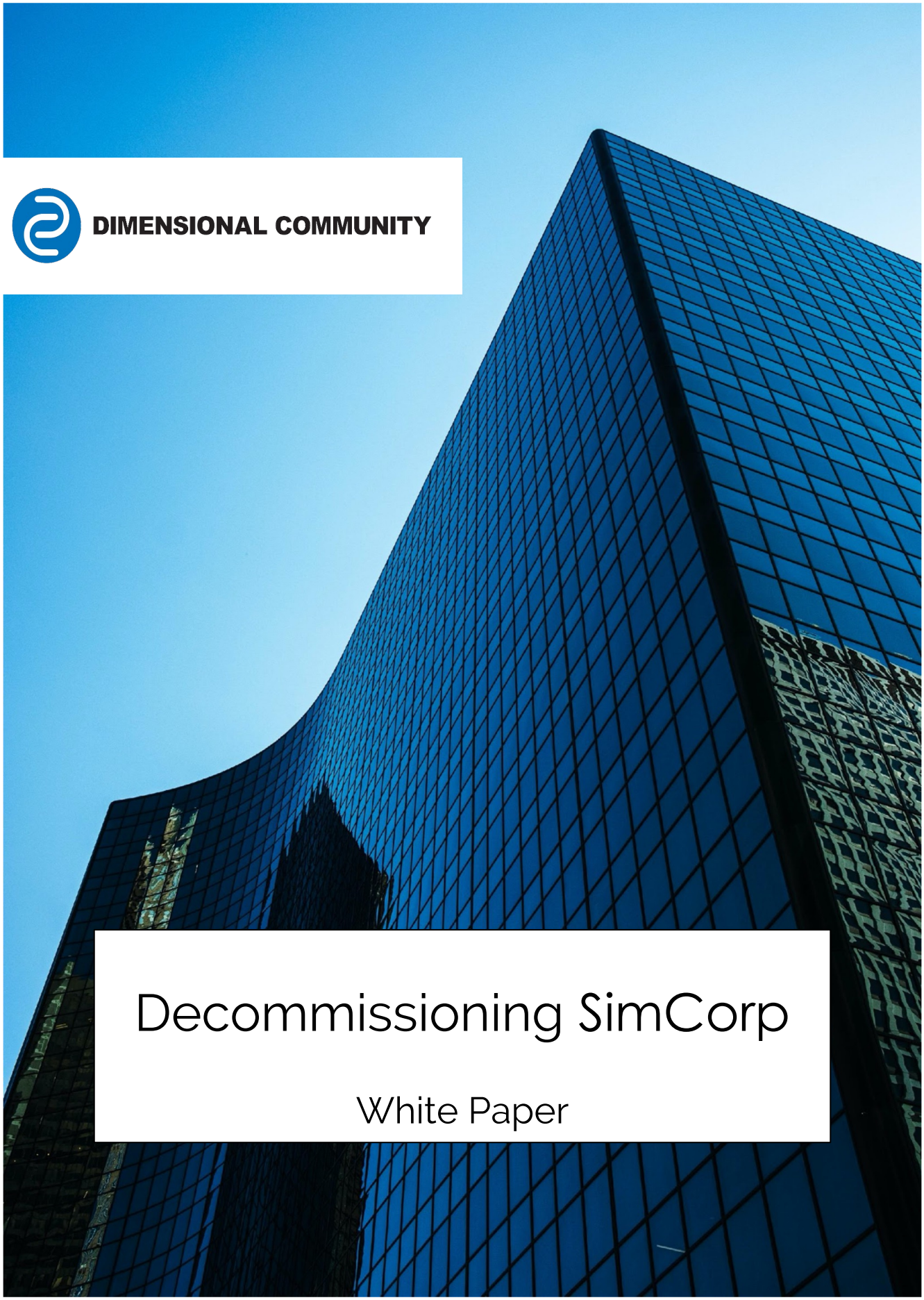
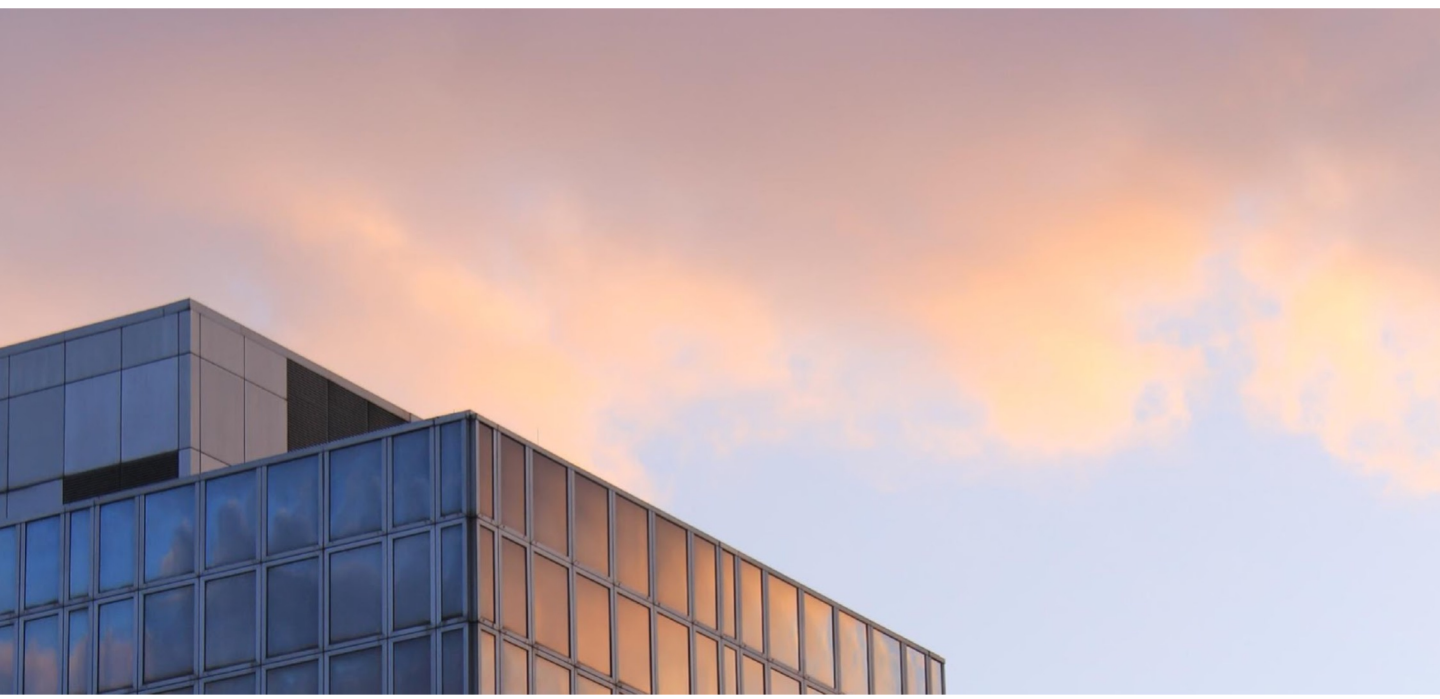


