



Collaborative Planning

Budgeting, Planning, Forecasting - Simplified.

Budgeting Made Simple.

Advanced's Collaborative Planning reduces budgeting cycles by 50 to 60 percent.

Client >

ChildFund International

Sector >

Non-Profit

Project >

ChildFund International (ChildFund), a global child protection organization, selected software from Advanced to automate its budgeting and forecasting, saving the organization up to six days every quarter.

Your business is growing, and so is the complexity of your budgeting process. With more departments, stakeholders and systems involved, you've outgrown the capabilities of spreadsheets. But is the headache of a hefty, complicated corporate performance management solution really the answer? At Advanced, we say no.

Our Collaborative Planning software simplifies the entire budget management process - from preparation and monitoring to forecasting and reporting - without the headache and cost of large traditional solutions. Our solution automatically extracts data from your finance, operational and industry applications without the need for manual data collection and re-entry.

Collaborative Planning provides real-time, end-to-end visibility of the planning, budgeting and forecasting cycle. Because it has a familiar feel to spreadsheet tools, users are instantly comfortable. Tasks like what-if scenarios, reporting and approvals are streamlined and simple. Users are automatically notified when spending goes off-track or targets are in danger of being exceeded. Finally, businesses are able to financially operate off of a single source of truth - helping you accelerate your growth path and minimize risk.

Is it time to upgrade your budgeting process?

- > Are multiple departments and stakeholders involved?
- > Do you manually extract data from different finance, operational and industry applications?
- > Is version control an issue with your current budgeting solution?
- > Do you have visibility into off-track spending before a problem arises?
- > Are you able to easily perform what-if scenarios to expedite planning?
- > Do you need a multi-year outlook on spending?
- > Is the budget approval and validation process burdensome?

- > Are you concerned about transitioning to a costly and complex budgeting solution?

From budgeting headaches to full steam ahead.

Traditionally, budgeting has been a manual, inefficient process. Capturing data from different business systems can take weeks. The building and partitioning of spreadsheets and formulas create ample opportunity for errors. And, consolidating, reviewing and editing information among different budget owners can be painful. It's no wonder the typical budgeting cycle lasts three to six months.

Collaborative Planning gives you the power to change this - to replace the headaches of budgeting with simplified and automated workflows that expedite the budgeting cycle, eliminate errors and give you the financial visibility you need to grow your business.

With Collaborative Planning, achieving a consolidated budget is painless. The solution readily integrates with and automatically extracts data from the organization's existing financial management and operational systems. It provides a single point through which anyone involved in the financial planning cycle can see the latest status of budgets, and the actual performance compared to targets. If figures need to be updated, or 'what-if' scenarios tested, the proposed impact is automatically extrapolated and displayed across related plans, budgets and forecasts.

As for budget approvals and alerts, you can say goodbye to version control nightmares and manual monitoring. Collaborative Planning's intuitive reporting uses traffic light color-coding to identify off-track spending. Accountants, Finance Managers and budget owners are automatically alerted to potential problems early on so they can take action.

Next-level budget management software for the growing enterprise

With Collaborative Planning budget management software from Advanced, you can easily perform a full range of budgeting, planning, forecasting and reporting activities.

Budget Creation

- > Devolved budgeting
- > Incorporate system calculations
- > Import external system data
- > Revenue, capital, expenses

Scenario Planning

- > Multi-year outlooks
- > What-if scenario analysis
- > Multiple versions
- > Automatic updates

Monitoring / Forecasting

- > Traffic light forecasts
- > Automatically calculate results
- > Provision for local adjustments
- > Reconciliations

Financial Reporting

- > Online dashboards
- > Drill down to source systems
- > Self-Service and automatic report scheduling
- > Statutory reports

Features and Benefits

Streamline and automate the full budgeting process

- > Single web-based system for all users at all levels
- > Real-time budget overview
- > Intuitive, easy-to-use interface
- > Support for “bottom up” and “top down” adjustments
- > Integrates with all financial, operational and industry applications

- > Dynamic links to operational data
- > Scenario modeling
- > Multi-dimensional business modeling
- > Supports workforce, capital and project-based planning

Improve Reliability

- > Rolling forecast abilities
- > Flexible reporting and distribution
- > Dedicated support for budget transfers
- > Support for central allocations and recharges
- > Automatic performance alerts for greater accountability
- > Single version of truth

Increase Productivity and Collaboration

- > Familiar spreadsheet feel for quick adoption
- > Interface with non-financial data from any operational system
- > Simplified, automated approval and editing workflows
- > Fast, powerful reporting
- > Enable more time for finance and accounting to monitor performance and influence budget holders

Getting Started

Leave the Spreadsheets Behind

Advanced makes it simple and fast to transition to our Collaborative Planning solution. While implementation for traditional enterprise-ready budgeting solutions can be time extensive, complex and costly, Collaborative Planning customers are up and running in a fraction of the time in comparison and find the implementation process more condensed, intuitive and very cost-effective. Our solution easily integrates with other business systems so you can fully realize the benefits of budgeting collaboration and automation – instantly.

Deployment Options

How your solution is deployed is up to you. It can be delivered as a managed service, hosted in the cloud, or as a SaaS option.

“We chose Collaborative Planning because there was a big push from staff to have a more effective system. As a large, complex non-profit organization, we also needed a cost-effective system with the capacity to work on a global level. We are already feeling the benefit of the local currency translation at headquarters and will potentially save up to 120 hours on each quarterly budget process. Once we implement the solution at our other offices, these savings will multiply, and the impact will be extraordinary.”

Laura Meloy >
Controller >
ChildFund International

About Advanced

Through our enterprise and market focused solutions we positively impact millions of peoples' lives through continually investing in our people, partnerships and own technologies to stay focused on our markets', customers' and their stakeholders' needs.

We enable our customers to drive efficiencies, savings and growth opportunities through focused, right-first-time software solutions that evolve with the changing needs of their business and the markets they operate in.

True partnership is *the* defining thing that makes us different from the competition.

We pride ourselves on delivering *focused* software solutions for organizations ranging from SMB's to the large enterprise that simplify complex business challenges and deliver immediate value.

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