Facing Global Tax
Technology Challenges
Facing Global Tax Technology Challenges

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Facing Global Tax Technology Challenges Head-On

Multinational corporations like yours are faced with new challenges as they globalize their tax and global trade operations. The demands for transparency and timely responses are steadily increasing, driven by the efforts of governments to expand their tax base.

To address this shift, your company must re-address your investment in four key areas of transformation: Process, Technology, People, and Data.

**Process:** Today’s cost pressures demand out-of-the-box thinking as you transform your tax-related processes and platforms. Can you address this financial transformation while still staying up to date with local and global tax regulations?

**Technology:** It’s important to stay current with the latest technology — but knowing when and where to invest for the greatest ROI is a challenge that stresses internal resources.

**People:** Every manager works to keep employees motivated and focused on the tasks that provide the best results. And in today’s world, managers also have to contend with employees who work remotely or across multiple locations. How can you reduce mundane and time-consuming tasks, upskill your staff for additional responsibilities, and ensure that the systems they need are easily accessible, regardless of location?

**Data:** It’s never been more important to have your business data at your fingertips, no matter where you are. Do you have easy visibility into your tax data for advanced reporting, analytics, and scenario modeling?

Increasing regulations and the urgency to reduce costs are constant struggles that every corporation faces — and the tax department and global trade functions can feel this firsthand. With so much at stake, senior leadership may now demand a greater level of visibility into their worldwide tax operations.

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54% of respondents to the Thomson Reuters State of the 2020 Corporate Tax Department survey felt their teams were under-resourced.

30% of tax departments surveyed in a follow-up pulse survey shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic began felt their organizations would emerge weaker from the crisis, although 25% thought they would be stronger.
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Regulatory changes

Regulations are increasing around the world as governments find new ways to increase revenues and are constantly changing, making it hard to keep up without some form of automation. A medium-sized company could have over 31,300 tax filings in a single year, for example. In the U.S., for instance, the South Dakota vs. Wayfair decision marked a drastic shift in tax law precedent. Simply put, if your business sells goods in any state — even if you don’t have physical presence in that state and the transaction is online only — you may now be obligated to register in that state and collect sales tax. Furthermore, a flurry of trade regulation changes between the U.S. and other countries has also led to constantly shifting tariffs and duty rates for multinationals to keep track of. Multinational corporations continue to feel the impact of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 and the new international regulations which stem from it. And the challenge of Britain’s exit from the EU will likely cause a domino effect of regulation and trade changes. This is in addition to more than 4,000 changes to rates and rules globally, by existing indirect tax jurisdictions, per year.

Economic pressure

Higher costs, corporate reorganizations, and mergers and acquisitions all contribute to greater stress within tax departments. In our 2020 State of the Corporate Tax Department survey, we found that 54% of respondents felt under-resourced. This challenge has been significantly compounded by the COVID-19 crisis. Indeed, very few tax departments see talent recruitment as a continuing priority, with only slightly more prioritizing team training. Despite the macroenvironment impacting every tax department, it is unlikely to be experienced equally. Those teams who were already stretched thin may find their challenges increased, while those who were already struggling to secure resources for headcount, training, or technology are unlikely to find their business cases improved. At the same time, global tax determination and trade classification is getting more complex, cross border transparency is increasing, local tax regulations are ever-changing, and digital reporting is more frequent.

Leading multinational companies continue to move more tax and global trade functions to Shared Service Centers (SSC) and Global Business Services (GBS) hubs. In fact, 80% of Global 200 companies expect to move more tax responsibility to offshore centers. While these centralized hubs can bring some relief, they also introduce new challenges related to training, data management, and loss of local tax knowledge.
Facing Global Tax Technology Challenges Head-On

Changing technology

Technology has always been important to a company’s tax operations. However, with the current state of industry consolidation, globalization, and new digital reporting requirements, there is even more pressure for technology to deliver radical ROI improvements.

Key decisions need to be made. Many companies are in the midst of adapting to more remote workers, revisiting outdated or inefficient systems, or re-evaluating whether their technology still makes sense for the current situation. Tax needs to be at the table to address global tax determination, transfer pricing, and global trade initiatives. Will you be able to articulate the concerns of your tax department when the IT department suggests a build versus buy decision that affects tax?

With SAF-T, Spain’s SII, the UK’s Making Tax Digital, and Brazil’s SPED, governments want more detailed data, more often, via electronic means. Reporting windows are shrinking, and digital record keeping practices are growing around the world and will only continue.

