CLARMONT
A CLEAR VIEW OF TECHNOLOGY

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# CONTROLLING

## A controlling system for the modern enterprise

### What is controlling?

**Controlling** is a coordination function at the top management level which focuses on **asset management, liquidity and results planning**. Controlling is the analysis of performance and costs - **Is something costing more than it makes?** Controlling is part of a Management Information System (MIS). **Controlling is profit management – the management of a firm's costs and expenses in relation to budgeted amounts.**

*Controlling as a science is a relatively recent development and its standards, rules and processes are constantly changing and being refined. Consequently CONTROL does not attempt to be a general one-size-fits all solution, although it is continually being developed and improved to satisfy new customer requirements.*

### Overview of the CONTROL™ system

CLARMONT I.S. Ltd's CONTROL™ system is not a general purpose controlling software that can be used anywhere. This is a **modular solution** made up of elements in themselves complete, functional building blocks, which when combined can compete with the products of any **controlling software** company, and in fact can offer more than any. Our philosophy is that a system should be adapted to the tried and true processes of a customer and increase their **effectiveness** rather than requiring that a company change its processes to suit the software. In this way, we can offer more since CONTROL™ is completely customizable to the customers needs and processes.

### The Technology

The technologies and solutions used allow the CONTROL™ system to be both **hardware and platform independent**. Since CONTROL™ is **J2EE based**, it is compatible with any system that can inter-operate with this technology, which in practice means everything. Clients do not need to install any software thanks to **Java Web Start technology**, and they will not require high-end workstations since business processes and processor intensive operations are all carried out on the server. The system as a whole is **highly scalable, has fault tolerance capabilities and is very secure**, and it provides all this in a very cost-effective fashion.

***You must avoid problems caused by not recognizing in time, or not understanding the effects of changes in your business environment!***

Controlling must place extra emphasis on data that may provide **waring of some danger or problem**. CONTROL™ can help to discover and understand these dangers. Controlling is generally an **organizational unit within management** which **coordinates planning**, **monitoring** and **information delivery**. It allows for the company to be goal-managed and for management to react to changes in the business environment. Controlling also monitors variations between **planned and actual results**.

***Order trends and their effect on both income and expenditures are extremely important pieces of information, especially in todays business climate - both at home, and world-wide!***

### Features and Benefits

- Controlling using current data
- Highly customizable solution
- Modular design
- Multiple data-sources, flexible data structures
- WEB based – including Java Web Start technology
- Drill-down functionality – easy access to underlying data
- Highly flexible access control system
- Load balancing, scalable performance
- Standards based
- Easy to connect to external systems
- Multilingual
- Easy to use
- Guaranteed hardware and platform independence
- Optimized business logic elements
- Highly dependable, fault tolerant capabilities

## Kontrolling modul

The controlling module of the CONTROL™ system is a financial tool with which enterprises using **open-book,** or other settlement methods can control their financial activities with a simple, **secure** and easy to understand interface. This module uses it's own - centralized – database, which can consist of data from multiple import sources.

## Central database

A core component of the CONTROL™ system is the centralized database. During the assessment phase we carry out interviews with those responsible for the controlling processes, and examine those processes in detail. The database schema is based on the information gathered – this contains a description of the **database tables** and their fields, along with the connections between data elements. Based on the requirements of the client and the needs of the system and environment we will then suggest an appropriate database system, which may be any JDBC compatible database (ORACLE, MSSQL, PostgreSQL, Sybase etc.).

## Data input, data import interfaces

A controlling database is constructed from information provided by multiple external systems. Since in general the **interfaces** needed are different in each case, each interface is separately implemented to be optimal for the related data source.

### Data sources can be handled in several ways:

- For on-line databases (e.g. SAP supporting database) we suggest a live, database level communication. The implementation of this data connection will be based on information gathered during the assessment phase.
- For **databases not directly available** (remote location or closed systems), automated file based data import processes are used.


- Other types of data can be entered via the **client interface**, or in the case of large amounts of data a file-based, custom import interface should be implemented. In general where there is currently no system in use that is specialized for this task, most of the **controlling process** is carried out using MS Excel spreadsheet based solutions. Due to this, we consider the XLS format the most practical choice for file-based communication, although the system is prepared to handle other formats (csv, xml, other structured file formats).

## Business logic

After the data structures have been defined, the specified **business processes** need to be implemented. During implementation, we place emphasis on the system's security, stability and loadability. To support this, we must separate the well defined business logic elements from the data structures themselves. Processes implementing database operations (I/O and modifications) are handled by the Application Server.

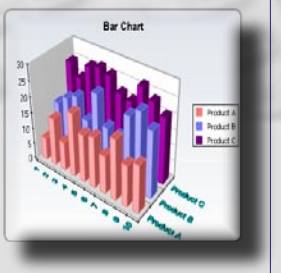
## OLAP module

One of the most important modules of CONTROL™ is the **Relational OLAP (On-line Analytical Processing) module.** This module allows complex and time consuming analyses to be performed which would be difficult or very slow to execute on a normally structured, aggregate free database. The tools in this module will allow REPORT™ system users to analyze and see behind the summarized numbers. One of the tasks of **financial controlling** is to correlate data from different sources, and uncover hidden relationships. With the amount of data available in a large enterprise, this can be very difficult, or near impossible to accomplish without an effective tool such as this.

## Planning module

The **financial planning** module is an extension to the controlling module, which allows you to analyze not only the actual data, but also allows you to plan for multiple scenarios. Basically live (actual) data can be combined with fictive values to allow you to examine multiple "What if?" scenarios. These plan scenarios can then even be compared with **actual financial results**, allowing you to analyze the accuracy of your planning/budgeting process.

## Reporting module




For a company with significant turnover, even the most simple of monthly reports can take a long time to prepare (gather data, collate, format etc.), while the same report can be generated - on demand – by the CONTROL™ Report module, in a fraction of the time, and always with the most **current data** available.

In addition to tables of numbers, graphical representation of this data (in the form of any of multiple chart styles) can bring to light relationships and facts that would require significant work to extract in a manual process and may even be overlooked completely.