

Planning and Budgeting



➔ Model your business realistically and budget for success with Infor PM Planning and Budgeting.

Do business better.

In today's fast-paced business environment, organizations must have the capacity to understand how changes can affect their ability to achieve high-level corporate goals. Organizations that have the ability to create and compare multiple "what if" scenarios, test assumptions, and model the business to meet targets and high-level objectives have a distinct competitive advantage.

At the same time, organizations need the flexibility to modify budgets as business conditions change. They also recognize the need for a system that can visibly and measurably link the budget to the organization's business plan.

Successful companies leverage technology to help them assess the potential impact of key events across the organization; simplify the creation and maintenance of relevant, dynamic budgets that support organizational goals; and improve overall performance management (PM).



Leverage experience.

Infor™ PM solutions have helped companies around the globe streamline and improve the effectiveness of their business processes for more than 30 years. Infor PM Planning and Budgeting—a core component of Infor PM 10—helps organizations like yours test various combinations of targets, forecasts, key business drivers, and organizational structures within minutes to create useful, realistic financial and operational plans. The software performs all the calculations, allowing you to instantly see how a change in one variable affects others.

You can use the planning function to set top-down targets, create driver-based plans, produce pro forma statements, and review predictive analytics, all in a collaborative environment. When you save a plan and its associated business assumptions to the central database, you can use this information to seed the budget and compare the plan against actual results as they become available.

Planning and Budgeting also allows you to transform budgeting into a collaborative and meaningful process that reflects the real-world needs of your organization. With this software, you can design any number of zero-based, historical-based, and rolling budgets and plans.

The solution's budgeting function offers an interactive web interface and a Microsoft® Excel® interface on top of a central database, letting you retain the familiar look and feel of spreadsheets while eliminating the drawbacks, and ensuring a single version of the truth. When a business change occurs, you can easily adjust the budget and save



Figure 1: Scenario planning in Infor PM Planning and Budgeting

it to the database, relying on the system to automatically update numbers and reports affected by the change.

Get business specific.

Infor PM Planning and Budgeting's planning application allows you to model your business quickly and test multiple scenarios easily, helping you prepare realistic financial and operational plans that will make it possible for your organization to achieve its goals.

The solution's budgeting application helps you manage, streamline, and improve the integrity of this critical business process, whether your organization does business locally or globally.

Benefit from experience. One method of planning is to entrust a small group of people to create plans for your organization. On the other hand, a "best practices" method permits many people from across the organization to collaborate, allowing your company to benefit from a variety of perspectives and a wealth of experience. Planning and Budgeting facilitates collaboration through web-based access to plans and data in your central data repository. Plus, you can use this information later for budgeting, forecasting, reporting, and analysis.

Test "what if" scenarios. Planning and Budgeting allows you to comprehensively model your business and perform real-time "what if" scenario planning (see Figure 1). The solution permits you to change a business assumption and then it automatically recalculates the entire model for you, freeing you to concentrate on the actual plan instead of the math. With this solution, you can build in calculations, allocations, phasing, market factors, seasonality, and more.

Because you work with a familiar Microsoft Excel interface and have information stored in a central, secure database, you retain productivity as well as achieve more control over the process and plan versions. You can even include relational and online analytical processing (OLAP) data in your models to achieve a more accurate view of the business.

Achieve financial goals. Using Planning and Budgeting, you can work backward from a key financial goal to the input numbers, percentages, and ratios required to achieve the goal. Simply type in your goal, select the contributing

business drivers to be investigated, and let the software perform the calculations and suggest adjustments. With this Infor solution, you can easily see how key performance drivers—such as price, volume, capacity, customer profitability, and other variables—impact your financial objectives.

Manage the process. Planning and Budgeting provides a number of capabilities to help you document the budgeting process, educate system users across the organization, monitor company-wide budget submissions and approvals from anywhere at any time, and enforce budget rules and timelines. The central communication portal, guided workflow capabilities, electronic budget submission and approval process, and automated exception alerts are just some of the tools that will help you gain control over this process (see Figure 2).

Streamline the tasks. Using the web or the application's familiar Excel interface, your approved system users can submit and retrieve data easily from anywhere at any time. They can even load data directly from source systems or data warehouses. Users submit budget figures directly to the solution's central database, where the numbers are automatically consolidated. This eliminates the need for time-consuming, error-prone processes such as manually collecting and rekeying data from potentially hundreds of contributors. While multiple budget passes can be saved, all system users work from the same version of the data for each pass, ensuring accuracy and eliminating version-control problems.

Improve the integrity. Planning and Budgeting provides a number of built-in capabilities to help ensure the accuracy of your organization-wide budget. For example, the solution allows you to indicate whether a number should be treated as financial or nonfinancial, translate multiple currencies, view multiple currency rate versions (actual, budget, and forecast), allocate portions of the budget to business units or departments, phase budgets over a specified time period, and create detailed salary and asset budgets. You also can modify the budget when business conditions change, relying on the solution to automatically and immediately duplicate the changes throughout the system.



Figure 2: Budget status overview in Infor PM Planning and Budgeting

See results now.

Infor PM Planning and Budgeting not only helps companies like yours improve the quality of plans and significantly reduce budgeting cycle time, it also allows you to access accurate data and reports on demand to support business analysis and decision making.

For even greater value, you can combine Planning and Budgeting with other Infor PM applications—such as Strategic Management, Forecasting, Financial Consolidation, Financial Reporting, Application Studio, and OLAP—for comprehensive performance management.

About Infor

Infor acquires and develops functionally rich software backed by thousands of domain experts and then makes it better through continuous innovation, faster implementation options, global enablement, and flexible buying options. In a few short years, Infor has become the third largest provider of business software. For additional information, visit www.infor.com.

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