SAP Solution Brief
SAP Solutions for Enterprise Performance Management

SAP Business Planning and Consolidation

Streamlined Planning and a Faster, More Compliant Close

Quick Facts

Summary

The SAP® Business Planning and Consolidation application accelerates planning and consolidated financial reporting processes. It supports planning, budgeting, and forecasting capabilities with management and legal consolidation functionality in a single application. You can quickly adjust plans and forecasts, shorten budget cycle time, close the books more quickly, help ensure compliance with regulatory and financial standards, and get the information you need to make more confident decisions.

Business Challenges

- Reduce planning and budgeting cycles
- Improve forecast accuracy
- Accelerate and automate the financial close
- Lower compliance and auditing costs

Key Features

- **Intuitive interfaces** – Leverage Microsoft Excel, Word, and PowerPoint and Web-based interfaces
- **Business process flows** – Enable consistency and visibility
- **Top-down and bottom-up budgeting** – Align budgets with targets
- **Automated consolidation capabilities** – Speed the financial close
- **Management and statutory consolidations** – View financial data based on reporting requirements
- **Compliance and auditing** – Comply with regulations and standards such as GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards
- **What-if analysis and scenario planning** – Model different scenarios to assess potential outcomes
- **Variance reporting** – Compare plans versus actual results and determine causes of variances

Business Benefits

- **Reduced planning and consolidation cycle times** thanks to more reliable, timely financial data
- **More accurate plans, budgets, and forecasts** due to collaboration and accountability
- **Increased stakeholder confidence** with a fast and accurate financial close
- **Minimized compliance risk** with accurate reporting that meets statutory requirements
- **Improved data quality** through a central data repository

For More Information

For more information, visit www.sap.com/epm.

To keep pace with the speed of business, companies must adapt to dynamic economic conditions. Traditional planning, budgeting, and financial closing processes and tools are not up to the task, producing results that are often inaccurate and outdated. With the SAP® Business Planning and Consolidation application, you can streamline planning processes and produce statutory and management reports that instill confidence and reduce risk.

DESIGNED FOR USERS, BUILT FOR BUSINESS

For more accurate plans and forecasts and shorter budget and close cycles, organizations need a solution that adheres to standard processes while offering business users intuitive, flexible functionality.

SAP Business Planning and Consolidation facilitates planning and financial close processes, helps ensure data is reliable and up-to-date, and enables people to collaborate more easily via familiar, intuitive interfaces.

With this software, you can quickly update and adjust plans and forecasts. You can model key drivers of the business, test different what-if scenarios, and consolidate multiple views of financial information. Reporting and audit trail functionality facilitates compliance with regulatory mandates such as GAAP and International Financial Reporting Standards. To suit your organization's needs, the application is available in either a version for the Microsoft platform or a version for the SAP NetWeaver® technology platform.

The application helps you improve information visibility, so you can make better decisions that can reduce costs and risks and boost stakeholder confidence. You can align operational plans with corporate goals and budget resources with an application that is user-friendly, process centric, and unified.

Intuitive and User-Friendly

SAP Business Planning and Consolidation provides all business users with a uniform, familiar Web and Microsoft Excel environment, reducing the need for stand-alone spreadsheets.

Integration with Familiar Applications

SAP Business Planning and Consolidation includes an add-in for Microsoft Office that enables you to perform tasks related to enterprise performance management (EPM) within Microsoft Office software. Because the application is dynamically linked to your Microsoft documents, business users no longer have to manually update documents when data changes.

Simplified Web Interface

The Web 2.0 interface extends the application to people throughout the organization, facilitating collaboration. Drag-and-drop functionality enables report creation, and a centralized view of all reports facilitates searching and navigating content. Business users can share ideas, comment on reports, and add "unstructured data" such as e-mails or spreadsheets for a deeper understanding of business content.

EPM Pane

An EPM pane built into the application interface lets people know where they are in the application and displays available options, improving efficiency, reducing training, and eliminating the need to learn multiple interfaces. For example, if you are working on a report, you can quickly retrieve data, add comments, drill down, and publish.

Self-Service Reporting

Business users can access information and create reports with the Web or Microsoft interfaces without having to make requests to the IT department. Create custom reports or adapt included reporting templates to your specific needs.

Process Centric

The application supports processes such as closing the books and creating monthly or annual budgets and rolling forecasts, in addition to methodologies including driver-based budgeting and continuous planning. Business process flows guide people through each step of planning and consolidation activities, helping ensure consistency. Business process flows are automatically tracked and audited and are customizable to suit your needs.

