Challenges

- **Manual, spreadsheet-based planning and budgeting tools.** Such tools are disconnected from primary financial reporting systems and are insufficient for managing complex consolidations.
- **Inadequate processes.** Undocumented or poorly documented manual processes are cumbersome, time-consuming and error-prone.
- **Siloed, geographically dispersed data sources and systems.** Such systems do not communicate in consistent formats and may operate in batch rather than real-time mode.
- **Competing perspectives.** Multiple forecast processes and perspectives from operations, sales, marketing, financial long-range plans and external marketing data are difficult to consolidate and integrate.
- **Inadequate reporting.** Management reporting capabilities are often one-dimensional, severely constrained and preclude multiple views of the organization.

SAS® Financial Management

Meeting today's demands for timeliness, accuracy and adaptability

Overview

Timely, accurate financial information is not only essential to the health and survival of any corporate, nonprofit or public sector organization, but failure to comply with regulatory and shareholder reporting requirements in a timely way that is supported by auditable data could result in financial penalties or even jail time. There is also considerable reputational risk for any organization that cannot meet its basic financial reporting obligations.

Internally, strategic and tactical resources, processes, objectives, initiatives, programs and projects are translated into financial terms for control and analysis. Business decisions – e.g, investments; R&D and marketing spending; design of manufacturing, quality and service processes; hiring of staff – are all based on timely, accurate information from your financial system. Continual improvements and best practice implementations require capabilities such as scenario modeling, operational planning, rolling forecasts and the reporting of key performance indicators (KPIs). Inflexible ERP general ledgers, nonintegrated

The Solution

SAS Financial Management incorporates the four fundamental functions of an enterprise level financial system into one solution:

- Consolidation and statutory reporting.
- Management reporting and analysis.
- Budgeting.
- Planning and forecasting.

SAS Financial Management includes:

- On-demand consolidation capability, which allows users to see the results of data changes instantaneously.
- Workflow management capabilities, which enable finance to manage closing, planning and reporting cycles centrally and securely.
- Process management, which provides the ability to create, manage and streamline business processes and associated tasks.
- Role-based, user-customized reporting and alerts that are communicated throughout the organization using a Web information distribution system.

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point solution packages or nonsecure and unwieldy spreadsheets cannot begin to meet these objectives.

SAS® Financial Management is a sophisticated, robust solution that avoids the problems created by multiple ERP general ledgers and spreadsheets, and meets the demands for timeliness, accuracy and adaptability.

Benefits

Ensure Data Integrity

SAS Financial Management ensures financial integrity and transparency for managing your financial and operational data. The solution includes:

- A single, consistent data repository for all financial and operational data supported by automated ETL processes that validate incoming data from disparate systems.
- Time-stamped and identified audit trails for all actual or planning data and associated notes and comments.
- Centrally managed security for all users, roles and data sources.

Produce Reports in Less Time

SAS Financial Management can significantly reduce the time required to produce and publish financial reports. The solution provides:

- On-demand consolidation – including currency conversion, intercompany eliminations, ownership adjustments and allocations – all occurring in real time as ETL jobs are executed and journal entries processed.
- Automated subsidiary and subsystem/ subledger submissions.
- Web application or email delivery of management reporting packages, customized to the user's needs and need to know.

Streamline Planning and Forecasting Processes

SAS Financial Management simplifies the management of multiple planning and budgeting scenarios, allowing for more frequent forecasts and broader, well-documented support of the planning and forecasting processes. The solution provides:

- Workflow control through a Web application that codifies approvals and routing, and alerts the users and system manager to events and deadlines.
- Workflow control of every phase of the close, reporting, input, review and approval process for each separate planning, budgeting and forecasting activity, period or scenario.
- Flexible validation rules ensure budget and planning data meet defined business requirements and enable documentation of outlier data.
- Offline check-in and check-out of Excel-based budget and forecast data input worksheets.

Align the Solution With Your Organization's Needs

SAS Financial Management provides a robust, multidimensional environment that supports analysis and financial intelligence in alignment with your organizational structure and your performance metrics. With SAS, you get:

- Multidimensional reporting hierarchies combined with versatile slice-and-dice reporting that allows the system or user to report and analyze based on any organizational (e.g., legal, tax, country, region, cost center, division, line of business, sales or service territory) and management combination (e.g., product, product group, income source, channel, customer).
- Operational and statistical accounts that can capture nonfinancial data in support of KPI metrics, such as head count, product counts, customer satisfaction scores and quality ratings.

