



Automate critical finance and accounting processes

A cloud-based, record-to-report process automation solution from KPMG and BlackLine Systems

Cloud-based, record-to-report technologies (R2R) can help finance departments automate financial processes, manage the financial close and apply controls throughout the accounting cycle. By aligning BlackLine System's agile R2R solutions with business strategy and better practices, KPMG LLP (KPMG) empowers finance and accounting teams to deliver real-time financial intelligence to executives and strategic value to the enterprise.

Meeting demands for faster, more accurate information

C-level executives demand accurate and immediate insight into their company's financial performance. Regulatory bodies and analysts expect enterprises to review their account books in less than a week and release earnings statements within a month. The pressure on finance and accounting leaders to deliver accurate, immediate information is enormous. Yet many wrestle with decades-old accounting processes that can only provide a view into the past—where the organization was, not where it is now.

Record-to-report processes are at the heart of these financial operations, providing necessary insights into a company's strategic, operational, and financial performance and enabling companies to report their performance. Yet market forces—including the globalization of customers and markets, complex business relationships between internal entities, shareholder demands for transparency and auditability, and increased governmental regulation and oversight—make executing record-to-report processes more challenging than ever before.

Companies able to automate their record-to-report processes are better prepared to meet these market challenges. Seeking improved financial close capabilities, enhanced cost control, greater application flexibility, and shorter time to value, finance and accounting leaders are moving away from manual, on-premises systems to automated cloud solutions. R2R solutions are typically easier to use and manage than ERP-based close systems. They also deliver all the benefits of the cloud: a subscription-based pricing model, unlimited elasticity, automatic upgrades, and remote software management.

The alliance between KPMG and BlackLine helps your finance and accounting organization take advantage of market-leading R2R technology so you can improve staff efficiencies, shift your focus from transactional to analytical, align finance strategies with those of the business, and deliver greater value to the organization.

Are cloud-based, record-to-report technologies right for you?

If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, the KPMG and BlackLine alliance can help streamline your record-to-report process.

- Is your close process slow or inefficient?
- Do you lack visibility into your key financial processes?
- Do your team members have disparate or irregular processes and functions?
- Does your team rely on spreadsheets?
- Does your company maintain multiple ledgers?
- Do you have a complex reporting structure?
- Is your journal entry process manual?
- Are your global business processes not operating at expected efficiency?
- Is your inter-company process cumbersome and inefficient?
- Is there any uncertainty with the completeness, timeliness, or quality of reconciliation or matching?

KPMG: aligning strategy and process with technology

The Finance of the Future not only requires an efficient process and the right people, but also the right alignment of automation and technologies. KPMG helps clients improve the record-to-report process by enhancing your ERP functionality with R2R process automation that can provide real-time visibility, simplifying workflow, and reduction in the time required to close the books. In addition to broad thought leadership in comprehensive finance transformation, KPMG has deep experience with intelligent automation technologies and can help your company leverage best practice business processes and governance that incorporates R2R capabilities into your digitally enabled Finance of the Future.

KPMG's seasoned finance professionals bring tested tools, technologies, and methodologies that:

- Eliminate complex spreadsheet files and risk of errors
- Provide workflow and automation functionality not found in ERP systems
- Integrate R2R tools with other cloud-based intelligent automation capabilities
- Ease the integration of new cloud technologies into your transformation roadmap.

With global experience in financial close process improvement and redesign, KPMG can help your company improve its efficiency, effectiveness, and control during the record-to-report process.

BlackLine Systems: automating workflows and streamlining the close

Designed entirely in the cloud, BlackLine's comprehensive finance controls and automation platform is a unified technology solution built specifically for accounting and finance. Trusted by more than 1,800 customers, the BlackLine platform was positioned in Gartner's Leaders Quadrant for Cloud Financial Corporate Performance Management solutions in 2018.

BlackLine's platform offers control over the financial close and reconciliation process by streamlining accounting workflows and ensuring accuracy and compliance auditability. The suite of integrated applications supports account reconciliation, journal entry, task management, consolidation integrity management, intercompany management, transaction matching, and variance analysis. The platform also integrates with more than 40 ERP systems, including an SAP-embedded solution. The company provides live global support in multiple languages as well as extensive online training. With its cloud-native solution, BlackLine is uniquely able to meet the needs of organizations that seek to innovate and optimize their record-to-report process.

Contact us

KPMG's global network of financial management professionals helps clients align finance organizations with business goals to realize and sustain value over the long term. Regardless of the industry, our time-tested methodologies and tools consistently demonstrate enhanced strategic value both to finance and to the business.

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A clear path to a streamlined, effective record-to-report solution

KPMG's alliance with BlackLine delivers innovative and streamlined record-to-report capabilities to joint clients. KPMG employs a distributed network of finance and accounting professionals as well as more than 70 BlackLine-certified consultants with extensive knowledge of module capabilities and functionality. These professionals support your requirements by:

- Understanding your Finance of the Future vision and goals
- Redesigning your close process to align with business goals while taking full advantage of the capabilities in BlackLine's finance controls and automation platform
- Optimizing how you implement the BlackLine platform so you can automate transaction matching, account reconciliation, journal entry, intercompany transactions, and more
- Providing a global vision of how to incorporate the suite of BlackLine modules into your company's finance transformation vision
- Building a strong business case and enabling a short payback period.

KPMG's BlackLine implementations require minimal support from your company's internal IT organization and can be implemented within months. Most projects incur a cash payback within one year of implementing the solution. With KPMG and BlackLine, your company gains real-time visibility into the status and accuracy of your close, streamlined workflow and task management, and reduced burden on resources.

Reap the benefits of R2R

KPMG can help you get the most from your investment in BlackLine technology. Some of the benefits realized by KPMG clients include:

- Reduce time to close the books by using intelligent automation
- Gain a single source of real-time information by integrating disparate systems
- Make rapid, informed decisions
- Eliminate complex spreadsheets
- Reduce human error and effort
- Improve transparency and scalability
- Reduce costs for governance, control, and external audits
- Implement unified processes across your global enterprise
- Allow finance specialists to spend more time on analysis and adding business value.

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