

## An Update on the Infocouncil Web Interface

Infocouncil is currently employing a development team to build a web interface for report writing, editing and authorisation. The web interface will also include actions and actions tracking.

Word processing in a browser requires us to use Word Online. Doing so compromises much of the functionality we currently offer existing clients using MS Word on the desktop. At present, Word Online cannot meet the complex document formats required by many councils.

In order to maintain the power and functionality of our existing product, we are developing a hybrid solution whereby report writing, report authorisation and action management will be offered in the browser by means of Word Online. These same functions may also be undertaken using Word on the desktop.

Initially the web interface will provide the basic tools for report writing, editing and authorisation. They will not utilise our template scripting. Infocouncil reports created and edited in the browser will require a second step to apply the relevant scripts. This scripting will take place automatically when the document is opened on the desktop (most likely when the report is opened as part of the agenda compilation process).

Infocouncil scripts perform a variety of tasks. They are triggered by certain events, e.g. adding attachments to a report, making a report confidential, compiling an agenda or executing the Minutes Tools (e.g. Resolve, Insert Amendment, Insert Division, Insert New Item).

Scripts are primarily concerned with document content, formatting and processing. They are the reason we can provide a robust, genuinely automated agenda management function in MS Word. No competitor can match this functionality or flexibility.

The development of our web interface, utilising Word Online is now well underway. **The first version of the interface is due to be included in a major software release in the second half of 2019.**

Following the first release of the browser interface we will gradually migrate all Infocouncil functionality to the browser, including agenda and minutes compilation.

In the mean-time it will be possible for report authors to work entirely in the browser, while administrators will utilise the desktop (with Infocouncil script) to compile agendas and minutes.

## Azure IaaS

The coming web interface may be combined with an Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS) model. We are currently running a test environment with the Infocouncil SQL database migrated to Azure Cloud. The database is accessed by the desktop, by the browser, or through hosted virtual desktop.

With this Azure infrastructure, it will be possible to deliver a full cloud solution to councils that do not wish to persist with Microsoft on the desktop or host a database on premise.

*January 2019*