long-term performance management roadmap for Microsoft Dynamics. This release of Management Reporter is focused on financial reporting scenarios. Subsequent releases will include additional performance management scenarios, such as budgeting and planning.

Management Reporter: Overview and Features

What is Management Reporter?
Management Reporter is a real-time financial reporting application designed to empower information workers to quickly and easily create, generate, secure, and publish financial statements, such as Profit and Loss (P&L) statements, balance sheets, and cash flow reports.

Management Reporter uses an intuitive approach to report design combined with a robust architecture and a user interface that will be familiar to users of other popular Microsoft applications.

With Management Reporter, business users can create their own boardroom-quality reports without IT assistance; take advantage of secure report distribution through the centralized Report Library; and gain strong support for regulatory compliance. Management Reporter will include direct integration with the Microsoft Dynamics ERP general ledger so that there is no need to create a custom connection to the data source.

When will Management Reporter be available?
Management Reporter will be launching with Microsoft Dynamics GP 2010. Microsoft is currently working to build Management Reporter integration with Microsoft Dynamics AX 2009 (H2 2010), Microsoft Dynamics NAV (TBD), and Microsoft Dynamics SL (next release).

How much will Management Reporter cost?
Please refer to the Microsoft Dynamics GP 2010 Pricing & Licensing FAQ for detailed information on pricing for Management Reporter.

What are the business benefits of Management Reporter?
Management Reporter supplements your Microsoft Dynamics ERP solution to take advantage of information and deliver accurate, timely, and comprehensive financial reports in custom formats. It gives users at all levels of the organization the tools they need to gain insight into business performance and make rapid, informed decisions. With Management Reporter, you can:

- **Get rapid results.** Streamline financial reporting and analysis to gain insight and respond quickly to new business opportunities and market trends with professional, cost-effective reports that are easy to create, distribute, and analyze. Finance team members can design reports with the help of wizards, requiring no IT assistance. Basic reports can be designed in minutes, not hours or days.
- **Build custom reports.** Mix and match general ledger information into report rows, columns, or hierarchies to slice data into actionable information. Apply robust formatting to increase a report's presentation value.
- **Increase productivity and effectiveness.** Generate and distribute reports automatically, so people have the information they need to monitor performance, close the books quickly, meet compliance deadlines, and make confident decisions.
- **Help safeguard financial information.** Tailor security settings so that only people with appropriate permissions can access sensitive business information.
- **Enhance collaboration and communication.** Use multiple formats, distribution techniques, and document bundling to help ensure the right people get relevant information. Design reports in a controlled, centralized environment.
- **Simplify report administration and maintenance.** Use Report Groups to generate multiple reports with one click, and organize folders to keep reporting elements and definitions at your fingertips.

What are the key features of Management Reporter?
Management Reporter will include direct integration to the Microsoft Dynamics ERP general ledger for simplified, real-time reporting with greater accuracy. Reusable building blocks of Report, Row, Column, and Tree definitions can be mixed and matched to produce a wide variety of boardroom-quality reports. In addition, Management Reporter includes a Report Library

where all generated reports are stored and viewed. Using the Report Library, you can secure reports and external files at the report level, version level, or on a specific tree node.

How many languages does Management Reporter support?

For the RTM of Management Reporter, it will be available in English. After RTM, French Canadian and Spanish LATAM will be distributed. Additional languages are currently under consideration.

How does Management Reporter leverage Microsoft SharePoint Server, Microsoft SQL Server, and Microsoft Office Excel?

Microsoft SQL Server® provides the foundation in Management Reporter for data storage, report processing, and report viewing. Management Reporter also includes the option to export data to Microsoft Office Excel®, which can then be distributed using Microsoft Office SharePoint® Server.

How is Management Reporter different from SQL Server Reporting Services?

Management Reporter is a financial reporting application that will integrate directly with the general ledger in Microsoft Dynamics ERP solutions for real-time reporting with greater accuracy. There is no need for IT assistance; you can simply add the accounts or dimensions you want to include in your reports. Management Reporter includes the Report Library in which all generated reports are stored, secured, and viewed. SQL Server Reporting Services is a server-based solution that enables the creation, management, and delivery of both traditional, paper-oriented reports, and interactive, Web-based reports.

Does Management Reporter support XBRL?

Management Reporter supports the latest standards for eXtensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL), the open data standard for financial reporting. You can tag financial statements as you design them so that the tags can be reused. This will help you save time when creating instance documents.

Will Management Reporter work with SQL Server 2008?

Yes.

Will Management Reporter work with Windows 7?

Management Reporter is certified on Windows® 7.

Will Management Reporter work with Windows Server® 2008 (64-bit operating system)?
Yes.

When should I move to Management Reporter?
Microsoft recommends moving to Management Reporter when it is available for your Microsoft Dynamics ERP solution.

Existing Microsoft Dynamics BI Solutions
This section is designed to give existing Microsoft Dynamics customers clarity around the different performance management solutions available today.