Risk and reputation

There are many stakeholders demanding greater transparency from multinational corporations — ranging from the corporate C-suite, to shareholders, to governments, to news media and outside activist groups. The risk of an unfavorable audit into a company’s tax practices can run in the millions of dollars. In the EU and increasingly across Latin America, DAC6 imposes mandatory disclosure of cross-border arrangements affecting at least one EU Member State that falls within one of several categories or “DAC6 hallmarks” identified as potentially indicative of aggressive tax planning. As increased enforcement of tax codes becomes the norm, compliance is more important than ever for your organization.
Globalization of the Tax Department

Executing your global tax technology strategy requires a coordinated effort whether that structure is centralized, decentralized, onshore, offshore, outsourced, or a hybrid.

The tax technology platform you choose must fit whatever organizational model you follow. So, what are the most critical elements?

**Global coverage**

It starts with extensive global coverage for all tax types in the jurisdictions where you do business — and a platform that looks at your business through the eyes of multiple tax authorities, in order to have the trusted answers to stay compliant and avoid penalties in an ever-changing and increasingly complex regulatory environment.

**Scalable and flexible**

As you consolidate your ERP systems and other platforms, it is critical that your tax systems can scale with them. Whether you’re analyzing millions of accounts for transfer pricing, or rolling up accounts for your global provision or DAC6 and MDR reporting, you need a platform that is configurable and scalable — not one that requires extensive ERP customization every time a rate or rule changes.
Globalization of the Tax Department

Enhance collaboration

Your tax, finance, IT, and outsourcing resources are often scattered throughout the world, and the COVID-19 pandemic has only increased the possibility that teams are working remotely across the world. Visibility into your global operations is necessary to balance the needs of regulators, auditors, investors, shareholders, and public perception. A global collaboration, research, and workflow platform is crucial to minimizing tax risk.

Improve efficiency

Tax departments need answers and tools in order to keep up with global regulatory changes. The ideal solution should eliminate repetitive processes and make updates and administration simpler. A platform approach aligns operations cross-departmentally, providing accurate, real-time information to everyone utilizing the solution. Data can be leveraged across the platform, meaning less time spent on manual manipulation and more time on value-add activities. And in today’s global tax world, research tools and multilingual solutions are critical.

Digital governance

More often and more in depth — that is the trend tax authorities are employing to optimize collection efforts. Your tax technology must allow your team to keep pace with emerging electronic reporting regimes and ever-increasing compliance pressures, without added people cost.

Data Intelligence

There’s never been a better time to get smarter about using your business data. Instead of dedicating your team and advisers’ valuable time on data extraction and manipulation, automation can allow you to focus their time on higher-level analysis and proactive planning. A platform across which data is shared means that your processes can become more streamlined and efficient — resulting in a significant reduction of repetitive manual work.

"Platform: A new business model that uses technology to connect people, organizations, and resources in an interactive ecosystem in which amazing amounts of value can be created and exchanged."

Geoffrey G. Parker, Marshall W. Van Alstyne, and Sangeet Paul Choudary

Your technology platform for global tax and trade must be robust and responsive. Thomson Reuters is the trusted partner for institutions like yours, with all the resources and experience to help your team scale globally, utilizing best-in-class solutions on a single platform.
Endless Tax Challenges, a Unified Solution

ONESOURCE®, the industry’s most powerful corporate tax technology platform, drives global tax compliance and accounting decision-making around the world. Our solutions are:

- Easily accessible across multiple locations, so that your team can collaborate and share information quickly across locations
- Scalable to grow as your company does, giving you a solution that is with you for the long-term
- Built on trusted research and global coverage, providing you confidence in your reporting and calculations
Managing Your Worldwide Tax and Trade Operations

ONESOURCE is the only suite of products that can help you meet the breadth of challenges you’re facing. From domestic compliance to greater visibility and consistency into global operations, whether you’re managing audits or conducting research, we are here to help your team evolve into a proactive department with greater visibility into all operations.

Streamline data and automate processes across your department with Thomson Reuters ONESOURCE — the industry’s most powerful portfolio of tax and accounting technology for corporations. You’ll boost collaboration with departments and partners and ensure seamless regulatory compliance no matter where your company does business.

Checkpoint® provides you with the right information, right now — including expert research, guidance, technology, tools, learning, and news. Checkpoint is relied on by thousands of professionals to understand complex information, make informed decisions, and use knowledge more efficiently. And our latest solution, Checkpoint Edge, now delivers a truly immersive experience that was built to deliver the latest in artificial intelligence, cognitive computing, and machine learning technologies. It enables you to find fast, accurate answers, providing you with a more fluid and intuitive user experience, built on over 5,000 combined years of editorial expertise and millions of annual queries by over 200,000 unique users.

With ONESOURCE and Checkpoint, you control the processes, the workflows, the collaboration, the data, and the technology.