DIMENSIONAL COMMUNITY

Decommissioning SimCorp

White Paper

CONTENTS



INTRODUCTION

There may be a time when a decision has been made to decommission SimCorp Dimension from the organization and in this piece, we will explore some thoughts on that process and consider the best way to retain access to the data in the system and close down the system in a way that the preserves the data integrity.

APPROACH

For most or all clients, SimCorp Dimension is the core system for investments and accounting or fund processing and holds many years of transactions, positions and client data that will need to archived in a way that is secure and accessible after it is decommissioned.

It is useful to start with the big questions. Do you have fiduciary requirement to store and retain the data for several years? If so, what data? Client, transactions and positions are likely in scope for your archiving process. And depending on the modules you use, there might be GL, Performance, Fund or other data that you may need to access down the road. This will help identify the priority of what to work on first.

Beyond legal or fiduciary requirements, a useful way to help shape the design for the data archive is to consider how you may want to use this data down the road. Is it only needed for possible audit or occasional ad hoc requests? If so, a less is more approach may meet your needs. For others there may be a shift toward using BI (Business Intelligence) tools on this data and you may want to consider storing the data that is more friendly to BI tools and analytics. Because this decision involves some future unknowns it is always a good practice to document the logic and steps and point out any limitations in the choices that were made at the time. A data dictionary will be useful if it is not already built to capture what has been saved and reference what was not saved.

STORAGE

Once we know the types of data and have some ideas around the scope, we need to consider the different ways we can store this data.

If there is a data warehouse that stores your SimCorp Dimension data outside of SCD, is it complete? Are there any enhancements you want to make while the system is still active, and you have skill sets available who understand the SimCorp Dimension data?

For clients without a data warehouse, there is likely a need to crystalize or save the data in certain state. This can involve saving .csv files or if the database will be preserved, we can create SQL queries on the data that can be accessed when the system is no longer running. Over time we have to expect that the skill or even the hardware to start up servers and access the data through the application may go away, so depending on how long you are responsible for retaining the data it is best not to rely on restarting the system to access the data and have a more permanent solution.

A good way to start a data dictionary is to look at the DEXs that currently export data. Any DEX that has been built to export data to a report or warehouse can use the Functions button to view and save the SQL execution plan which shows exactly how the DEX works and all the tables and fields. This SQL can be combined with the data definitions in the SCD help to build a quick dictionary of what is being exported.

DATA STRUCTURE

Given the data structure in SCD, it's important to decide if you would like to maintain a business type view where many tables are joined together and getting to the data is not difficult or are you comfortable with more technical solution that minimizes the amount of data but needs some level of expertise to create reports on the data. In technical terms this is another way of asking if you will have normalized or denormalized data in your data archive? Both are equally beneficial depending on how you plan to use the data.

SWITCH OVER

We will move away from data and consider some tips regarding the process of shutting down the system.

Before shutting down any system there is usually a start to a new system or outsourced method and generally you will need to reconcile and keep two systems in parallel for some time. Consider doing some work upfront to automate this reconciliation. It will likely pay off as any decommissioning of a key system tends to be challenging and time sensitive.

When it comes to the actual shutdown of the system it's useful to consider the process in a similar way to closing out a month end or year end. Having the data processing complete can take several days or weeks depending on the asset classes you hold, so you will need to consider a rolling shutdown or a hard shutdown on a certain date.

Finally ensuring that the data will not change is important. SimCorp Dimension will have automated workflows running, Aux jobs and integration touchpoints that can change transactions or data. You will want to plan to shut down the servers and services in a way that ensures good data integrity. You may also want to consider adding some control checks to ensure that any data that is accidentally changed is known and accounted for. If you have significant concerns of data updates, blocking and introducing access controls can be set to ensure transactions and data is unchanged after a set point in time.

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info@DimensionalCommunity.com