



Premium reviews and analysis
for premium content users

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Log In

Job losses and financial comparisons

In Scope

Thomson splits up its flagship product: a large-scale realignment strategy?

Insight

Researching financial data takes creative strategies

Insider

Mitigating risk with a new tool kit

Tap the Wire

Surprising news from a market leader

Focus On

Capital IQ mixes data with modelling tools

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Log In**In Scope**

Thomson Business Intelligence is being split up: News Research will be discontinued, Market Research (Profound) and NewsEdge are to be sold, and Broker Research & Insite are to be aligned with Thomson Financial. Thoughts about the break-up and a large-scale realignment strategy.

Insight

Researchers do not need to buy expensive, off-the-shelf data sources for their work. Free -- and reliable -- financial services sources are available. Here is independent researcher Jill Fenton's three-point plan for unravelling requests and generating source ideas.

Insider

Today's organisations are developing a better understanding of what risk management entails, but they don't necessarily understand how to set up a program. This article by Jela Webb, part of a larger report, explains how.

Tap the Wire

Industry news, new products and product update:

Industry News: Profound and NewsEdge up for sale; Dow Jones and D&B cut jobs; most information is useless say managers; Hemscott and i-Deal merge; Emerald strengthens journal coverage; newspapers feel the pinch; Google hopes to offer real-time quotes; UK Government to rationalise its websites.

New Products: Entertainment portal powered by LexisNexis news; FT.com goes mobile; Reuters' news services power automatic trading; WSJ financial data available to non-subscribers; infoUSA to create virtual meeting place for sales people; Google moves into patent searching; not Google but Xooxle.

Product Update: Alacra Industry Snapshots combine premium data with web content; FT expands online video service.

Focus On

In-depth product review: Capital IQ aims to help lending financial and advisory professionals make more intelligent business decisions. We analyse how well it succeeds.

Log Out

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"Corporate Power"
Simon Foster

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Log In

By Pam Foster



One of my favourite quotes on Quote Garden <http://www.quotegraden.com/> is 'Promises are like babies: easy to make, hard to deliver' (author unknown). It was easy to promise you a review of FactSet but despite a lot of effort it's been hard to deliver you one. For reasons outside VIP's control, I'm afraid that we are unable to publish a FactSet testdrive in this issue but we do hope rectify this later in the year.

I had hoped to make comparisons between FactSet and Capital IQ, the other product reviewed in this issue, and if and when the FactSet review takes place, I'll return to Capital IQ so that the two services can be compared and contrasted. Meanwhile, I hope you enjoy reading my review of Capital IQ as much as I enjoyed compiling it. It's a powerful product with some very advanced tools for compiling analyses.

Researching the financial services sector can be tricky and purchasing off-the-shelf data sources is expensive. But this doesn't always have to be the case. This month's Insight piece, by Jill Fenton, founder of London-based Fenton Research, recommends a simple research methodology that can help unravel requests and lead to free or inexpensive source ideas. Read what she has to say about breaking down enquiries in order to identify who may need, produce or use possible relevant data, presenting you with ideas of where to look for it.

January is usually a very quiet month for news but 2007 has got off to a blazing start. Judging by your reaction (thanks to the people who contacted me), Thomson's decision to end its News Research service and to sell its NewsEdge and Profound services has taken you by surprise too. Further news and analysis of Thomson's strategy is available in the In Scope section of this issue.

If ever there was proof that organisations need to improve their processes for the sharing and collaboration of information, a new report from Accenture provides it. It seems that middle managers in the UK and US spend more than a quarter of their working time searching for information necessary to their jobs, but over half of what they find is useless. These same managers also say that other parts of their company are unwilling to share information. The report makes for depressing reading and further comment on is available in this month's Tap the Wire.

For a lot of people working at information companies, the new year has got off to a bad start. This month's Tap the Wire includes news of substantial job losses at Dow Jones (Factiva), Dun & Bradstreet and the New York Times Company. Is this just co-incidence or part of a downward trend for the sector? I'll be keeping an eye on what's happening and reporting back in future issues.

Meanwhile, keep a look out for announcements in the VIP Lounge regarding future plans for reviews and topics to be covered in VIP. And if you have any ideas of your own then please do let me know.

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