- **ONESOURCE and Checkpoint** together offer you global coverage for compliance, reporting, research, planning, and more.

- **ONESOURCE** is the most widely used tax platform by multinational corporations and the Global 7.

- **This enterprise-wide technology platform** for your worldwide tax operations is built with state-of-the-art cloud, web, and data management technology that is scalable and delivers high performance and calculation speed.

- **ONESOURCE** is the one platform you can rely on as a partner during this period of regulatory and technology disruption. Whether your tax experts are at headquarters or in an SSC, in the Americas, the EU, or Asia-Pac, Thomson Reuters offers the solutions that allow you to manage data and processes consistently.
Compliance and Reporting

Powerful global tax and data management solutions

ONESOURCE tax and trade compliance solutions cover a variety of corporate compliance requirements including corporate income tax, global tax provision, statutory reporting, transfer pricing, global trade, and indirect tax (VAT, GST, S&U). With over 10,000 customers world-wide, our solutions ensure corporations can face the challenges of global compliance. Whether faced with the challenges of digital tax reporting including SAF-T, DAC6 and MDR, Making Tax Digital, or complying with international trade regulations, ONESOURCE helps you keep up with the ever-changing regulatory landscape.

- Whether your tax department is centralized, decentralized, onshore, offshore, outsourced, or a hybrid, our cloud-based compliance solutions fit any operational strategy you choose to deploy.

- ONESOURCE delivers an end-to-end solution to help manage the complete lifecycle of tax and trade compliance. Built with state-of-the-art cloud, web, and data management technology that is scalable, ONESOURCE delivers high performance and calculation speed.

- Create complete cohesion between your tax and finance teams across the world by combining all your tax and trade technology onto one trusted platform. Access your data whenever, and from wherever with ONESOURCE.

- ONESOURCE solutions provide global coverage:
  - VAT and GST compliance solutions for more than 50 countries
  - Income Tax solutions for the U.S., Brazil, UK, Australia, and a dozen more
  - Legal Statutory Reporting for 30+ countries
  - Global Tax Provision (U.S., IFRS)
  - Global Tax Controversy and Audit Management
  - Global Tax Calendar and Due Dates
  - BEPS compliance solutions
  - DAC6 and MDR reporting solutions
  - Global trade solutions

Click to see Global Coverage

Resources to Learn More

Brochures

- Tax Provision Brochure
- Income Tax Brochure
- Statutory Reporting Brochure
- International Tax Calculator Brochure
- DAC6 & MDR Reporter Brochure
- Indirect Tax Determination Brochure
- Indirect Tax Sales & Use Tax Compliance Brochure
- Indirect Global Tax Compliance Brochure

Visit Our Product Sites

- ONESOURCE Income Tax Solutions
- ONESOURCE Statutory Reporting
- ONESOURCE Transfer Pricing Solutions
- ONESOURCE Indirect Tax Solutions
- ONESOURCE Global Trade Solutions
Global Research and Planning

What if you were a click away from comprehensive and reliable answers?

Finding reliable and accurate information is key for audits and compliance, but it’s also crucial to provide accurate guidance to internal partners, anticipate changes and get up to speed on new issues and regulatory changes.

If compliance and audit workflows were more automated, tax resource will avail themselves more time for strategic planning to lower cash tax, decrease the effective tax rate, mitigate exposures and provide more shareholder value. This can be achieved through reliable research tools to affirm these strategies. While there’s more timely access to data, including research findings, the ability to mine and use it efficiently becomes ever more important to an efficiently operating global tax department.

Our research and planning solutions are built on a strong foundation of professional expertise and trust.

Checkpoint tackles market disruption through integrated research, editorial insight, productivity tools, online learning and news updates along with intelligent links to related content and software. It is relied on by hundreds of thousands of tax and accounting professionals and counts among its customers 99 of the Fortune 100 companies, all of the top 100 U.S. CPA firms, and by all of the Global 7.

Checkpoint Edge is the next generation of our Checkpoint research and guidance tool for tax and accounting professionals, trusted by 200,000 users. It delivers the latest in artificial intelligence, cognitive computing, and machine learning technologies, combined with the tax and accounting expertise of our editorial staff. It enables you to find fast, accurate answers with a more fluid and intuitive user experience.

Additionally, our global trade and indirect tax solutions cover over 190 countries and territories. With ONESOURCE Determination, our global tax research team monitor more than 19,000 global tax jurisdictions covering sales, use, VAT, GST, prepared food and beverage taxes, and excise taxes — all of which get automatically integrated with your business systems in real time. And ONESOURCE Global Trade Management solutions allow you to reference a wide range of global trade content — including tariff schedules, trade agreement rules of origin, import and export controls (OGA/PGA), and more —from a central repository.
ONESOURCE solutions for global trade, indirect tax, and transfer pricing allow you to see the entirety of the impact of your business decisions in real-time and what the impact is to your P&L statement, business-wide.

