

EFFICIENT BUSINESS PLANNING AND CONSOLIDATION

STREAMLINE PLANNING AND DELIVER A FASTER, MORE COMPLIANT CLOSE

CFOs and executive teams are under tremendous pressure to maximize profitability, reduce operational costs, minimize risk, and improve stakeholder confidence. To be effective, you need reliable, up-to-date financial and operational data for planning purposes as well as budgeting, forecasting, analysis, and statutory and management reporting. You need the ability to seamlessly integrate corporate and departmental planning, intelligently model cost scenarios, and perform sensitivity analysis to determine operational budgets based on strategic plans and assumptions. Finally, you need a way to ensure a fully documented audit trail and compliance with regulatory mandates such as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act for consolidating and reporting company information, both externally and internally.

But gaining a true picture of your organization's current health – let alone future performance – can be almost impossible to achieve. Critical operational and financial information is typically scattered across multiple applications and databases, trapped as unstructured data residing in employee e-mail attachments and spreadsheets. In many cases, financial data is difficult to audit or may be unreliable due to ineffective controls.

Business planning is often a chaotic, frustrating, and ineffective process. For example, budgeting can quickly deteriorate into “spreadsheet hell” as operations managers submit unrealistic

budgets, executives change figures without their knowledge, and version control problems cause confusion. Consolidations can be equally problematic when data is distributed across different departments, systems, and even countries. That's why leading companies are turning to enterprise performance management solutions like the SAP® BusinessObjects™ Planning and Consolidation application, version for the Microsoft platform.

Designed for Users, Built for Business

SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation gives you access to reliable corporate data and optimizes planning and consolidation processes. In addition, the software allows you to align operational plans with corporate goals, initiatives, and metrics defined using the SAP BusinessObjects Strategy Management application. You can be sure that you are executing to plan, understand any risk factors, and have the financial resources budgeted to support all initiatives.

SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation is unique in that it's designed for all business users. It gives everyone across your business personalized, role-based access to functionality that is:

- User focused
- Process centric
- Unified

To manage performance effectively, you need a unified planning and consolidation solution that is intuitive, adheres to standard processes. This streamlines the planning process and produces statutory and management reports that instill confidence and reduce business risk.



User Focused

SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation, version for the Microsoft platform, offers an unparalleled user experience. It is designed for intuitive use, as follows:

- **Native interface to familiar tools such as Microsoft Office applications** – Familiar Microsoft Office applications, as well as an intuitive, 100% thin-client Web interface, serve as native interfaces to the application. For example, this feature provides users with access to Microsoft Excel spreadsheets that are linked directly to “live” operational data; as data is updated in real time, so is the spreadsheet. Working with tools they know well, users need minimal training and are productive from day one.
- **Intelligent action panes** – These present users with relevant, context-sensitive selections based on where they are in an application and their security profile, enabling them to understand what to do, when, and why – with minimal training.
- **Self-service reporting** – Any user can access information and create reports on the fly without having to make requests to IT. Simple drag-and-drop interfaces enable your users to create reports intuitively. You can create custom reports or adapt the packaged reporting templates that come with the software to meet your own corporate standards.

Process Centric

One of the challenges facing finance departments is ensuring that staff and line-of-business managers follow consistent processes across the enterprise – for example, the annual or quarterly

budgeting process or closing the books. Without the right process support in place, even small deviations can throw off key figures.

Self-service business process flows guide users through each step in a process and ensure that the required steps for a given process are completed, such as closing the books. Business process flows are automatically tracked and audited. The software comes with prepackaged process flows for common processes, based on best practices, that business users can own and modify without help from IT.

Unified

SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation is a single application delivering planning, budgeting, forecasting, consolidation, and reporting functionalities, eliminating the need to use multiple applications that require manual integration. The result is saved time and money and a more consistent user experience. The centralized data repository contains up-to-date actuals from your operational systems in addition to plan data. This enables you to have instant access to a complete picture of how your business performed and how it is expected to perform – from the actual results posted last year to the plans and budgets for the coming year. Should you need to drill into the specifics – to compare specific marketing expenditure last year to the budget this year, for example – you can do that from one application. Activities such as budgeting and statutory reporting are transformed into efficient, collaborative processes that foster confidence. With a greater understanding of company performance, better deci-

sions can be made that contribute to overall future business results.

