

Transforming Investment Reporting: From Manual Spreadsheets to Automated Intelligence

Financial institutions across South Africa face mounting pressure to modernise their reporting capabilities while maintaining accuracy and compliance. Manual spreadsheet-based processes are increasingly inadequate for today's regulatory environment with complex investment valuations and reporting requirements.

Legacy manual processes create significant operational risks, from data integrity issues to resource inefficiencies impacting decision-making and regulatory compliance. Organisations need robust, automated solutions to handle complex investment portfolios while providing real-time insights and reducing operational overhead.

A national credit agency recognised the need to transform its investment valuations and reporting function from a manual, spreadsheet-dependent process to a sophisticated, automated solution that would deliver efficiency gains, improved accuracy, and risk mitigation.

THE CHALLENGE

The national credit agency was managing its investment valuations and reporting function entirely through manual processes using shared spreadsheets. This approach presented several critical challenges that threatened operational efficiency and accuracy.

The manual spreadsheet-based system required significant human resources to maintain, with reports generated quarterly taking a team of three people up to three weeks to complete a single report pack. The process involved managing multiple large spreadsheets (95MB, 25MB, and 22MB files) prone to errors, version control issues, and data integrity risks.

The manual approach limited reporting frequency to quarterly intervals, preventing timely decision-making and reducing the organisation's ability to respond quickly to market changes. The complexity of managing multiple spreadsheets at scale also introduced substantial operational risks, including potential data loss, calculation errors, and compliance vulnerabilities.

The agency needed a solution to eliminate dependency on manual spreadsheets while introducing automation, improved usability, and enhanced accuracy to support their critical investment reporting functions.

THE SOLUTION

Digiata designed and implemented a comprehensive automated investment reporting solution that completely transformed the national credit agency's investment valuation and reporting approach. The solution eliminated manual spreadsheets and introduced a sophisticated, four-component architecture.

The solution comprises a front-end user interface that provides intuitive usability for end users, back-end integration and automation capabilities that streamline data processing, a robust data store for secure information management, and advanced business intelligence features for enhanced reporting and analytics.

The automated system integrates four distinct Linx solutions featuring over 200 API endpoints and 70+ file imports, replacing the cumbersome manual spreadsheet process. The Stadium application provides comprehensive data maintenance, manual data processes, user process management and process authorisation. A Power BI solution delivers advanced analytics and all reporting functionality through 2 semantic models, 30+ tables, and 90+ report pages.

The transformation enables the agency to generate reports monthly instead of quarterly, dramatically improving its ability to monitor investment performance and make timely decisions. The automated process reduces report generation time from three weeks with a team of three to just three days with a team of two, representing significant efficiency gains.

THE TECHNOLOGY DIGIATA USED

- Linx
- Stadium
- Power BI
- API Integration
- Automated File Processing

THE NUMBERS

200+

API Endpoints

70+

File Imports

120+

Stadium Process Pages

30+

Power BI Tables

90+

Power BI Report Pages

75%

Reduction in Processing Time

67%

Reduction in Team Resources

3x

Increase in Reporting Frequency

THE RESULT

Digiata's automated investment reporting solution delivered transformational results for the national credit agency, fundamentally changing how the organisation approaches investment valuations and reporting. The solution eliminated the operational risks associated with manual spreadsheet management, introducing significant efficiency and accuracy improvements.

Efficiency Gains: The automated system reduced report generation time by 75%, from three weeks to just three days, while simultaneously reducing the required team size from three people to two. This represents a 67% improvement in resource efficiency, allowing the agency to reallocate valuable human resources to higher-value activities.

Enhanced Reporting Frequency: Perhaps most significantly, the solution enabled the agency to increase their reporting frequency from quarterly to monthly - a 300% improvement that provides management with more timely insights for decision-making.

Advanced Analytics: The comprehensive business intelligence capabilities, featuring over 90 report pages across multiple semantic models, empower the agency's team with sophisticated analytics and visualisations previously impossible with manual spreadsheet processes. This enhanced analytical capability supports more informed investment decisions and improved portfolio management.

Risk Mitigation: Eliminating manual spreadsheets has dramatically reduced operational risks, including data integrity issues, version control problems, and calculation errors. The automated solution ensures consistent, accurate reporting while providing robust audit trails and compliance capabilities essential for a financial institution of this stature.

Process Management: The Stadium application provides comprehensive user process management and authorisation capabilities, ensuring proper governance and control over data maintenance and manual processes while maintaining security and compliance standards.

ABOUT DIGIATA

Digiata offers end-to-end solutions that cover a broad spectrum of business processes conducted in financial services companies, including customer experience, process automation, reconciliation, complex integration, payments and data analytics. We work with mission-critical, high-volume transaction platforms and systems for some leading banks and investment managers across sub-Saharan Africa and the UK, combining market-leading software with industry innovation to solve specific business challenges for its clients.

Digiata provides the perfect balance between a solution customised to business challenges and environment, plus the speed of implementation and agility of a team of experts who have a powerful toolset to draw on.

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