



Meeting Recap

On August 16, the St. Louis ACL User Group held a panel discussion. The ACL Panel Discussion gave us the opportunity to exchange ideas and lessons learned with our colleagues.

Our panel consisted of:

- Jim Kaiser, Bunzl Internal Audit Director. Implemented AX2 and several continuous monitoring scripts.
- Mary Riggs, BJC Audit Services Manager. Works with regular system extracts to run scripts on demand and perform ad hoc analysis.
- James Heavin, Shelter Insurance IS Audit Manager. Uses an extensive group of scripts and ad hoc analysis as standard audit procedure.

Some of the key points discussed in the meeting were:

ACL Implementation

- **Find a big win.** If a member of management is having trouble getting an answer. Use ACL to answer the question. Joining data from disparate systems was a good example of this. Also, duplicate payments and control weaknesses were mentioned.
- **Support the ACL users.** Provide training and time to learn. You don't want your first ACL data presented to auditees to be wrong. It takes a time commitment in the beginning. That time is typically recouped in the future. For training, the panelists had tried several methods (train everyone, a few people, or just designated analysts) and had success each of the 3 ways.
- **Consider ACL during audit planning for the most effective use.** Panelists cited drastically reduced travel time and costs, with increased coverage.
- **Organize the ACL function.** Make sure your scripts and documentation are in working order so that the next auditor can learn from the previous runs and follow efficiently. If you aren't scripting, start. It saves so much time.
- **Consider AX2** – Bunzl found scheduling the scripts and the ease of access by operational users to be a great benefit of AX2. They also liked having ACL develop a set of scripts to start with so they could learn how to write their own scripts. Shelter uses Microsoft Task Scheduler to schedule scripts and found that to be effective for them. They use the Notify command to send results to operational groups.

Data Access

- **Work with IT to minimize their efforts for providing data.** Getting a server and setting up scheduled data downloads helps relieve IT concerns. Some companies with SAP found Direct Link to be very beneficial. AX2 made it easy for other companies. IT needs to be your friend.



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- **Issue management will depend on the quality and the recipient of your issues.** Work to identify false positives in advance and define expectations for issue recipients. They should know their responsibilities and lack of compliance consequences.
- **Determine reporting method for continuous audit efforts.** Think about how you're going to present your continuous auditing efforts and follow up to the Audit Committee.

Reporting

Determine your best output method. None of the companies on the panel were using the ACL reporting features or Crystal Reports. They all made good use of Excel and the Notify command (which emails results to you from a script run).