Business Planning

With SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation, version for the Microsoft platform, you can perform activities such as planning, budgeting, forecasting, and reporting with familiar and intuitive tools.

Planning and Budgeting

You can perform bottom-up and top-down financial and operational planning with a single application and user interface. You can collaborate on plans, manage stakeholder interactions, track versions and changes, engage managers in the planning process, and ensure clear ownership and accountability. Planning processes are supported by workflows and automation that ensure that the right people participate at the right time. And you can incorporate unstructured data such as Microsoft Office documents and e-mail to help tell the story behind plans.

The application also supports a streamlined process for business-relevant budgets that everyone agrees on and that align with strategic plans. A Web-based interface allows widely distributed stakeholders to work together on spreadsheets, both online and offline. And because you start with a single, consistent version of operational and financial data – both real time and historical – you can be confident in the integrity and accuracy of your budgets.

Forecasting

Business process flows are tightly linked to the data and processes supporting planning and budgeting to simplify the forecasting process. What-if modeling and scenario-planning functions enable assessment of budgeting reasonability in real time.

Reporting and Analysis

With SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation, you also gain a solution for financial and operational reporting and analysis. You can perform production and management reporting (including exception reports), financial and operational analysis, and multidimensional analysis. The software also provides a “park-and-go” feature that captures the data you are currently working with so you can work remotely offline when performing analysis.

Business Consolidation

SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation, version for the Microsoft platform, helps you meet your legal and management consolidation and reporting requirements for a fast close process. Because a centralized data repository contains up-to-date actuals from your operational systems, you always have instant access to harmonized charts of accounts, shaving weeks off your consolidation process and simultaneously supporting compliance with regulatory mandates, such as the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. Specifically, you gain a single, centralized view of performance data and can instantly generate clear, transparent financial statements and reports relating to, for example, profit and loss, cash flows,

and balance sheets. In addition, the software helps you compare budget-to-actuals data, automate the intercompany elimination process, gain transparency into corporate transactions at all levels, manage any number of currencies, and perform conversions, allocations, and eliminations. Automated reports support all reporting standards, including GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). Finally, the software improves compliance with regulatory and financial standards and generates a fully documented audit trail.

SAP BusinessObjects Enterprise Performance Management Solutions

SAP BusinessObjects Planning and Consolidation, version for the Microsoft platform, is part of the SAP BusinessObjects enterprise performance management solutions – a comprehensive set of solutions that help your company capitalize on the value of your existing data assets. With these solutions, your organization becomes more agile, gaining organizational alignment, visibility, and confidence that give you optimal control and competitive advantage. These solutions can integrate with SAP Business Suite applications; SAP BusinessObjects governance, risk, and compliance solutions; SAP BusinessObjects business intelligence solutions; and SAP BusinessObjects information management solutions. As a result you can maximize business profitability, manage risk and compliance, and optimize corporate systems, people, and processes.

Find Out More

For more information about SAP BusinessObjects enterprise performance management solutions, please visit www.sap.com/sapbusinessobjects/epm.

Summary

With the SAP® BusinessObjects™ Planning and Consolidation application, version for the Microsoft platform, you can streamline planning, forecasting, and budgeting unified with financial consolidation and statutory and management reporting for the enterprise.

Business Challenges

- Reduce cycle time for planning and budgeting processes and improve user productivity
- Model potential business strategies and decide on a course of action that maximizes value creation
- Streamline the statutory consolidation process
- Keep compliance and auditing costs down

Key Features

- **Business planning and budgeting** – Streamline and automate by using a collaborative top-down and bottom-up approach
- **Forecasting** – Produce more accurate plans and budgets, create rolling forecasts, and incorporate real-time actuals with historical data analysis
- **Reporting and analysis** – Gain rapid access to and produce management and production reports in addition to performing financial, operational, and multidimensional analysis
- **Consolidation** – Centralize all performance-related data, shave weeks off consolidation processes, and improve compliance

Business Benefits

- **Reduce cycle time in creating and approving budgets** by enabling finance and line-of-business managers to collaborate for faster development and alignment of accurate budgets
- **Empower finance** to own and modify common business processes without IT assistance
- **Increase user productivity with minimal training** thanks to native access to familiar tools such as Microsoft Office
- **Minimize business and compliance risk** by ensuring fully transparent finances and reporting with a fast close and fully documented audit trail from a single data repository

For More Information

Call your SAP representative or visit us online at www.sap.com/sapbusinessobjects/epm.

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