

Hyperion Focus 2015

How Merlin^{XL} has helped it's users

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Wizards



Merlin^{XL} is a suite of Excel based modules called “Wizards”



Report Wizard



Intercompany Wizard



Journal Wizard

Merlin^{XL} Clients



WOLSELEY

Handelsbanken



Willis



DE BEERS



Seaway Heavy Lifting



Teck



Questions



We asked our clients the following questions:

- What challenges did you face with HFM
- How had you tried to address these challenges
- How did Merlin^{XL} help you with these issues
- What was the most useful functionality

This presentation summarises the feedback from our clients

Key Clients



For the printed material the names have been removed

Client 1

*Large UK based optician.
Used MerlinXL for 1 year*

Client 2

*International mining company
Used MerlinXL for 3 years*

Client 3

*Large UK based DIY chain
Used MerlinXL for 5 years*



Journal Wizard

Create, import, copy, modify,
verify and post HFM journals
from Excel

Journal Wizard Quotes



Client 1

“Proved to be a revelation”

Client 2

“Allows us time to analyse the data rather than performing journal data entry”

Client 3

“It’s been a life saver and probably saved me days....thank goodness we had Merlin”

Journal Wizard Functionality



1. Copy and Roll-forward

- Not available in standard HFM journal interface

Pre-Merlin solution:

- Just re-key the whole journal again
- Extract to jlf file, manually modify the file and reload back to HFM

Merlin solution:

- Built-in functionality

2. Linking to formula and HFM data

- Not possible in standard HFM journal interface

Pre-Merlin solution:

- Manually re-key all values from the workings and supporting schedules to the journals
- Use a custom built “macro driven” workbook to generate jlf files and manually load these.

3. Multi-period Journals

- Not possible in standard HFM journal interface

Pre-Merlin solution:

- Post 12 similar journals, one for each period in the scenario.

Post-Merlin solution:

- Post 1 multi-period journal to all periods

“It took me 2 minutes to post 140 journals, that in the past would have taken all day”

Journal Wizard Functionality



4. Drill-down to journal lines

- Not possible in standard HFM journal interface

Pre-Merlin solution:

- Only basic filtering in journal reports.
- Manually maintain an offline extended TB report

Post-Merlin solution:

- Built-in functionality on any cell in any report.



Intercompany Wizard

Easy to read, easy to analyse
intercompany reporting in Excel

Intercompany Wizard Quotes



Client 1

“Before Merlin we had a large overrun on audit fees due to our Intercompany. As soon as we installed Merlin we could see the extent of the issues we had, and also how to resolve them. Even our auditors could understand the Merlin reports”

Client 2

“Before Merlin our Intercompany matching process was very time consuming. We now can spend less time analysing and more time resolving issues”

Client 3

“A huge improvement over the standard HFM intercompany reports. It has saved us so much time across the organisation”

Intercompany Wizard



Case Study: De Beers

Pre-Merlin process

- Intercompany data is loaded in a way that prevented them from using standard HFM interco.
- Had to extract data using SmartView.
- Create a large Excel grid to do the matching
- Slow, complex, high maintenance overhead
- Can only be used by Group accountant

Intercompany Wizard



Case Study: AkzoNobel

- Very large application:
 - 14000 base entities, 23000 entities in total
 - 8 custom dimensions.
- Base entities were more like cost centres.
- First parent was the business entity
- Weren't sure how they were going to do their intercompany reports
- MerlinXL can match on the first parent

Intercompany Wizard



Case Study: BAT

- Lots of Intercompany users worldwide
- All need to view Interco reports at the same time.
- Performance severely impacted at key times
- Solution 1: Automatically generate centrally and distribute
- Solution 2: Instant Intercompany module



Report Wizard

Combines the functionality of Hyperion Reports, SmartView and Data Grids into one easy to use Excel addin

Report Wizard Quotes



Client 1

“MerlinXL is intuitive enough for me to do 90% of what I need to do in HFM without any training”

“Added a consistency to our Excel reporting, and no need for a Hyperion Reports specialist”

Client 2

“The biggest benefit was the Report Library. We don’t use Hyperion Reports anymore”

Client 3

“We now use the MerlinXL Report Library to distribute and keep control of our Financial Reporting Packs”

Case Study: Kingfisher

The Requirement

- Several Management and Statutory packs
 - Dozens of worksheets/reports
 - Thousands of cells
 - Hundreds of custom formula
 - Charts and conditional formatting
 - Generated for multiple global businesses
- Pre-Merlin options:
 - Hyperion Reports
 - SmartView via email or global network

Report Wizard



Case Study: Kingfisher

The Solution

- The Report Library
 - Report templates created in Excel
 - Held in a central folder on the server
 - Distributed via http
 - No SmartView formula
 - Dynamic reports that support drill-down etc.
 - Ensures a consistent look and design of the Excel reports

Case Study: Nutreco

The Requirement

- Collect and load manually entered data to HFM
 - Several inter-linked data entry sheets
 - Workings sheets to model the required inputs
 - Lots of custom validation and feeding formula linking the sheets
 - Required from multiple global businesses
- Pre-Merlin options:
 - Web based data entry forms
 - SmartView packs distributed via email or global network

Report Wizard



Case Study: Nutreco

The Solution

- The Data Wizard
 - No SmartView formula
 - Read and write to the same cell
 - Submits cell formulas
 - Submits directly to HFM, calculates HFM and retrieves data back
 - Workbooks of multiple, inter-linked worksheets
 - Distributed via http from the MerlinXL Report Library
 - Ensures a consistent look and design of the Excel reports

Technical



- Excel 2007, 2010 & 2013
- HFM 9.2 to 11.1.2.3
- HFM 11.1.2.4 coming soon
- Windows XP to Windows 10

Thank you!

