

Version Control for IBM Cognos Customers

MOTIOCI

- Quality Assurance
- Performance Optimization
- Process Automation & BI lifecycle Management

KEY FEATURES

- BI Content Version Control
- Report Promotion
- Timeline Analysis (Auditing)
- Transformer Model Version Control
- Framework Manager Version Control
- Assertion Validation
- Regression Testing
- Load Testing & Capacity Planning

CUSTOMERS

- Fortune 1000 Enterprises
- Government departments, agencies, and Crown corporations
- Financial Institutions
- Healthcare Organizations
- Law enforcement
- Lotteries and Gaming
- Retail
- Telecommunications
- Higher Education

Organizations have significant investments in their BI environments. Companies have come to rely on this information to make key business decisions. With growing pressure from user communities more organizations are demanding predictable robust and accurate business intelligence solutions.

However, many organizations rely on existing applications and processes to manage BI delivery. Often these processes and systems are less efficient or have limited ability to ensure delivery of quality reports to production and/or monitoring of their BI environments Performance issues, errors in reports, loss of updates, models or reports are all more likely to occur. Ultimately this means that BI teams have reduced effectiveness and incur lower customer satisfaction or service level performance. To reduce risk and improve service quality leading organizations are using MotioCI as their source of increased BI information and Life-Cycle Management.

"We needed to establish better business processes around our Cognos BI implementation, stabilize manageability and enhance productivity. MotioCI delivered the tools needed to reduce the amount of time required to meet our high standards for QA while greatly simplifying the processes involved. Numerous instances have shown us that we can rely on MotioCI to monitor our ongoing performance and insure our development investments"

Randy MacLeod, Director of Financial Systems at the University of Colorado.

IBM Cognos Software Version Control, Promotion & Timeline (Auditing)

Version Control: As BI Authors make changes to Cognos artifacts (Reports, Queries, Analysis Objects, Packages), MotioCI™ automatically tracks these changes and versions the content. MotioCI™ allows BI team members to:

- View historical versions of BI Artefacts
- View historical outputs for each version of a Report
- Do “diffs” between multiple versions of the same BI Artefact
- Revert to a prior working version of the Artefact
- Promote an Artefact to an upstream BI environment

Promotion: MotioCI™ enables the promotion of individual objects or labelled baselines (bundles) of BI content from one Cognos environment to another. For example, MotioCI™ will allow customers to promote a baseline of BI content from Development to QA or from QA into Production. All promoted content is pulled directly from version control so you know exactly what version of each BI artifact has been pushed into each environment.

Timeline: Modern Business Intelligence ecosystems often involve a large number of moving parts - disparate upstream data sources, ETL processes, data warehouses, framework models, report specifications, applications which front-end the content etc. When an issue arises involving the consistency or accuracy of the BI content, it is often difficult to determine what change caused the problem. MotioCI™ provides capabilities which allow customers to monitor their BI environment and track what changes are being made and who is making them. When issues arise, this traceability greatly reduces the amount of time required to find and correct the issue.



2. Framework Manager and Transformer Version Control

Framework Manager models are a critical component of an IBM Cognos application and losing changes, making the wrong changes, or losing these files altogether can be catastrophic. MotioCI provides protection against these kinds of events by versioning Framework Manager files the moment changes are saved so that all versions of a Framework Manager model are available as restore points. As well, MotioCI captures who made what changes, when and why.

Transformer models also represent a significant investment of time and effort that cannot be easily replaced. In many organizations, models are shared amongst many users or groups and maintaining a record of who made what changes, when and why becomes a difficult challenge; not so with MotioCI which monitors predefined locations to capture each and every model change the moment it is saved to disk, along with who made the change and what the change was.

3. Assertion Validation & Regression Testing

MotioCI™ provides powerful regression testing capabilities for Cognos BI content. Customers can create test cases which ensure that Cognos report specifications adhere to project standards with respect to look and feel, report structure, local calculations, naming conventions, report parameters and more.

Test cases can also be developed which ensure that when executed, reports produce the expected results and complete within the expected period of time. The MotioCI™ integration capabilities allow customers to execute configured test suites automatically, at regular intervals (e.g. ``run all tests every two hours"). This enables MotioCI™ to act as a virtual "smoke detector" for a Cognos environment - proactively notifying project stakeholders when a problem surfaces, rather than relying on the end users to discover it.

4. Load Testing & Capacity Planning

MotioCI™ allows BI team members to design and execute stress tests against Cognos environments. Using MotioCI™, BI team members can design stress test scenarios which apply controlled amounts of load (e.g. simultaneous report executions) to a BI Environment to determine how the BI content will perform under stress, before promoting this content into live production environments. MotioCI™ stress tests can also be run against Cognos environments to more reliably determine the environment's capacity.



Since 2004 Motio has leveraged its experience to create a rich suite of products which extend, augment and streamline IBM Cognos. Motio value-added products have been utilized by many IBM Cognos customer to streamline and improve the BI development process and quality of service



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