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Author	Frans HIETBRINK

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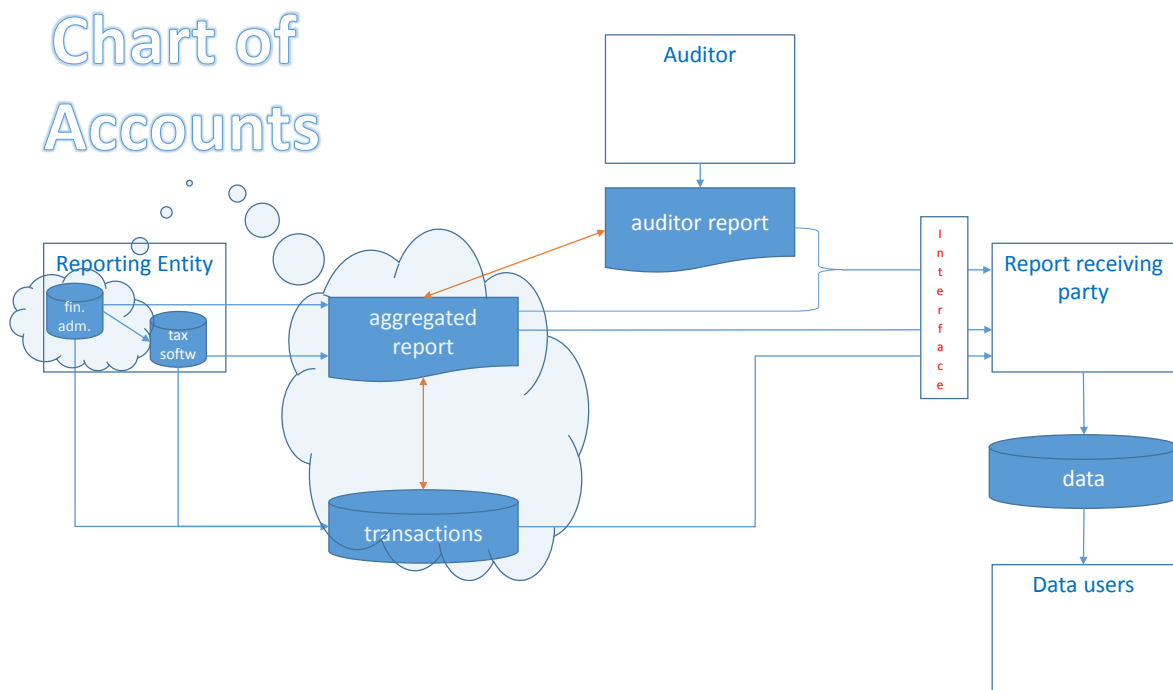
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1. Introduction

1.1. Introduction of Factsheet

The SBR Working Group of XBRL Europe has the objective to share information about e-filing, e-publishing, e-exchange of data and related projects, where XBRL is or may be an adequate solution. To reach this objective the SBR WG publishes a set of factsheets about topics which are relevant to better understand the (relation between) components of a cross domain approach to exchanging business information.



1.2. Introduction of SBR

Standard Business Reporting (SBR) provides governments and businesses with an unequivocal, cost-effective, secure and adaptable method for the exchange of business information between organisations in a reporting chain based on open standards.

The implementation of the SBR approach starts with defining the common data sets between the various domains, a kind of common data dictionary. In a later phase the focus will include IT transformation (implementation of the data definitions in software and implementing secure exchange of data sets).

Before the introduction of a cross domain approach, which is the basis of the SBR approach, companies were asked by various government agencies to deliver the same information in multiple ways. For the same data definitions, different data sets are used. With the introduction of a cross domain approach, similar data sets are being used for similar data definitions, so companies can deliver the requested information with the proverbial click of the mouse. This leaves them with more time to focus on their business.

In its core, SBR is about the reuse of information. Although different regulators want different sets of data, thanks to SBR, they can all come from the same (financial) administration. With the use of a taxonomy, the basis for the re-use of definitions can be strongly rooted. With Standard Business Reporting it is not only possible for the regulators to return aggregated information. Private parties can use the data (definitions) to supply their stakeholders with relevant information.

