



Management Reporter for Microsoft Dynamics ERP

Overview for Existing Microsoft FRx Customers

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Who is this document for?

This document is for customers who are currently using Microsoft® FRx®, but are considering upgrading to Management Reporter for Microsoft Dynamics® ERP. This document is a supplement to the information in the “Management Reporter Frequently Asked Questions” document, and the “What’s New in Management Reporter” document.

How does Management Reporter improve upon FRx?

Management Reporter uses the same approach to report design that exists in FRx 6.7, and combines this with a robust architecture and an improved user interface that is familiar and more consistent with other Microsoft applications. You’ll appreciate the performance, stability, and new features that Management Reporter delivers. Here are some of the key enhancements:

New Code Base and Architecture with 64-bit Support

Many companies are upgrading their systems to 64-bit. Management Reporter was built using 64-bit environments. This means that the IT department won’t need to maintain a separate machine just for Management Reporter as they may need to do for FRx.

Enhanced Stability

Management Reporter takes advantage of the powerful Microsoft .NET Platform and a new C# codebase to provide superior application stability.

Improved Performance

Processing takes place on the server, not the client. This frees up the client to continue designing reports instead of locking it up until the report has finished generating.

SQL Server

Management Reporter uses SQL Server for data storage, where FRx used Microsoft Access for data storage. With Management Reporter, you can expect an increase in performance, stability, and multi-user capabilities.

Improved Multi-user Environment

With the switch to IIS and SQL Server, there is no need to create shares for the SysData and IO_Data folders. All of the building blocks, company information, and generated reports are in a SQL database. Administrators can see all reports that are being generated at any given time because all processing is done on the server.

Active Directory

After users are added to Management Reporter, any changes made to passwords and other settings are automatically rolled forward. There is no need to “manage” users in Management Reporter unless a user needs to be disabled or given a new security role. This also means that the only log-in screen users see is the company log-in screen for their Microsoft Dynamics GL.

Report Library

The Report Library, with its ability to create folders and upload external files, can be used to group items. This creates a centralized location for report distribution and collaboration that places all of the information you need in one place. Also, by creating folders in the Report Library, reports can be found easily and put into folders that make sense to everyone in the organization. Security can also be applied to these folders to make sure only those individuals who should have access to certain folders or items have access. Also, any supporting documents to the financials can be added to the Report Library.

Report Viewer

When viewing report data, the same great drill-down functionality is available to get the information you need, but you can either use a tree to navigate, or drill through as with FRx. And, it doesn't open a new view each time you drill; you can see where you are in the report and easily get back to summary information.

Undo

This much-requested feature improves the report creation process by allowing your end users to undo recent changes to their reports.

Dimension Flexibility

Dimension flexibility allows for more flexibility when creating reports. The structured rules of regarding segments in FRx are no longer a limitation. By allowing larger and variable-length masks, Management Reporter scales better to larger customers.

Formatting

Creating boardroom-quality reports is a given, and by adding logos/images to headers and footers, reports become even more customized. By allowing for page breaks to be specified in columns, you can control what data is displayed on what page. If the columns contain departments, you can specify which departments you want printed on each page by using the column page breaks.

Organization

By creating folders, users can organize and easily find the building blocks they are looking for, which makes Management Reporter easier to use and increases productivity.

XBRL

Management Reporter supports XBRL 2.1 and Dimension 1.0 specifications. Tagging of financial data is done during design, which allows the tagging to be re-used. A new instance document can be created by simply changing the report date. This is unique in the field as most XBRL applications tag financial information in Excel after the report has been generated.

Will Management Reporter include features and functionality from FRx 6.7?

Yes. Although the functionality gaps between FRx 6.7 and Management Reporter are minimal, Microsoft Dynamics will continue to focus Management Reporter on the features and capabilities that customers need most. This includes covering the most common usage scenarios with similar features between FRx 6.7 and Management Reporter.

There are certain feature differences between FRx 6.7 and Management Reporter. For more information, see the “Migrating Data from Microsoft FRx 6.7 to Management Reporter: Tips and Tricks” document.

What are the benefits of upgrading to Management Reporter?

By upgrading to Management Reporter, you can:

- **Improve performance and stability**—Take advantage of a proven business intelligence (BI) architecture from Microsoft and the centralized database storage of Microsoft SQL Server so that you can focus on your job while data, formats, and reports are hosted and stored securely.
- **Increase productivity and effectiveness**—Generate, view, and distribute reports in the centralized Report Library, which helps people get the information they need to quickly analyze data and make informed decisions.
- **Transition easily**—Use the Management Reporter Migration Wizard to quickly move your report definitions from FRx 6.7 and maintain formatting.
- **Customize existing reports**—Use new customization features to modify migrated reports with the familiar, yet enhanced look and feel of FRx.
- **Help protect financial data**—Leverage the enhanced security of Management Reporter to help protect sensitive data and business information.
- **Lower total cost of ownership (TCO)**—Pricing and licensing costs for Management Reporter are designed to make upgrading from FRx 6.7 as easy as possible. Management Reporter Designer Users are included in each AM and BE Edition Full Access User for no additional charge and available a la carte to AM, BE, PRO and STD Edition customers for US\$1,000. Management Reporter Viewer Users are included to AM and BE customers within the DCO User for no additional charge and available to PRO and STD customers on an a la carte basis for US\$300 per user U.S. Also, upgrading to Management Reporter positions you to achieve an increasingly higher ROI as Microsoft adds functionality such as budgeting and

forecasting in future releases. More information on Management Reporter pricing can be found in the Microsoft Dynamics GP 2010 Pricing & Licensing FAQ.

Will I be able to easily migrate my FRx data and reports?

Yes. The Management Reporter Migration Wizard makes it quick and easy to migrate report definition data from FRx to Management Reporter with a simple step-by-step wizard. First is the actual data migration, where you can migrate Rows, Columns, Trees, font styles, and lists of companies. This is a migration and conversion process, because all FRx data is copied to the Management Reporter database, where it is converted to the dimension-based system of Management Reporter.

Next is the built-in validation process, which can be run separately from the data migration. Validation evaluates each building block to ensure it meets all the necessary formatting requirements in Management Reporter. Validation will help you:

- Ensure proper formatting of your reports.
- Save time by validating before report generation.
- Automatically prevent invalid formulas because it requires you to validate and save building blocks as you go.

Currently, the migration tools do not support the migration of .frd files (finished reports) or company setup, but you can configure companies directly in Management Reporter.

For more information, see the "Migrating Data from Microsoft FRx 6.7 to Management Reporter: Tips and Tricks" document.