Version Control, Testing, & Release Management for Cognos

VERSION CONTROL

RELEASE MANAGEMENT

REGRESSION & STRESS TESTING

MotioCI ™

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MotioCI™

MotioCI™ is a full-featured life cycle management solution for IBM Cognos. MotioCI's patented technology integrates with Cognos throughout the entire business intelligence life cycle, from the initial development to testing to deployment and maintenance. MotioCI improves BI team efficiency and BI quality through its unique blend of capabilities in **version control, automated testing,** and **release management**. MotioCI boasts immediate value on day 1 of installation, its easy to use set up wizards get Cognos environments versioned and ready for testing & deploying in no time.

Benefits of Version Control

- Enhanced collaboration among BI team members
- Improved governance and risk management
- Full rollback and recovery capability

As changes are made to any IBM Cognos artifact, MotioCI's **Version Control** automatically tracks these changes and versions the specifications as well as any other altered properties, providing full visibility into *who changed what and when*. The entire change history can be accessed and versions can be visually compared or reverted to quickly troubleshoot, thus reducing re-work and BI development cycle times.

MotioCI™ can version:

- All Cognos objects
    - Reports, queries, folders, packages, etc.
    - Framework Manager models, Transformer models, etc.
    - Data sources, dispatchers, groups, roles, etc.
- All Properties of All objects
    - XML specifications
    - Names, descriptions, tooltips
    - Permission sets

MotioCI integrates with Cognos Studios, Framework Manager and issue tracking systems to establish a smoother workflow among BI team members. Report authors can lock a report or model and make changes, confident that other authors and modelers cannot accidentally overwrite them. MotioCI Integrates with 3rd party issue tracking systems so that as authors check-in new revisions of BI content, MotioCI creates a cross-link for traceability between change requests and the actual changes to BI content.

Benefits of Testing

- Diagnose problems faster
- Improve quality & performance
- Detect issues before reaching end user

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US Patents: 7,885,929; 8,140,477; and 8,285,678

MotioCI's **Regression Testing** can identify potentially critical errors and alert users early in the BI life cycle with its expansive and customizable testing types and flexible runtime variables. Cognos users can test on every type of object, both **executable (reports, queries, analysis, active reports)** and **non-executable content (dispatchers, data sources)**. Tests can be written against standard output formats like HTML, Excel and CSV. Tests can be scheduled to run on ALL chosen BI content at desired frequencies. Additionally, tests can continuously monitor changed or failed content for round-the-clock BI accuracy and performance verification. The practice of testing Cognos content in an automated manner speeds the ability to react & correct problems resulting in better quality BI & performance.

How Testing Works

Regression testing centers around the creation of test cases selected to run on slices of the Cognos Content Store to ensure that accurate data is being produced and performance expectations are met. These test cases are based on assertion types that users customize to verify particular conditions are met. MotioCI comes with a comprehensive set of intuitive **Assertion Types** out of the box, which are completely customizable, to fit the specific needs of each user. Within MotioCI's **Assertion Studio**, users can edit pre-populated assertions as well as create their own assertion types. This powerful "testing lab" affords endless testing scenarios and possibilities relevant to a particular organization.

Example Assertion Types:

- Data validation of report/query outputs to the result of SQL
- Monitor data source changes
- Dispatchers have consistent settings
- Reports are executed with set time allowances, and many more

Benefits of Release Management

- Streamlined deployment of BI content between environments
- Reduced cost of moving content through environments
- Self-service deployment

With MotioCI's **Labeling** feature, users can package specific versions of selected Cognos content into a *release*, which allows more freedom in what the user chooses to deploy. These releases can then be immediately deployed or scheduled to run at a designated date & time to another Cognos environment or multiple environments simultaneously through its **Promotion Groups** feature. This substantially enhances how content is pushed through to new Cognos environments. Gone are the days of having to zip entire folders of content and exporting/importing into

Product Information

target Cognos environments in the traditional, clunky manner. As simple as it is to promote Cognos content, rolling back a promotion is just as easy with an "undo button" for one-step deployment reverts.

For governance and traceability, promotions are captured through version control and can be identified in an object's revision history. Additionally, the **Promotion History** feature provides a record of all content deployments which includes when the deployment occurred, who initiated it, what versions of which objects were included and the results of the deployment.

Impact Analysis combines the power of MotioCI's testing and deployment capabilities to analyze the impact of moving new versions of content into a different Cognos environment before going live with the deployment. It's like having a crystal ball to predict problems that may occur or confirm that something functions correctly if moved into a new environment. Prevent failures before they ever have a chance to happen, thus saving valuable time that would be spent reverting/promoting and running regression tests in the target environment. When the Impact Analysis results pass, content can automatically be deployed into the next stage of the development cycle.

Summary

MotioCI increases the momentum of the BI development process and safeguards the integrity of BI content with its version control, release management and automated testing capabilities.

Features

- Real-Time Activity Monitoring
- Integrated Version Control
- Automated Report Testing
- Streamlined Content Deployment

Benefits

- Gain better insight into who's changing what in the BI Ecosystem
- Increase the throughput of BI staff
- Ensure accuracy, consistency and performance of BI outputs
- Automatically detect issues before deploying content out of the Development environment
- Enable QA to focus on higher level testing

For more information about MotioCI, contact us.