The key principle of SBR is to standardize on data definitions, processes and technology. SBR is not tied to a specific technology, but rather adopts proven, widely used, open technologies which support the exchange of structured data, data definitions and enable the unequivocal design and definition of processes.

1.3. Introduction of Chart of Accounts

Citation from en.m.wikipedia.org:

A chart of accounts (COA) is a created list of the accounts used by an organization to define each class of items for which money or the equivalent is spent or received. It is used to organize the finances of the entity and to segregate expenditures, revenue, assets and liabilities in order to give interested parties a better understanding of the financial health of the entity.

Accounts are typically defined by an identifier (account number) and a caption or header and are coded by account type. In computerized accounting systems with computable quantity accounting, the accounts can have a quantity measure definition.

The charts of accounts can be picked from a standard chart of accounts, like the BAS in Sweden. In some countries, charts of accounts are defined by the accountant from a standard general layouts or as regulated by law. However, in most countries it is entirely up to each accountant to design the chart of accounts.

The list can use numerical, alphabetic, or alpha-numeric identifiers. However, in many computerized environments like the SIE format, only numerical identifiers are allowed. The structure and headings of accounts should assist in consistent posting of transactions. Each nominal ledger account is unique, which allows its ledger to be located. The list is typically arranged in the order of the customary appearance of accounts in the financial statements: balance sheet accounts followed by profit and loss accounts.

Most countries have no national standard charts of accounts, public or privately organized. In many countries, there are general guidelines, and in France the guidelines have been codified by ministerial order. The European Commission has spent a great deal of effort on administrative tax harmonisation, and this harmonization is the main focus of the latest version of the EU VAT directive, which aims to achieve better harmonization and support electronic trade documents, such as electronic invoices used in cross border trade, especially within the European Union Value Added Tax Area. However, there is still a great deal to be done to realize a standard chart of accounts and international accounting information interchange structure.

End of citation from en.m.wikipedia.org:

Most reports in taxonomies consist of aggregated data. When there is a (mandated) national CoA the mapping can be done by the regulator (in close cooperation with the reporting organizations, auditors and software developers). When there is no (mandated) national CoA each organization has to map its Individual Chart of Accounts to the definitions which are used in the reports. The transactional data in Audit Files can only be related to aggregated reports with great difficulties.

A Referential Chart of Accounts can be used to bridge the gap between ICA and reports and to classify the data in Audit Files.

2. Documentation

2.1. Documents

2.2. Websites

3. Chart of Accounts in countries

3.1. Chart of Accounts in Estonia

In Estonia there is:

- no mandated standard chart of accounts with mappings to regulatory reportings
- a referential chart of accounts with mappings to regulatory reportings

Only the Public sector have mandated chart of accounts

3.2. Chart of Accounts in Finland

In Finland there is:

- no mandated standard chart of accounts with mappings to regulatory reportings
- a referential chart of accounts with mappings to regulatory reportings

The aim is to use the referential chart of accounts as a base to all regulatory reportings. Challenge is to widen the usage of the definitions.

For public sector entities (municipalities, provinces and their internal enterprises) there is a standardised chart of account and its usage will be mandated in the near future.

3.3. Chart of Accounts in France

In France the guidelines regarding national standard chart of accounts have been codified by ministerial order:

- Autorite des normes comptables: reglement anc n° 2014-03 relatif au plan comptable general version consolidee au 1er janvier 2017BR
- http://www.anc.gouv.fr/files/live/sites/anc/files/contributed/ANC/1.%20Normes%20fran%C3%A7aises/Recueils/PCG_Janvier2017/pcg_janvier%202017.pdf

Companies are mandated to map their Chart of Accounts to the Referential Chart of Accounts.

There are other chart of accounts (containing also related accounting standards):

- for Consolidated accounts :
- http://www.anc.gouv.fr/files/live/sites/anc/files/contributed/ANC/1.%20Normes%20fran%C3%A7aises/Reglements/2017/versions%20consolidees/Reglt_CRC_%2099_02_version_consolidee.pdf
- for Banks :
- http://www.anc.gouv.fr/files/live/sites/anc/files/contributed/ANC/1.%20Normes%20fran%C3%A7aises/Reglements/2017/versions%20consolidees/Reglt_CRC_99_07_version_consolidee.pdf
- for Insurance Companies :
- http://www.anc.gouv.fr/files/live/sites/anc/files/contributed/ANC/1.%20Normes%20fran%C3%A7aises/Reglements/2017/versions%20consolidees/Reglt_CRC_00_05_version_consolidee.pdf

3.4. Chart of Accounts in Germany

In Germany there is:

- no mandated standard chart of accounts with mappings to regulatory reportings
- a referential chart of accounts with mappings to regulatory reportings

Several best practices for example referential DATEV chart of accounts.

