

Reporting Tools Features

- Cost
- Correctness (error %)
- Transparency (process overview)
- Running Speed
- Possibility of integration into a data mining tool

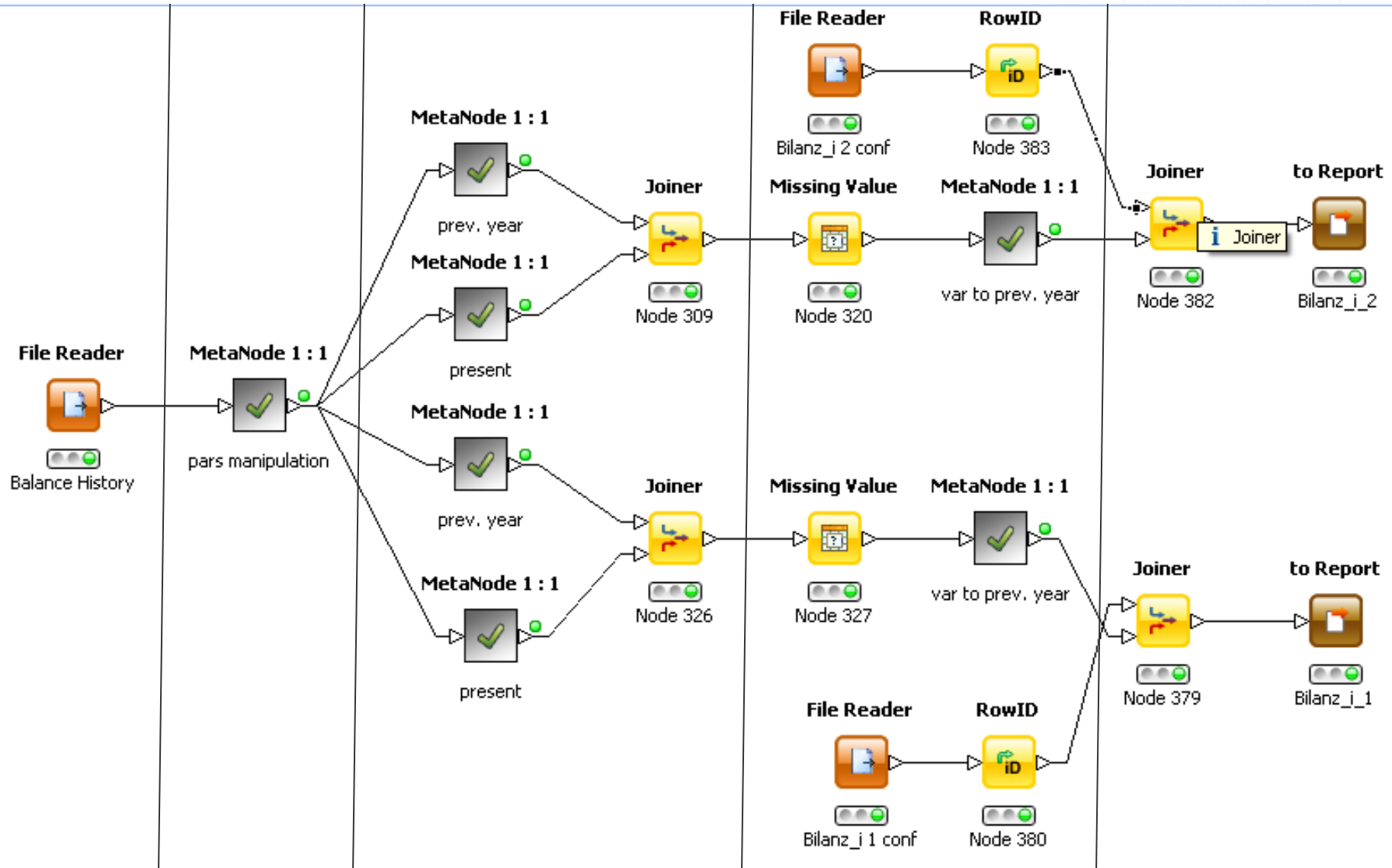
Excel implementations

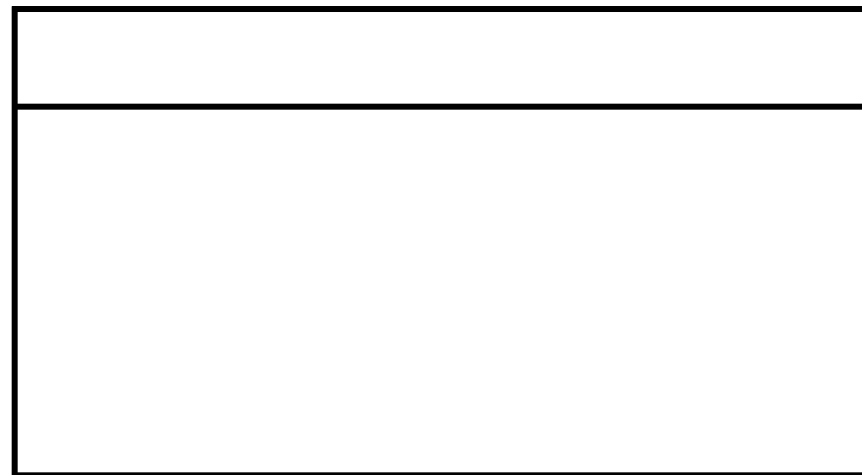
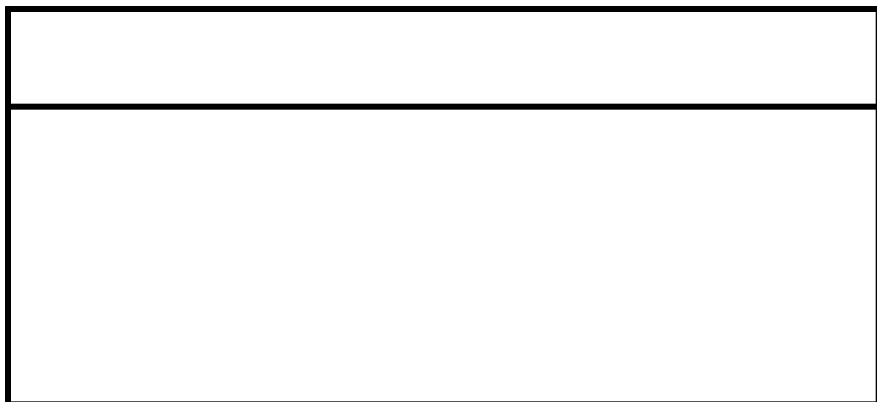
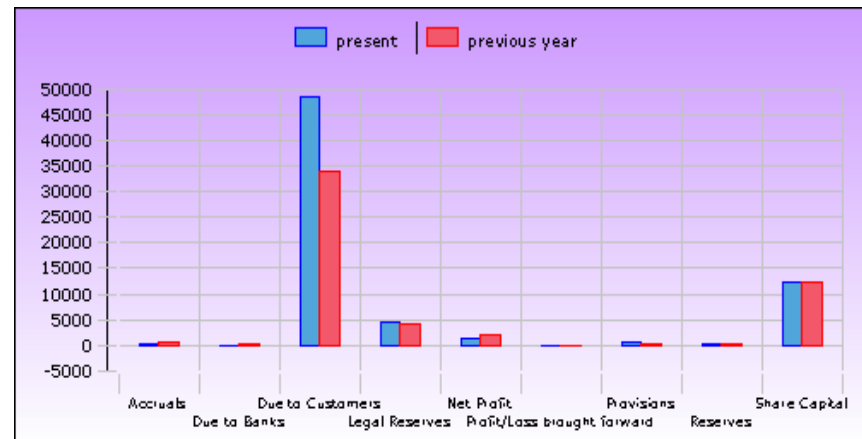
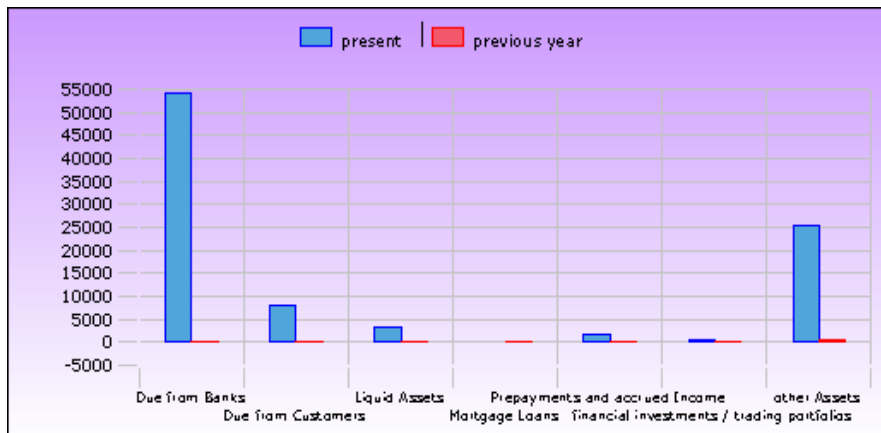
- 1st time: Create and test a template for a given task
- 2nd time: Adapt the report generated the 1st time to current data.
- No testing necessary. We rely on the hope that what has worked before will work this time as well.

Most frequent errors in Excel

- This month's data is longer than last month's data. Last month's report template will not process all the rows. The last rows will be ignored for the final result
- Copy and paste the data from another source (file). Something goes wrong in the copy and paste process and we get the wrong/incomplete set of input data
- By using "copy and paste" from another excel sheet, we might paste the wrong functionalities/macro into some rows of the excel sheet.
- ...

There is no warning for any of these mistakes. So you will generate a perfectly working report ... just with the wrong numbers in it!





Reporting Tools

Rep Tool	Correctness	Transparency (Process Overview)	Running Time	Cost	Data Mining Tool
Excel	Random Errors due to abuse of „cut and paste“	No overview	2-3 days	MS Office	no
KNIME	-	High	< 15 min	free	yes
SAS	-	Medium	< 15 min	high	yes
BIRT	-	Low	<15 min	free	no
.NET Reporting Services	-	Low	< 15 min	MS SQL + .NET	no