I'm a prospective customer. Which Microsoft Dynamics performance management solution should I use?
For financial reporting, Management Reporter is recommended when it becomes available for your Microsoft Dynamics ERP solution. For out-of-the-box budgeting scenarios using templates, Forecaster is recommended. Please work with your Microsoft Dynamics partner to find the best consolidation solution for your business.

What is Microsoft FRx?
FRx is a comprehensive financial reporting and analysis application that provides people with the tools they need to gain insight into business performance and take quick action.

How long will support continue for FRx?
Microsoft anticipates the end of FRx 6.7 lifecycle support at approximately the same time as the release for Management Reporter V3, which is estimated for 2012.

What is Forecaster?
Forecaster is an application designed to help you manage financial performance through accurate budgeting, planning, and forecasting. With easy-to-use templates, you can meet your financial planning and budgeting requirements, build budgets collaboratively, and plan for the future realistically. Managers can adjust forecasts and budgets to control finances, contain costs, and help prevent fiscal surprises.

How long will support be available for Forecaster?
Microsoft anticipates the end of Forecaster 7.0 lifecycle support at approximately the same time as the release for Management Reporter V4, which is estimated for 2014.

Will Forecaster work with the new releases of Microsoft Dynamics ERP solutions?
Yes.

What is Enterprise Reporting?
Enterprise Reporting is an application for financial reporting, budgeting, planning, forecasting, and consolidations. The solution provides powerful, reliable data collection and easy-to-use analysis and reporting functionality, plus built-in consolidation, elimination, and multicurrency capabilities.

How long will support be available for Enterprise Reporting?
Microsoft anticipates the end of Enterprise Reporting lifecycle support at approximately the same time as the release for Management Reporter V4, which is estimated for 2014.

If I've recently started using Forecaster or Enterprise Reporting, how can I transition to Management Reporter?
Microsoft Dynamics will continue to facilitate a simplified migration path for customers transitioning from Forecaster, Enterprise Reporting, and FRx to Management Reporter to save time and optimize the data migration process.

Will Enterprise Reporting work with new releases of Microsoft ERP solutions?
Yes. Enterprise Reporting currently integrates with Microsoft Dynamics GP 9.0, but the current service pack is targeting certification for Microsoft Dynamics GP 2010. At this time, there are no plans to build integrations between Enterprise Reporting and the new releases of the other Microsoft Dynamics ERP solutions.

What languages do FRx, Forecaster, and Enterprise Reporting support?
FRx 6.7 supports English, French, Spanish, and German; Forecaster is available in English; and Enterprise Reporting is available in English and German.

Will there be service pack updates for FRx, Forecaster, and Enterprise Reporting?
Microsoft will provide service pack updates for these products, but not feature packs.

Will FRx, Forecaster, and Enterprise Reporting work with SQL Server 2008?
Yes.

Will FRx, Forecaster, and Enterprise Reporting work with Windows 7?
FRx 6.7 SP11 will work with Windows 7; Forecaster is certified on Windows 7; and although Enterprise Reporting does not natively support it, the functionality is planned for the next service pack release.

Will FRx, Forecaster, and Enterprise Reporting work with Windows Server 2008 (64-bit operating system)?
FRx 6.7 has components that will not run on a 64-bit operating system, such as Report Server. Therefore, Microsoft recommends that you do not attempt to run FRx 6.7 in a 64-bit operating system environment. Forecaster does not run on a 64-bit operating system, and Enterprise Reporting is currently under evaluation.

Partners and ISVs
This section is for Microsoft partners and independent software vendors (ISVs) who are currently working with or interested in learning more about the direction of Microsoft Dynamics performance management solutions.

I'm a partner who specializes in FRx, Forecaster, or Enterprise Reporting. How does the Microsoft Dynamics CPM roadmap affect me?
Microsoft will continue to support FRx, Forecaster, and Enterprise Reporting while we work toward a single Microsoft Dynamics performance management solution for the future. Your knowledge and experience with the existing Microsoft Dynamics performance management solutions will enable you to specialize in the new solution.

As a partner, what should I be doing to gain expertise on Management Reporter?
A number of learning and development resources related to Management Reporter have been created and are available on PartnerSource. Additional materials will be added regularly.

I sell a non-Microsoft Dynamics ERP solution that uses FRx. What performance management solution should I be selling going forward?
The Microsoft Dynamics performance management roadmap only applies to Microsoft Dynamics ERP customers. Please contact your ERP provider for guidance on their financial reporting roadmap.

Will Management Reporter be available to customers running other GL applications?
No. Management Reporter will be available only to Microsoft Dynamics customers.

What are the plans for incorporating extensibility into Management Reporter?
As Microsoft Dynamics moves toward a single performance management solution, extensibility will remain a high priority capability for Management Reporter, Forecaster, and Enterprise Reporting.

When will you release Management Reporter for all Microsoft Dynamics ERP solutions?
Each of the Microsoft Dynamics ERP solutions ships on a separate release schedule; the Management Reporter release will harmonize with these schedules.