Consolidated Groups in Composites?

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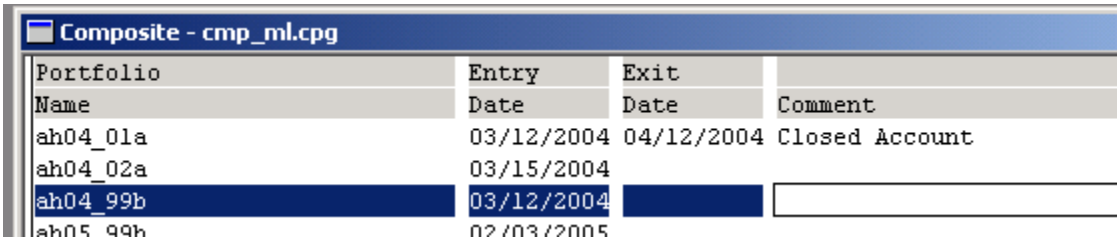
If you are responsible for maintaining your firm's composites, you are familiar with Axys Composite files (*.cpg files). You create a composite containing a list of fee paying, discretionary accounts that are managed in a similar fashion with respect to investments, style, allocation, or other characteristics as defined by your firm.



Composites are similar to groups in that they are collections of cli files. Items within a composite are defined with entry dates (the date the account entered the composite). When an account leaves a composite, exit dates and optional comments may be added.

Composites are different than groups in Axys in that you cannot enter groups into a composite…you can only enter cli files in a composite. So while a group in Axys can contain cli files, consolidated groups, and unconsolidated groups, a composite may only contain cli files. Sometimes this restriction can be a bit troublesome…

Suppose you have a situation in which you manage a relationship (a group) as opposed to a single account. The accounts in the group, when viewed separately, may not match the style/characteristics of the composite, or may not meet the stated minimums, because you are not managing the accounts as single entities, you are managing the group of accounts. In this case, you really need to put the group in the composite in order to properly calculate dispersion and number of composite accounts.

Since Axys won't let you put groups in the composite, how should you handle this situation? The answer is that you CAN add groups to a composite, but you have to take a few extra steps each month/quarter. Here's what you'll need to do each month or each quarter before you update performance:

1. Use the Merge Portfolio utility (Axys → Utility → Merge Portfolio) to merge the cli files into a single, dummy cli file. The Merge utility will keep the original portfolios intact and create a new cli file containing all the combined activity.
2. Remove the dummy cli from the master group (the Merge utility automatically places the merged file into the master group)
3. Assuming the merged cli file is in the composite, then update performance on the composite as usual

If you're going to do this often, you might want to create a script. Steps 1 and 2 can be scripted so that you have an automatic "Merge Portfolios then remove from Master Group" process. For more information on automating this process, see your Automating Axys manual or Axys Help. Search on MERGECLI and MODIFYGRP to see samples of how to use these commands in a script…or send me an email, dherrera@cssi.org

About the Author: Diane Herrera is president of CSSI, a software and consulting firm located in King of Prussia, PA. Founded in 1995, CSSI helps firms customize and automate their Axys systems. CSSI specializes in getting data into and out of Axys with projects such as building custom interfaces, writing custom reports, creating report packages, and assisting with scripts and macros. Many custom reports, white papers, and other materials are available at no charge in the Free Download section of the CSSI website, www.cssi.org