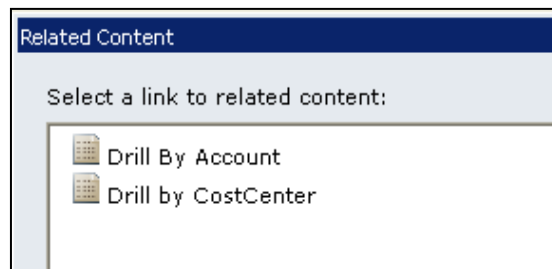**Erik De Rouck** - **Cloudshill Consulting bvba**

Project Challenge

Currently the core financial & management data of AG Insurance are stored in their **Hyperion Essbase** databases. The consultation of, and reporting on that data is done via the Essbase add-in, an excellent and powerful tool to bring information in Excel. This is and has been always the familiar interface for financial people, allowing them sophisticated formatting possibilities in combination with the general ease of manipulation.

The audience of analysts & other power-users (who work on a daily basis with the system) is served by this approach but for the irregular users (logging on only once a month/quarter) AG Insurance had chosen to rollout the **Hyperion Financial Reports** solution. This tool allows a more intuitive web interface in combination with a shorter learning curve.

Also another challenge was that many reporting departments have -next to their reports on the Essbase data- a lot of textual

information stored in Excel files, explaining the differences between the different financial scenarios. They wanted to bring this information into the reporting environment, hoping to find the same flexibility for this type of information as they have for the numbers.

Project Solutions

The implementation at AG Insurance had to start where most implementations normally stop. After the analysis of the end-users requirements Erik De Rouck designed, while collaborating with the future administrative team, a set of flexible reports allowing <u>live drill possibilities following a flexible drilling path.</u> End-users were able to continue analysing data at deeper levels from either account or cost enter and this on any number from the main report or continuing on the already created earlier drills reports. Subsequent drills can be done via any

chosen way and can be partially restarted if wanted. The great advantage is that users spend less time analysis their data as they start from a small report and only have to drill down to the exceptions.

Many powerful Excel cell formats can be reproduced in Hyperion Reports. Especially in conditional formatting the tool even exceeds the possibilities of the regular spreadsheet. These features allow complicated color-coding for proportional overconsumption of budget, expenditures for non-budgeted items.

Implemented Features

Also during the project, special care was taken in making the entry level for end-users as low as possible.

Following items were implemented:
* initial point-of-view pushing for new users
* single report users have a report auto-starting when logging on.
* pushing of favourites to the different user groups
* full email functionality in the system
* scheduling of report batches
* subscription of reporting items

While already the textual storage possibilities (cell comments, attached documents or links) in Essbase are rarely implemented in the Benelux, we have taken even the next step to report on them in Hyperion Financial Reports, making this project probably unique with the Hyperion client's community in the Benelux. Moreover, a special text-entry interface in the Excel add-in was designed, allowing the reporting team to enter their comments in a quick & consistent way. Thus reports showing both numbers and financial comments are displayed in the webpage within minutes after starting the input process.

Client
Ag Insurance, Belgium
Department: Finance