

## Cornerstone automates automation

**Cornerstone Technology aims to automate automation, providing both insight in and an overview of complex IT landscapes at the touch of a virtual button. Cost reductions definitely can be achieved. Cornerstone's advanced tools unveil complex legacy application structures, and fully-automated conversions and migrations allow reductions in both maintenance and complexity. Phasing out expensive mainframes is now possible much more quickly and at a fraction of the cost, while preserving the capital contained in the business applications.**



Automated software quality and risk assessment also form part of the product range. Cornerstone products cover the most important strategic areas in IT: application maintenance, new build, standard software implementations, and outsourcing. Application Life Cycle Management is realised effectively at significantly lower costs.

Cornerstone solutions become even more effective by giving IT staff the insight and overview they need – there is a fitting answer to the specific information needs of all staff. Managing director Tim Janssen: “Managers don’t go looking through huge piles of source code and data to verify whether project reports are correct, and nor will typical management information help an analyst or programmer. All of the solutions discussed below are derived from the integrated G4 Sigma platform. To start with, Cornerstone offers two solutions based on specific ERP functionality for IT itself: the G4/Dashboard for CEOs, CFOs and CIOs, and G4/Analyzer for information managers, architects, project managers, analysts, programmers and application managers. The basis of this information and documentation, which is generated fully automatically, is the source code itself, such as application codes, screens, control scripts, schedulers and related databases. Janssen: “All other sources do not reflect reality, are subject to human interpretation and are therefore susceptible to error.”

### Trend analysis and quality control

G4/Dashboard is a software measurement, quality

and risk indication system for complex IT applications, enabling management to monitor progress at any time, and allowing CEOs/CFOs to verify reports on the status of IT projects immediately. It is especially the comparison with a benchmark (with already over 100 organisations) for all measured aspects (called “metrics”) that provides insight into the position of IT, thereby reducing risks and preventing overspending. It also allows accurate monitoring of SLAs for outsourced and insourced projects. Nobody pays too much or receives too little: G4/Dashboard is a “thermometer” that provides a snapshot of all existing applications and those under development at any given time. Periodic measurements also allow the production of trend analyses.

### ERP in IT

Whereas ERP solutions primarily earned their fame in logistics and production, they have now also penetrated other sectors such as banks, insurance firms and – ultimately – IT. Janssen: “It is strange that the need was not recognised earlier, as the complexity and relationships within an application landscape cry out for this type of control instrument. But it can be explained: after all, IT environments are extremely diverse, complex and not very accessible. Automation is the only alternative. This dilemma has been solved by Cornerstone with a specific, IT-oriented ERP solution that is now also generating significant savings within the IT segment.” In addition to eliminating routine tasks, an ERP system for automation of the IT-disciplines also focuses on improving accessibility and reducing complexity.

...automation  
...automation  
automated

In short, it is an effective solution for maintenance and administration tasks, new build and upgrades, standard software implementation and in/outsourcing. The short payback period for ERP in IT is unparalleled when compared to other sectors such as logistics or transport, and its implementation takes only a few weeks.

### A single source: G4/Repository

The advantages are clear: lower costs, greater flexibility and extended availability. Operational IT tasks are made controllable, more effective and more efficient by tools such as G4/Dashboard, G4/Analyzer, G4/Converter, G4/Migrator and G4/Renovator. Quality monitoring, risk coverage, insight and overview, complexity reduction and functionality re-use all become part of management, cost saving and improving efficiency. G4/Dashboard and G4/Analyzer enable a fully-integrated information display based on metadata stored in a single source location: the meta-information database (G4/Repository). Both management and implementation staff obtain their data from the same source, eliminating “noise” from the information chain. Metadata is taken straight from the source code, and the G4/Repository is populated fully automatically, without any human intervention. Janssen: “This enables project and application details to be produced with greater accuracy, more certainty and less risk, in turn allowing greater control in all areas. Decisions are more well-founded, and action is more targeted and measurable.” Cornerstone solutions provide CEOs, CFOs, CIOs, IT managers, IT architects, analysts and programmers with all the information they need, tailored to suit their specific tasks. The standard solution is compatible with all current IT platforms.

### Application Life Cycle Management

Business applications represent capital, which is often destroyed when switching to new technologies (e.g. .NET, Java, or phasing out HW/SW). It turns out

that these are mere technicalities – the business rules stored within the complex application code do not change. However, that is where all of the time, effort and money are invested. Automated conversion and migration preserve these business assets. Cornerstone encapsulates this process within its “Reduce, Reuse and Recycle” strategy, at a fraction of the cost of a manual new build or upgrade.

### Automatic conversion and migration

As part of the 3R and ALM strategies, Cornerstone brought the Enterprise Application Manager onto the market under the title of G4/EAM: an integrated ERP solution that processes all well-known computer platforms, development languages, database systems and control scripts within a single metadata repository (G4/Repository). G4/EAM gives large organisations, often with a variety of mainframes or other operating systems, integrated control of their entire IT landscape. G4/Converter (for converting languages) and G4/Migrator (for the migration of complex databases) allow mainframes to be effectively phased out, or their diversity reduced. This is saving number one.

### Revenue and profits up

Cornerstone solutions are aimed at “return on IT”. Janssen: “Our solutions offer increased performance and improved quality without a change in personnel. IT solutions are available sooner for primary business – revenue increases, costs drop and profits improve. All this is made possible within only a few weeks, at a fixed price and with a set completion date.”

*“Our solutions offer increased performance without a change in personnel.”*

**Cornerstone**  
Technology

### Cornerstone Technology B.V.

Archimedesstraat 12  
3316 AB Dordrecht  
Tel. 078 - 6138 433  
Fax 078 - 6138 410  
info@cornerstone.nl  
www.cornerstone.nl