

Integrity for your information supply chain

"Crucially, ClusterSeven's technology lets us manage our spreadsheets like any other business application."

-Stephen Ashton,
Head of IT business
management,
Dresdner Kleinwort

ClusterSeven client

Controlled Agility

When the world is too fast for your IT systems to keep up, what do high performers do? To stay in front of the competition, they develop tactical solutions in spreadsheets and Microsoft Access® databases. Maintaining these user-developed applications (UDAs) consumes large amounts of expensive time. And they can still go from right to wrong in a few seconds, costing you millions in lost profits or fines.

As a revenue generator, a control manager or an IT support manager that gives you a tough decision. Do you slow the business down to increase control or do you take the risk of letting the business move forward without full visibility?

Now you don't have to choose. With ClusterSeven you get both business agility and control. ClusterSeven provides assurance from the creation of a new business-critical desktop application to its retirement, whether this is weeks, months or years. That means:

1. Governance that works

All regulated businesses lay down policies around UDAs, driven by regulation, audit, and operational risk concerns. Industry is rife with examples where these policies are disregarded when business pressure increases. Commonly, the short term tactical solution becomes a semi-permanent fixture due to continuing time or resource constraints. Only diligent auditing, the exposure of a mistake, or at worst the realization of fraud will highlight the transgression. With ClusterSeven you can **avoid this reputational exposure with UDA governance policies that deliver control without stalling the business**.





Controlled Agility

“The insight and control over the spreadsheet environment made users realize that they wanted and needed this control”

-IDC Case Study on a ClusterSeven client (a global, US-based financial services company)

2. Faster business

Few business processes have a perfect marriage between IT systems and business needs. This may be due to a delay in a legacy systems upgrade, or specialized activity such as tax reporting, or new product development. Whatever the cause, user-developed applications fill many holes in your information supply chains. They do the job that nothing else could, given time and resource constraints. But as personal productivity tools they need constant care and attention to confirm integrity. ClusterSeven does this for you, enabling benefits such as **accelerated financial close** or **faster products to market**.

3. Avoid IT wastage

Remember the IT project that went over time and over budget? The adaptability of UDAs makes them the ideal tool to deliver new business needs. But their premature replacement by extending legacy systems can be expensive failures. Deploying ClusterSeven provides you with **the time to plan** your strategic solution and the information to make it a success. Of course, if the new product never takes off then you will have avoided this spend altogether.

4. Any colour – they are all black

Spreadsheets and MS Access® databases might seem impossible to manage because they are all different. Without ClusterSeven your expensive employees find themselves doing frequent and lengthy workarounds just to ensure business integrity. ClusterSeven standardizes and automates this process, with all the reports you need. With one solution to monitor any spreadsheet, exception-based information goes to the right employees for focused attention. This leaves **more time for business analysis and profit-making decisions**.

5. Business insight

Each new ‘save’ of a spreadsheet is a snapshot of your business at that time. With ClusterSeven’s automated version capture and audit trail you can replay this business history without having to open hundreds of old spreadsheets. The result is immediate access to hidden business knowledge that could be the key to your **next big step forward**.

ClusterSeven brings integrity to the gaps in your information supply chain, where business-critical data is held in spreadsheets and MS Access® databases. Clients include several global investment banks as well as asset managers, hedge funds and utilities. For more information, contact inquiries@clusterseven.com