TesouroNacional

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Sistema de Informações
Contábeis e Fiscais
do Setor Público Brasileiro

"Having a system that would have less impact for users enabled much higher levels of adhesion. The process is much faster, you no longer need to travel to a particular place, everything is done via the Web."

Leandro Moreira Souto
Project Manager, Centre for Consolidation and Transparency of Public Accounts, National Treasury Secretariat

The National Treasury Secretariat implemented a tax information collection system that uses XBRL technology supplied by Fujitsu, to facilitate analysis and dissemination to the public.

At a glance
Country: Brazil
Sector: Public
Founded: 1986
Website: www.tesouro.fazenda.gov.br/

Challenge
The National Treasury Secretariat (STN) needed to modernize its system for collecting and disseminating accounting, tax and financial information from subnational entities, which was a slow and bureaucratic process that was previously done through the agencies of the Caixa Econômica Federal bank.

Solution
The STN designed the Accounting and Tax Information System of the Brazilian Public Sector (SICONFI), which simplifies and facilitates the whole process, using the XBRL standard, a specific technology optimized for the exchange of financial data, using software infrastructure supplied by Fujitsu.

Benefit
- Decreased the time taken to for subnational entities to file their accounts
- Enabled some information collection processes to be automated
- Increased the number of declarations filed by subnational entities
- Facilitated the analysis and dissemination of information
- Enabled the use of data by different departments

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Customer

The National Treasury Secretariat (Secretaria do Tesouro Nacional - STN) is the central federal accounting body and custodian of tax policy of the Brazilian government. Its functions are, among others, to receive accounting and financial information and tax statistics from the subnational entities, then to publish and disseminate it to the public: Municipalities, States, Federal District, and the Union.

Products and services

■ Software infrastructure for handling XBRL documents

Challenge

Since 2000, STN has received accounting, financial and tax information from subnational entities through the System for Accounting Data collection from the Entities of the Federation (Sistema de Coleta de Dados Contábeis dos Entes da Federação - SISTN) in partnership with Caixa Econômica Federal.

The public bank had a national network that was accessible to the municipalities in a way that could not be catered for by the internet at the time. The municipality representative would file the accounts in a system, sign a physical document, and send it to the bank agency, so that this information could be made available to the STN in .pdf format, and made accessible to the public.

"The STN needed to bring the management of this process in-house, because while it was being done by the Caixa Econômica Federal bank branches, we were relying heavily on them," said Leandro Moreira Souto, Project Manager, Centre for Consolidation and Transparency of Public Accounts, STN.

Besides the process being bureaucratic and slow, the STN had difficulties extracting the information or updating the forms which underwent changes in layout each year. It was complicated to make these changes in the Caixa system, as it did not offer this service, or its business did not give priority to it, in terms of technological innovation.

"We had to think of a system that would replace the public bank system, bringing all the receipt of information and full distribution of this information under our own management," Souto explains.

As a result, the Accounting and Tax Information of the Brazilian Public Sector (Sistema de Informações Contábeis e Fiscais do Setor Público Brasileiro - SICONFI) was created. This system was put into production with the API of Fujitsu, which uses Extensible Business Reporting Language (XBRL) technology, a standard global language for handling and exchange of accounting information.

Fujitsu was selected through competitive tender, to supply the basic software for handling XBRL documents in the SICONFI system.

Solution

When SICONFI was implemented, the point was to create a better system that would bring more options, both for those providing information and for those searching for it. The STN opted for XBRL, because it is state-of-the-art technology that is optimized for the exchange of financial accounting and tax data.

The XBRL standard is based on Extensible Markup Language (XML), in keeping with the standards defined by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). SICONFI was configured to perform various forms of data transmission and processing. Fujitsu supplies the basic technology, and experience, through its involvement in other global projects that use XBRL.

Through SICONFI, national entities can fill out all the data on the Web, download a spreadsheet generated automatically by the system, fill out, and load this information. Or they can send an XBRL instance: the subnational entity can parameterize its system to automatically generate instances, allowing subsequent forwarding to SICONFI without typing.

The approvals process has improved. "Previously, the municipality filled out a form on the Web, printed it out, obtained the physical signatures from all the mayors and persons responsible, then took it to their nearest branch of Caixa Econômica Federal bank, which checked the information, and made it available to the public in .pdf format. In SICONFI, everything is online and automated," says Souto.

The system is simpler and easier to use. "Having a system that would have less impact for users enabled a much higher level of adhesion. The process is faster, you no longer have to travel to a particular place, everything is done via the Web."

Brazil has 5,558 municipalities. In 2014, the first year of SICONFI, and with the Caixa Econômica Federal system still running in parallel, the STN received around 18,000 declarations. In 2015, the first year in which SICONFI was fully operational, without the participation of the public bank, the STN received 36,000 declarations. In 2016, it received 51,800 declarations.

"The system is a vast improvement on the previous process; that's why they are able to send a higher number of declarations, even though the maximum universe is limited to the number of municipalities multiplied by the number of declarations and their frequency of submission. There are two-monthly, four-monthly and six-monthly declarations. This figure is 70 percent of its universe," said the person responsible at the STN.

Benefit

"It is a process that has significantly decreased the time it takes for subnational entities to file their accounts," says Leandro. SICONFI will also reinforce the functions of the STN, thanks to the XBRL technology, and enables the collection and dissemination of public accounts to citizens to be systematized.

"Now, the other areas of the STN can have much easier access too. Personnel who analyze credit operations and tax statistics related to the states and municipalities are all using SICONFI. Because it is so much faster, it has brought much greater gains in quality of work for our areas," says Souto.

The use of an open-standard language has led us to think about increasing and improving SICONFI and the routines of the STN. "The system that analyzes credit operations is being integrated with the SICONFI. Automatically, from the moment the user sends the information to SICONFI, the analysis of the credit operation will be updated and can be much richer and faster," concludes Souto.

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