IBM Cognos Lifecycle Manager FAQ

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The purpose of this document is to provide the reader with frequently asked questions and answers on the topic of Lifecycle Manager. This document may not include answers to every question a user might have and thus should be used with additional assets to fully understand the processes and applications available to help with upgrading to Cognos v10.1.
IBM Cognos Lifecycle Manager FAQ

Q1. What does Lifecycle Manager do? Does it upgrade the reports?  
Lifecycle Manager is an application that validates Cognos BI report content during an upgrade by comparing report that run in different versions of Cognos BI.

Some of the features are:

- Can compare large numbers of reports in any supported output type((PDF, HTML, XML, CSV, Microsoft® Excel 2002/2007, and Microsoft Excel 2000 Single Sheet format)
- Can compare reports in any supported language
- Has options to automatically or manually generate prompt values
- Can help validate report content regardless of whether Cognos 10 is involved. ie: upgrading Cognos 8.x to a later version of Cognos 8
- Exposes report runtimes for easy comparison

Q2. Do you run Lifecycle Manager from a server or from your desktop? If on a server is there security that allows multiple projects and users in a single Cognos instance to use this capability, and share results within a project but not across projects?

Lifecycle Manager (LCM) can be installed on a server or desktop. Each project has it's own configuration which includes security and source and target Cognos systems. Results are project based.

Q3. Will Lifecycle Manager ignore headers/footers for information such as date/time stamps??

Lifecycle Manager will automatically hide date/time stamps for any Cognos v10.1 system in the project. For Cognos 8.x systems, an xml file must be modified. Information on this can be found in the Lifecycle Manager User Guide installed with the application.

Q4. When doing an upgrade, what versions will Lifecycle Manager allow me to validate reports between?

Lifecycle Manager is a Cognos 10 application that allows you to validate report content between 2 versions of Cognos software. Lifecycle Manager supports 1.1MR3+, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4 and 8.4.1

Q5. Is it advised to install Lifecycle Manager on a Cognos Server, or as a client tool on user's machine?

Lifecycle Manager can be installed on either a server or desktop machine. Credentials are required to be entered to validate and execute reports. Lifecycle
Manager runs its own tomcat so a minimum of 1 gig of memory is required. LCM also retrieves all executed content to the machine LCM is installed on so adequate space should also be planned for.

**Q6. Do I need to upgrade the content to Cognos v10.1 before I begin to validate with Lifecycle Manager? OR, will Lifecycle Manager take Cognos v8.4.1 content and run it against Cognos v10.1?**

All BI content must be upgraded to Cognos v10.1 prior to running Lifecycle Manager. Lifecycle Manager can validates the content between two versions but cannot move it between the two versions.

**Q7. Is the Lifecycle Manager application installed at the same time as Cognos v10.1 or is it a separate application?**

Lifecycle Manager is a separate application. It is downloaded from the same site that you download all your Cognos software but Lifecycle Manager comes in its own install. Lifecycle Manager needs to be installed in its own directory too.

**Q8. Where in the upgrade workflow does Lifecycle Manager help?**

Within the upgrade workflow, Lifecycle Manager helps whenever the reports need to be compared.