



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Letter from the Editor

by Howard Callif

This is another edition packed with useful and important information. For example, an article on Predictive Modeling discusses how this process can be used to transform insurance decisions. The article was written by Barry Senensky, who is the president and co-founder of Claim Analytics, located in Toronto, Canada. Innovative predictive tools can provide a critical competitive advantage, and hopefully the article will stimulate some interest in this topic. Claim Analytics and the SOA are co-sponsors of an upcoming seminar on predictive modeling. Visit www.soa.org for more information.


We also have an article on "Temporal Issues," discussing how companies can use systems to manage and report on data, especially on how it changes over time. This article is about software provided by "Insight Decision Solutions," a company co-founded by Kevin Pledge (the current president of the Technology Section).

As promised, we also have a book review by Mary Campbell on the topic of spreadsheet checks and controls. Please consider submitting a book review if you have read anything recently that would be relevant to fellow technology section members!

We have an article from the Gartner group highlighting some of the insurance related research they have done. If you are involved in any of these areas, please provide some feedback on how we can cover these topics in more detail. Could you share your experiences (good or bad) or give any advice?

The council has been working hard to develop materials to help evaluate software and technology platforms. The Technology section contracted with Matthew Josefowicz, of Novarica, to develop and conduct a market survey of illustration software vendors. The article in the newsletter summarizes the findings, but the full report can be purchased from Novarica. There is a significant discount provided for Technology section members, so be sure to verify you are paying the member price for the report. The council is hoping we will be able to provide more detail and materials to help evaluate all types of actuarial software, and this report is a great first step.

I'd also like to repeat my request from the last newsletter: if you are looking for Pricing, Valuation, Cash Flow Testing, or other actuarial software, **please e-mail the editor!** We want to be able to provide a resource to help with the selection process, such as features charts, user reviews, and other detailed information. However, that requires feedback and information from you!

I am excited to report that I am receiving feedback from readers, and it is much appreciated!! Please forward your suggestions, remarks on programs or tools you've found useful, and other questions to howard@callif.org, or one of the section council members. Thanks! 

Howard Callif



Howard Callif is a senior system architect at COSS in the Illustrations unit. He can be reached at howard@callif.org.