3.5. Chart of Accounts in the Netherlands

In the Netherlands there is:

- no mandated standard chart of accounts with mappings to regulatory reportings
- a referential chart of accounts with mappings to regulatory reportings

3.5.1. Reference Classification System of Financial Information (RCSFI)

Businesses in the Netherlands are legally permitted to use their own formats and codes for bookkeeping, general ledger, profit and loss accounts and balance sheets. Legally prescribed templates only apply to specific reports, such as tax declarations.

A group of private-sector bodies, software companies and government institutes have developed a standard in order to further integrate and automate the chain of administrative processes: the Reference Classification System of Financial Information (RCSFI) or in Dutch “Referentie Grootboekschema” (RGS).

The RCSFI is explicitly positioned as a reference classification and not as a mandatory standard. To ensure companies can connect their ledgers to RCSFI, it contains all the ledgers which are required to report to the Dutch government and most of the ledgers used for internal reporting.

The technical format for automated data transmission between various software packages and between different parties used in the Netherlands is the XBRL-format in the context of Standard Business Reporting (SBR). Providing digital reports by SBR has been made mandatory by the Tax authority and the Chamber of Commerce. Hence it also became the standard for a number of other uses, like financial reports that are required by private banks. To meet this standard, the RCSFI is connected to XBRL-tags in the Dutch taxonomy. This enables reporting directly from the general ledger to the government.

Use of RCSFI helps accountants improve service delivery to their clients:

- ➔ Administering accounts is more efficient since all accounts are referenced to a standard classification. Compilation of reports is more efficient due to the connection between the RCSFI and SBR
- ➔ Better insight: standardisation allows for improved data exchange between systems
- ➔ Improved financial analysis through comparable data. Standardisation also provides opportunities for government agencies to reciprocate data exchange by providing aggregate data
- ➔ Improved quality of financial accounts by connecting the general ledger with other systems in the financial administration (such as e-invoicing, salary administration and point of sale systems).

Table 1 gives an example of a selection of the RCSFI and a mapping to SBR. The first column of the table shows the unique alphabetical code that is assigned to a specific item in the RCSFI. Using these unique codes, software developers can automate data processing, importing and exporting routines. The first column also shows the hierarchical nature of the RCSFI, in which items are broken down into underlying details, up to level 5. Businesses are able to choose the level of detail at which they wish to record their data, depending on their specific situation like types of costs and revenue.

Table 1: Example of the Reference Classification System of Financial Information (RCSFI)

Reference code	Description	Mapping
BVrd	Stocks	12400
BVrdHan	Trading goods	12410
BVrdHanVoo	Stocks of trading goods	12411
BVrdHanHW	Re-valuation of stocks of trading goods	12412

The descriptions can be changed, allowing for use of other languages (such as in the example above). Accounts in the RCSFI are either debit or credit. If an account can be changed to credit or debit (through a negative value) there is a contra-account: the reference turn-over code.

The RCSFI is integrated into the software of various software providers in the Netherlands. An overview of software providers that have implemented RCSFI is available on www.rgsready.nl (in Dutch).

More information on RCSFI is available in Dutch on www.referentiegrootboekschema.nl (in Dutch).

3.6. Chart of Accounts in Russia

In Russia there is:

- no mandated standard chart of accounts with mappings to regulatory reportings
- a referential chart of accounts with mappings to regulatory reportings

3.7. Chart of Accounts in Sweden

In Sweden there is:

- no mandated standard chart of accounts with mappings to regulatory reportings
- a referential chart of accounts with mappings to regulatory reportings

There is a very commonly used mapping off accounts, though it is still voluntary.

3.8. Chart of Accounts in Ukraine

In Ukraine there is:

- a mandated standard chart of accounts with mappings to regulatory reportings
- no referential chart of accounts with mappings to regulatory reportings