PROTECTING TAXPAYER FUNDS — FIGHTING AGAINST TAX FRAUD AND FINANCIAL ABUSES WITH ARBUTUS ANALYTICS

COMPANY
National Revenue Agency, Bulgaria

HEADQUARTERS
Sofia, Bulgaria

The National Revenue Agency (NRA) is a specialized government body, subordinate to the Minister of Finance, that is responsible for establishing, securing and collecting taxes, social security contributions, and other receivables required by law.

In order to improve capabilities of the Agency's controlling bodies to perform data analysis in the course of control procedures, while achieving greater success in detecting tax fraud and financial abuse, the NRA implemented Arbutus Analytics.

Arbutus (Analyzer Desktop and Windows Server) technology was implemented in all offices across the country resulting in improved analytical efficiency, seamless exchange of information between their regional structures and more effective internal control.

Customer Profile

The National Revenue Agency (NRA) administers collection of income taxes, corporate taxes, VAT, compulsory social and health insurance contributions, supplementary mandatory pension insurance, etc.

BACKGROUND

Until 2016, the NRA had used another specialized data analysis software, but recognized the need for better technology, with expanded technical capabilities, regular new releases and improved functionality. Along with providing its users with access to newer technologies and functionality, it was necessary to ensure compatibility with their existing automated analyses (already developed and deployed) as well as to better align the software licensing structure with its needs.

NATIONAL REVENUE AGENCY

NATIONAL REVENUE AGENCY, BULGARIA

"Using ARBUTUS, NRA significantly increased the detection rate of tax fraud and financial abuses, while improving efficiency across the entire audit team"

In order to address this, the NRA announced a public procurement tender to supply and support 300 of its users with specialized technology to access, import, harmonize, and analyse data in electronic format created and/or exported by information systems used by tax payers.

SOLUTION

After a thorough public procurement tender process in 2016, the NRA selected Arbutus as the technology best able to meet its needs – sighting the technical software capabilities, licensing & deployment, cost, implementation, training, and support as key considerations.

Implementation of the project included delivery and installation of **Arbutus Server** and desktop versions of **Arbutus Analyzer** for **300 users**, as well as training of end users and system administrators.

"The complete implementation was extremely fast and easy! The Arbutus software installation on the server and 300 computers in the NRA directorates across the country took less than 5 days, and auditors were able to immediately start working with the software."

VASIL PANOV, DIRECTOR OF DIRECTORY "CONTROL"

RESULTS

With Arbutus, the NRA team of professional auditors has significantly increased the number and effectiveness of conducted audits, which has helped to increase the detection of tax fraud and financial abuses. In the past year alone (2017) Arbutus was used in 624 control proceedings.

In addition, the use of Arbutus has improved the exchange of information between auditors, regardless of the territorial structure in which they are located, helping to build robust organizational practices.

Arbutus allows NRA auditors to import information in different file formats, to perform detailed analysis, to export the results and prepare reports to be applied to the issued audit reports and fines acts.

By automating standard data analysis carried out during the course of control proceedings all Arbutus users, not just the advanced ones, can benefit from the power of automated data analysis in their day-to-day work.

Arbutus allows for rapid processing and analysis of significant volumes of information, from different ERP and accounting systems, thus giving NRA auditors the time and the tools, they need to deepen the searches for inconsistencies and irregularities in the accounting data of the controlled entities and individuals.

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