For instance, let’s say that your business is undergoing a structural change—perhaps you’ve undergone a recent acquisition and are now operating in a new jurisdiction that you previously had not done business in. Think about all of the questions you have to answer and all of the pieces that need to come together before you can begin to understand the true impact of the business change on your transactions.

Not only do you have to think about the impact of the local transactions (Are you paying the right tax to your vendors based in that new market? Are you charging the right amount of tax to customers in that new market?), but you also have to think about the intracompany changes and cross-border impacts. Are there new free-trade agreements you could take advantage of to save additional money? Are you calculating the proper intracompany rates prices to ensure your transactions are at arms-length between your existing entities and your acquisition?

Traditionally, answering these questions would require a large amount of manual work to gather the information and display the impact in each of these areas separately. And the extra burden this can put on teams already strapped for resources and trying to keep up with compliance tasks can make this exercise even costlier.

But with the combined power of ONESOURCE solutions for global trade, indirect tax, and transfer pricing, you can consolidate this information and bring it together so you can get global visibility into not just the impact of the immediate change but also options for the best scenario and structure for your business, so that you can see the full scope of the business impact. With our solutions, you can create something much greater than the separate pieces cobbled together.

- ONESOURCE Indirect Tax
- ONESOURCE Global Trade
- ONESOURCE Transfer pricing solutions
Workflow Automation and Process Management

The complexity of tax workflows demands a comprehensive tool set that consolidates control while still meeting the precise needs of every step. From compliance and provisioning through entity and documentation management and audit readiness and defense, power seamless digital workflows with ONESOURCE.

ONESOURCE streamlines tax data management so you can optimize your existing tax packages and workpapers. It automatically harmonizes general ledger data for tax reporting and organizes data, so you meet your deadlines sooner, allowing for more strategic planning and analysis.

ONESOURCE WorkFlow Manager combines document management, data management, and collaboration tools to drive your tax process from start to finish. Track and analyze projects at every stage, automate manual tasks, and easily find the information you need to make strategic decisions. Ease the burden of due date management by allowing our ONESOURCE Calendar to module keep track of every statutory deadline with complete confidence.

ONESOURCE tax data management software offers a customizable and collaborative web-based platform that can be accessed from anywhere. No matter where they’re located, your clients and partners can use a simple Excel® interface to enter the tax data you need. Standardize, organize, and optimize your data at every step with ONESOURCE DataFlow.

- ONESOURCE WorkFlow Manager
- ONESOURCE DataFlow
- ONESOURCE Calendar
Analytics and Business Insight

In today’s ever-changing world, it’s never been more important for corporations like yours to have full access to your tax data. Whether you’re looking to quickly model out implications of new regulations or perform trend analysis on past deliverables to provide better recommendations to the business … data is at the heart of it all. But if your business data is siloed in separate applications and disconnected systems, you’re likely missing out on opportunities to leverage it between your various tools and users.

ONESOURCE is on a transformational journey to open up our platform and enable an ecosystem of solutions that help you streamline and automate your tax processes. By building connections in our solutions to leverage data, our goal is to enable you to integrate your workflows across the full business lifecycle.

Our vision for ONESOURCE is an open platform that allows you to use common data across our products to maximize efficiencies, extract data to perform higher-level analysis, and reduce manual processes to free up time for more value-added activities.

Learn more about our data connections.

Alteryx

Now more than ever, data is at the heart of unlocking efficiencies within your business. Imagine what you could do with all your business’s data at your fingertips: enhanced scenario modeling, streamlined trend analysis, and proactive planning to be nimbler in the face of change. But what if your data is stuck in disparate systems, locked away and unable to be used to its full potential? That’s where ONESOURCE and Alteryx change the game.

ONESOURCE is the industry’s most powerful corporate tax technology platform and drives global tax compliance and accounting decision-making around the world. Our clients depend on cutting-edge workflow, comprehensive automation, and analytics to support their data reporting requirements. Our partnership with Alteryx solves the challenge of data collection, transformation, and load for ONESOURCE customers and prepares data for enhanced reporting and analysis. This puts the data you need at your fingertips, when and how you need it.

See how Alteryx and ONESOURCE are helping companies like yours unleash their data potential.
Global Coverage, With Local Expertise

ONESOURCE is the industry's most comprehensive, end-to-end corporate tax technology solution. Wherever you do business — Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America, or North America — ONESOURCE has compliance software and services to meet the needs of your business.

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