Automation in Action

BDO’s Tax Analytics & Automation practice helps clients increase efficiency and effectiveness using bots to automate processes and minimize taxation.
WHAT IS A “BOT”?  
A bot is a piece of software used to automate a task. Bots can be hugely beneficial for tasks that involve many simple or repetitive processes.

YOUR JOB, ONLY EASIER  
As business systems and data breadth continue to grow in volume and complexity, controlling costs and improving business processes become increasingly challenging and gradually paramount.

MAKE AUTOMATION WORK FOR YOU  
BDO’s tax transformation team works collaboratively with our application development team to help clients automate and optimize business processes, allowing them to:

- Spend more time deriving insights from data and less time gathering it
- Automate standard business processes
- Save time and resources by identifying and improving data inefficiencies
- Improve accuracy and quality of work product
- Maintain data and document security
- Reduce turnover by providing a more rewarding experience for professionals
- Limit training effort of new resources
CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

PowerPoint Data Facilitator

Client: Medical Equipment Manufacturer

Challenge: A manufacturing company hired a new head of tax, and he quickly realized that his team performed a substantial number of manual, repetitive tasks on a daily basis. One such task included a CFO update that his team worked on regularly. It took significant time to prepare the presentation material for their CFO to use concerning a tax financial update. Information for the report was being pulled from multiple sources and involved a large amount of manual data entry. A major issue occurred when the numbers changed last minute and the presentation had to be quickly recreated.

Solution: The company needed BDO to develop an automated solution to get rid of excessive manual work, specifically a solution that could enable recreating presentation slides quickly and at the last minute. BDO created a bot that took in the source files and automatically created the presentation slides, including all the formatting changes and updates to the captions in the notes.

Impact: BDO’s automated solution, a bot, saved the team 15 hours every quarter, along with ensuring the numbers were accurate. The solution allowed them to not only get the update to the CFO before the quarterly deadline, but also to update it quickly if numbers changed at the last minute. Because all of the data was now being pulled together in a database, they were also able to add value to their current update by analyzing trends over time, creating a more insightful analysis to the CFO.

This resulted in an estimated savings of $7,500 per year.
CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

Job Tax Credit Bot

Client: Manufacturer

Challenge: A manufacturing company was using job tax credits offered in various states to reduce its tax liability, but the process was time consuming. The calculation for determining qualification for a specific job tax credit was extremely tedious (100+ hours) due to extensive analysis of hire/termination activity and manual data entry using spreadsheets.

Solution: BDO was tasked with creating an error-free, efficient, and quick-to-use scenario analysis. BDO’s automated solution takes in payroll and Human Resources data and is able to quickly and efficiently create a summary of job tax credit opportunities available to the employer.

Impact: In addition to identifying credits that would save the company money, BDO’s automated job tax credit solution reduced the client’s manual effort in some cases from hundreds of hours to mere minutes.

This resulted in a savings of $25,000 per analysis.
CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

Data Aggregator/Dashboard

Client: Retail Franchise

Challenge: A franchisor of laundromat facilities used a different instance of a system at each location and needed to pull data from each system on a daily basis, aggregate it, and report on it in real time. The existing process required manual linking via VPN into each different location to run individual reports and combine them for additional reporting to management. The process took 3 to 4 hours every day and would be impossible to maintain as they grew from four locations to 200 locations in the next year.

Solution: BDO developed an automated solution that could pull reports from each location and aggregate the data in one place for easy and fast reporting. The automated solution could also be updated as new locations were opened.

Impact: The bot that BDO developed captured all of the necessary data and was able to run in the background overnight, allowing management to focus on decisions about the business they could now make in real time. It also allowed the company to easily add more locations to the process without needing more resources.

This resulted in an estimated $200,000 savings in resources per year.
CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

Address Validation Bot

Client: Retail

Challenge: A retailer filing returns in multiple states submitted its data, including address information, to a sales tax software system called Vertex. The challenge was that if the address was invalid (incorrect spelling, wrong zip code/city/state match), then the entire submission was unable to be completed and marked as an error by the software. The company’s team would then spend hours reviewing the addresses in order to identify the incorrect one so that the submission could be redone. If there was more than one error, the team would have to potentially resubmit several times.

Solution: BDO developed an automated solution that could validate addresses and cut down on the time consuming work of address verification, which was estimated to take approximately one hour per submission.

Impact: BDO’s customized automated solution was able to automatically review and fix the incorrect addresses, returning a cleaned file with a log of what was updated, then resubmit on behalf of the team to the Vertex tool. This reduced the time spent on each review to only a few minutes.

The client received an estimated savings of $20,000 per year.
CLIENT SUCCESS STORY

**Tax Accounting Reporting Bot**

**Client Industry:** Manufacturer

**Challenge:** A manufacturing company had more than 2,000 tax accounting reports that needed to be run on a quarterly basis, and it took more than 8 hours to run these reports from the provision software. This prevented the team from focusing on other valuable activities, which was especially critical during the quarterly and year-end close periods.

**Solution:** The client needed an automated solution. BDO’s specialized team developed a bot to automate processing of the company's quarterly and year-end tax accounting reports. These vital reports provide a back-up to calculations on the financial statements and are needed for review purposes and the financial statement auditors on a timely basis.

**Impact:** The tax accounting reporting bot addressed the client's need to free up valuable resources. The bot saved the company 8 hours of work every quarter, time which can now be spent on other value-add business activities.
TALK WITH OUR TEAM OF AUTOMATION AND ANALYTICS PROFESSIONALS TO FIND THE RIGHT SOLUTION FOR YOU.

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