

Self-service in the cloud

Finance wants numbers now.
Where to find them?



A growing pharmaceutical company with operations in several countries wanted to make it easier for business leaders to access financial data without having to ask analysts to retrieve reports. The idea wasn't to do an end-run around anyone, but to empower Finance to get data to the business more quickly. Business leaders needed to be able to evaluate financial data fast—not just to enable better planning and forecasting, but also to make change happen. When Finance began looking at analytics tools that would improve forecast performance, they realized they needed help to find and implement a solution.



What happened next

Working with Deloitte, Finance leaders decided they needed a performance-based dashboard that lived in the cloud. After that initial determination was made, they turned their attention to the firm's corporate budgeting model. That led to a high-level roadmap to implement the dashboard design, as well as contingency plans for near-term improvements and fixes. The company chose a cloud provider that specialized in software solutions to support the Finance function, as well as analytics. One specific goal was to democratize analytics, enabling employees across the organization to gain accurate insights more quickly.

The toolkit

This company chose to start the dashboarding process in a single country, with a group that could learn fast. It built a multi-faceted, multitalented team with the goal of helping business units in other nations do the same. Essential to the process was a flexible cloud solution that allowed easy access to analytics and reporting capabilities. The idea was to allow any user to gain quick access to data without a ton of training—and it worked.

Looking ahead

The company has plans to roll out this Finance dashboard over the next two years to other business units. Employees are currently being trained to enhance the platform themselves, so that when the need arises, the firm can create its own solution.

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