A UNIFIED SOLUTION

SAP Business Planning and Consolidation is a single application that delivers planning, budgeting, forecasting, and consolidation functionality. By eliminating the need for multiple solutions that require manual integration, it saves time and money and delivers a more consistent user experience.

The application has a single data repository that can link to SAP and non-SAP systems of record – so it's always

up-to-date, and everyone can work from the same set of trusted data. Business users can access and incorporate structured transactional data and unstructured content from sources throughout the enterprise. Harmonized charts of accounts help ensure compliance with regulatory mandates. A fully documented audit trail reduces external audit costs.

PLANNING AND BUDGETING

SAP Business Planning and Consolidation enables top-down and bottom-up budgeting with a single user interface. You can collaborate on plans, manage stakeholder interactions, track versions and changes, and engage managers in the process to help ensure ownership and accountability.

Business process flows and automation help ensure timely participation from the right people, consensus on decisions, relevant budgets, and alignment with overall strategy. Data from sources such as Microsoft Office documents and e-mails provide context and help tell the story behind the plans. By unifying planning with budgeting, forecasting, and reporting, the application helps improve the consistency and relevance of your plans. The single data repository helps ensure budget integrity and accuracy.

Forecasting

Business users can build models and quickly update and adjust forecasts. What-if modeling and scenario-planning functions enable assessment of budgeting suitability in real time. With budgets linked to forecasting and reporting processes, you benefit from effective forecast seeding.

Reporting and Analysis

With this application, you can perform financial and management reporting including exception reports, financial and operational analysis, and multidimensional analysis. High-level reports can be produced that offer the ability to drill down to further detail. The application can be used in offline mode for working remotely. Variance analysis and reporting available in SAP Business Planning and Consolidation, version for the Microsoft platform, help business users find and understand the primary factors of variances and see key contributors to under- and overperformance.

The Web 2.0 interface and the Excel interface provide drag-and-drop functionality for easier, flexible report creation. Configure custom reports and input schedules to meet specific business needs. Produce multiple reports from different EPM sources in a single worksheet, and send data back to multiple systems. Using the add-in for Microsoft Office, data from multiple SAP solutions for EPM can be reported and analyzed through Microsoft Office documents for a real-time view of processes. Data consistency helps ensure report accuracy.

SAP Business Planning and Consolidation can be accessed by SAP BusinessObjects™ business intelligence solutions to provide highly interactive dashboards and extended reporting for use on the desktop or mobile devices.

Financial Consolidation

SAP Business Planning and Consolidation helps you meet legal and management consolidation and reporting requirements. Instant access to harmonized charts of accounts can shave weeks off consolidation processes and help ensure compliance.

You can generate clear, transparent financial statements and reports relating to profit and loss, cash flows, and balance sheets. Compare budget-to-actuals data for assets, liabilities, revenues, and expenses. Automate the intercompany elimination process. Gain transparency into corporate transactions. Manage multiple currencies with conversions, allocations, and eliminations. Perform daily consolidation tasks, and identify which entities to consolidate at what percentages. The application automatically calculates totals, checks syntax, controls data accuracy, and allows for the posting of multiple journal entries, saving time and reducing errors.

SAP Business Planning and Consolidation facilitates planning and financial close processes, helps ensure data is reliable and up-to-date, and enables people to collaborate more easily via familiar, intuitive interfaces.

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Data is tracked from source to disclosure so there is a full audit trail.

Peer-to-Peer Intercompany Reconciliation
SAP Business Planning and Consolidation allows for reconciliation and elimination at the account level. It includes the SAP Intercompany application, which enables real-time reconciliation at the invoice level. Business units can debate and reconcile balances directly with one another, eliminating extra work and delays and improving the speed and accuracy of the closing process.

SAP SOLUTIONS FOR EPM

SAP Business Planning and Consolidation can play a vital role in streamlining your planning, budgeting, forecasting, and financial closing processes. For a more comprehensive approach to EPM, from strategy management to financial information management and beyond, you can also deploy the application as part of the SAP solutions for EPM.

YOUR BUSINESS BENEFITS

With SAP Business Planning and Consolidation you can streamline the process of creating and approving plans, budgets, and forecasts and closing the books. Empower business users and reduce training with intuitive interfaces. Help ensure data quality with a central repository. Align plans with strategic goals through top-down and bottom-up budgeting. Enable accurate, fast closing with automated consolidation processes. Meet statutory and management requirements with reporting and audit trail functionality. And you can reduce business and compliance risk with fast, accurate management and statutory reporting.

FIND OUT MORE

To learn more about SAP Business Planning and Consolidation and other SAP solutions for EPM, contact your SAP representative or visit www.sap.com/epm.