Capabilities

Dynamic Consolidation With Multiple Dimensions and Hierarchies

SAS Financial Management allows the user to operate in a dynamic environment, seeing the result of data changes instantaneously, so it is no longer necessary to run a consolidation in batch mode to see the result of data or rule changes. Further, the solution classifies and tracks data when it enters from source data systems or data entry forms. This classification provides complete transparency between source data and the final consolidated results, or between plans and budgets published for managers, auditors, regulatory authorities and stakeholders.

Versioning

The hierarchies of a results model can always use the most recent version of the hierarchies, or it can use the version from a specific date and time. With this capability, users can restate results to match prior organizational structures or prior accounting and business rules, or simulate future changes due to reorganization or acquisitions.

Workflow Management

Workflow control and enterprise collaboration ease communication and speed planning cycles. Form set templates are designed centrally for consistency across the enterprise, then locked so that users cannot alter the layout, content or calculations. Form sets automatically pick up only the applicable account and organizational hierarchical members appropriate to their department or entity.

The finance administrator can centrally control who can create and edit a form set, identify the form content owners, approvers and reviewers, then publish the forms through the information portal. The process can be designed as a bottom-up rollup of budget or forecast data, or as a top-down allocation of budget and targets

from an enterprise level plan. Review can be either sequential or simultaneous. Alerts and notifications appropriate to each role are automatically generated as the various steps in the process are completed.

Web-Based Information Distribution

Using a Web application and Microsoft Excel as its primary reporting interfaces, SAS Financial Management offers efficient report distribution to a large and diverse user community. Web access to relevant financial and operational data can be personalized for each user or user group, and Web-based workflow control eases management of reporting and data entry forms. Users can check out data entry forms for completion offline, then check them back in under complete security and audit control. Using metric-based performance management techniques, the system can also alert users to changes in KPIs via email, portal alerts or both.

Budgeting, Modeling and Embedded Calculations

SAS Financial Management provides the flexibility needed to create more confident plans and more accurate budgets. The solution supports rolling forecasts, top-down and bottom-up budgeting, and budget-cycle seeding. Statistical accounts and embedded calculations provide for driver-based budgeting, even in multiple currencies. SAS forecasting technology produces the most accurate and flexible forecasts available, and the solution's on-demand consolidations enhance the ability to model what-if scenarios.

Process Management

SAS Financial Management includes a framework for building and managing business processes. You can quickly monitor the status of a process or task, communicate with owners and interested parties, identify and resolve bottlenecks, and automate and schedule key actions. This allows you to streamline your processes, reduce cycle time and use resources efficiently.

Shared Technology Platform and Solutions Integration

SAS software's open platform provides common metadata, integrated reporting, advanced analytics and cross-platform data management, delivering tremendous value to your entire organization. Multiplatform and mixed platform support enables you to fully exploit your existing IT resources.

The SAS Business Analytics Framework also delivers all the necessary supporting technology to enhance the process of accessing, calculating and deploying financial information. SAS offers the most complete suite of performance management solutions available. You can develop corporate strategy and improve the performance of finance, sales and marketing, IT, HR and more. All these SAS solutions are built on the same platform and can share data seamlessly.

The SAS® Difference

- **On-demand consolidation.** Consolidates multidimensional financial and nonfinancial information on demand while performing all relevant financial calculations, so you can apply more energy toward analyzing financial information vs. creating it.

- **A single solution for financial management.** Includes all functionality for consolidations, reporting, budgeting and planning in one solution – not multiple, individual products that require complex system and data integration, separate system, user and security management and expensive licensing schemes.

- **Integrated predictive analytics.** Budgets and plans created in the solution can be embedded with predictive intelligence produced by SAS Analytics to provide more accurate forecasts of future operating results. The forecasts can facilitate driver-based budgets, or can be used as comparative benchmarks.

- **Not source data/ERP dependent.** The solution includes the tools and processes to extract, transform and validate data from virtually all data sources – ERP systems, RDBMS or spreadsheets – on a multitude of different platforms.

About SAS

SAS is the leader in business analytics software and services, and the largest independent vendor in the business intelligence market. Through innovative solutions, SAS helps customers at more than 65,000 sites improve performance and deliver value by making better decisions faster. Since 1976 SAS has been giving customers around the world THE POWER TO KNOW®.

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THE POWER TO KNOW®