

Still using spreadsheets for Long Range Planning and Analysis?

Making decisions with imperfect data is hard enough, you don't have to do it with one arm tied behind your back. Here are just a few reasons why spreadsheets are inefficient and ineffective.

Reason #1: It Takes a Village to Build a Realistic Budget Plan

Sure, the lucky few in your enterprise get to use your enterprise tools* for tracking approved budgets against actuals and for driver-based planning and forecasting. But planning /budgeting is a collaborative process, and various departments and business units have to use spreadsheets to build their budgets from the bottom up at a lower level of detail. Then, all their numbers have to be consolidated to a centralized function for approval, which takes many iterations of red-lines for negotiation or pencil-sharpening. This process involves lots of **other** people and time, sharing their disconnected spreadsheets, often with broken links and errors. ***InVizion replaces these disconnected spreadsheets, so everyone else can leverage the official data in your enterprise tools to save time and iterations of planning and what-if analysis.***

Reason #2: The Devil is in the Mechanics

The collaborative budgeting process is often a time-consuming ritual that involves too many versions of disconnected top-down and bottom up spreadsheets. Scenario comparisons are a real chore, and valuable what-if analysis and driver-based planning cannot be performed at the right level of summary. As a result, people spend 80% of their time worrying about the mechanics of the spreadsheet cells, formulas and pivot tables; and only 20% of their time on the analysis and insight. ***InVizion takes away the mechanical chores to change this 80/20 effort into a 20/20 effort, so your people can focus on more strategic work.***

Reason #3: The Financial Rear View Mirror is Insufficient for Driving Business

Looking at past actuals and variances from your Financial System is only one piece of the puzzle when managers make course-corrections on a monthly basis. Budgets are structured according to a financial chart of accounts, which further limits its use by Operations at every level of management. It takes detailed, physical and mental mappings, translations, formulas and links in the spreadsheets to match up the fully-loaded budgets by chart of accounts with the bottom-up, operational work. ***InVizion reduces mistakes and miscommunication in budget models, so detailed capital and operational plans from different business units and departments can be painlessly consolidated back to your enterprise tools.***

Reason #4: It's About Time for Horizontal and Vertical Traceability

Relationships and dependencies tend to get lost or forgotten when you use spreadsheets for budget planning. Budgeting assumptions and rationale are lost between spreadsheet versions, with every handoff. InVizion makes sure your projections and what-if scenarios consider these relationships and dependencies, ***vertically and horizontally***, and automatically highlights the differences. ***Impacts of changing budgets, rates, in-service dates, and forecasts are easily modeled in InVizion so you can choose the best scenario to maximize investments and allocations.***

Let InVizion increase the ROI of your enterprise planning systems*

About InVizion

InVizion is created for project- and asset-intensive organizations, to make it easier and faster to collaborate and defend your budget and roadmap decisions. InVizion complements and extends your enterprise budgeting, forecasting (FP&A) and project portfolio management (PPM) applications. Instead of wasting precious time configuring and checking formulas in spreadsheet cells and between worksheets, your planners in Finance and Operations can rapidly collaborate on budget models and forecasts with multiple dimensions, such as direct and fully loaded costs, benefits, performance, risks, objectives and funding constraints. With InVizion, everyone can rapidly respond to changing budgets, key drivers, deadlines and variances, to optimize budgets and resource allocations.

**** Our clients use InVizion with a variety of enterprise systems for program management and budget planning, including SAP, Hyperion and other Oracle software.***