

CFA Institute

We believe that the use of data and technology can result in a more **effective and efficient overall financial reporting process** in which investors—including CFA Institute members (primarily analysts and investors)—receive more transparent, better-quality information on a timely basis.

The purpose of this paper is twofold: (1) to argue, on behalf of our membership, for **greater efficiencies within the current inefficient system [of creating financial reports]**, as we have done previously; and (2) to outline our vision for a future that brings greater transparency to investors. Our vision is for broader and deeper use of structured data.

Gartner

For example, it is estimated that the average Fortune 1000 company **used more than 800 spreadsheets to prepare its financial statements** for regulatory reporting. XBRL offers a solution to significantly reduce this number and improve internal controls over financial reporting.

Ventana Research

“...for larger companies, assembling the periodic external reports typically is an **inefficient and error-prone process** of cobbling together information from dozens of data and text files. We suspect that “We've always done it this way” is the main reason that companies have not considered changing. The XBRL tagging requirement offers an excellent opportunity to rethink and redesign how your corporation manages the process.

PriceWaterhouseCoopers

“The Old School Manual Processes:”

Companies routinely close their books in a matter of days; yet they take weeks to publish reports, thus deferring management and stakeholder analyses and decisions. A significant driver of the delay: the information contained in corporate warehouses and consolidation applications is commonly cut and pasted, rekeyed, or manually transferred into word processing and spreadsheet applications used for report assembly and review process steps.