

# Commonwealth



Government agencies face constant pressure to improve their information systems and eliminate inefficiencies. Running a lean agency means always knowing the status of budget expenditures and being able to quickly and easily analyze financial data.

To meet its budgetary requirements, the Commonwealth of Kentucky selected WebFOCUS as the foundation of a new business intelligence (BI) system called Financial Analysis System2 (FAS2). WebFOCUS provides a robust platform for financial reporting and analysis, giving state employees the insight they need for financial planning, budgeting, and control.

The Commonwealth of Kentucky had to act fast to create the new financial reporting system. In early 2007, the Commonwealth decided to replace its aging information system with a Web-based system that many different agencies could

access. The new financial system and associated reporting tools had to be available by August 2007 to support the 2008 budgeting cycle.

Several developers from the Commonwealth of Kentucky attended an Information Builders training class to learn about WebFOCUS, including Mike Grisham, IT specialist for the office of the state budget director, and Jeremy Rogers, resource management analyst for the finance customer resource center. The training prepared them to create an effective architecture for delivering current data to state employees.

## **Financial Reporting Made Easy**

Today, FAS2 provides up-to-date information about departmental expenditures and revenues. For example, the Expenditure Analysis and Revenue Analysis modules let users from all agencies track their projects. Having user-friendly query and reporting tools speeds up the process of creating, managing, and verifying budgets.

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## Streamlines Financial Reporting

Users can select which data they would like to display for a specific fiscal year, cabinet, department, fund, or function. They can run monthly, quarterly, or annual reports, rolling up data by function, allotment, and appropriation. Users that seek additional detail can drill down into the data mart to display data grouped by object type.

Lori Thorell, a project manager in the office of the controller, credits the Information Builders Education department for preparing the FAS2 team to complete the project so quickly. "The education services were an important aspect of our success, particularly given our aggressive implementation schedule," she says. "We had to get up to speed quickly to meet our deployment deadline, and Information Builders got us started down the right path."

So far, the Commonwealth has trained 300 users on the FAS2 reporting environment, enabling these government workers to serve the agency more efficiently. The

Commonwealth plans to expand FAS2 to include historical data for expenditures and revenues, along with current data for appropriations, allotments, and capital projects.

Thorell believes WebFOCUS is well suited for government organizations because it fosters collaboration among dispersed workers and offers many options for accessing, analyzing, and delivering information.

"Any organization that needs a data warehouse, data mart, decision support system, or reporting solution should look at Information Builders' products and services," she concludes. "Information Builders has some of the best BI technology on the market for generating accurate, complete, and timely information." ●