Astera Addresses Green Bar Report Extraction Challenge as Banking Industry Commits to Mainframe Future

July 30, 2026

Thousand Oaks, California - July 30, 2026 -
Astera is positioning its ReportMiner solution to address a growing operational challenge facing banks that have committed to maintaining mainframe systems for the long term, as the 2025 BMC Mainframe Survey reveals 97 percent of respondents now view mainframes as a permanent platform fixture, the highest percentage in the survey's 20-year history.

The commitment to mainframe technology creates a daily operational burden for banking teams who must extract data from green bar reports and other fixed-width printouts that continue arriving each morning in decades-old formats. These reports, characterized by alternating green and white bands on continuous-feed paper, contain critical financial data that must reach modern SQL databases, reconciliation engines, business intelligence dashboards, and regulatory submission systems. According the company, Astera ReportMiner allows banks to automate data extraction rather than relying on analysts to spend each morning highlighting documents and manually entering information into spreadsheets.

Banking operations departments face particular challenges with six report types that dominate their daily extraction workload. Green bar end-of-day balancing reports, also known as cold reports, present column density issues with 15 to 30 fields compressed into single 132-character lines where one-character misalignment can corrupt an entire row of data. Daily settlement reports from Fedwire, CHIPS, and ACH systems feature multi-section layouts with different column structures, while ACH files demand exact 94-character records at high volumes with zero error tolerance.

General ledger extracts from AS/400 systems can exceed 1,000 pages at the full 200-character width, requiring preservation of complex entity-to-department-to-account hierarchies. Nostro and vostro reconciliation reports add multi-currency complexity with different layouts for each correspondent bank. Regulatory filing extracts for CCAR, DFAST, FR Y-9C, and Call Reports demand complete auditability, requiring every submitted number to trace back to specific field and character positions in source reports. SWIFT MT940 and MT950 message summaries compound the challenge by carrying multiple record types per line identified solely by position.

"The structure of green bar reports is positional rather than semantic, meaning there are no labels or delimiters for AI models to interpret," said a representative of Astera. "When dealing with thousands of pages and banking's zero-error, fully auditable requirements, traditional LLM extraction becomes both impractical and unsafe. Our template-based approach operates on exact character positions, eliminating probability distributions and hallucination risks that plague other extraction methods."

Astera ReportMiner employs template-based data extraction for financial services that operates on precise character positions, defined once and applied consistently across every processing run. The solution's Auto-Generate Layout feature builds templates in seconds, maps each section independently, preserves parent-child hierarchies, and runs unattended once validation rules are established, allowing operations teams to focus only on exceptions rather than routine processing.

The approach addresses the fundamental challenge that while green bar reports are highly structured, their positional format lacks the semantic markers that modern extraction tools typically require. By focusing on exact character positioning rather than pattern recognition or language models, the solution maintains the accuracy and auditability that banking operations demand.

Astera provides AI-powered data platforms designed to consolidate extraction, integration, preparation, and visualization workflows into single platforms. The company serves financial institutions seeking to modernize data operations while maintaining compatibility with existing mainframe infrastructure.

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Astera

Astera is an AI-powered data management company offering no-code, drag-and-drop solutions for data integration, extraction, warehousing, and API management, all in a single unified platform.

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