

Product Profile: Infor10 Financials Business (SunSystems) Analytics – An Overview



Infor10 Financials Business (SunSystems) Analytics encompasses reporting and analytical solutions that deliver sophisticated business intelligence across the enterprise, allowing finance to move from reactive financial reporting to proactive performance management.

SUNSYSTEMS

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Extending Financial Management

“In our business, we need all the analysis we can get. SunSystems gives us that and more.”

Misys International Financial Systems

The role of the finance department is changing, rapidly. Every organisation requires a consistent and reliable source of financial and management information that delivers insight into performance across all areas of the business.

Corporate governance and the increasing demand for information transparency mean that any information delivered should be timely, consistent and accurate, whether provided for internal or external stakeholders.

Furthermore, the pace of doing business has accelerated. Companies must identify, and respond to, changes in their operational environment faster than their competitors. Performance reporting processes have to be adapted to keep up. From the moment a business event occurs until it is reported in the consolidated financial statements, real time access to the details of the transaction should be available to authorised users.

To meet these business imperatives, finance executives must move quickly towards becoming a “value-added finance” function. Typically, most finance systems have focused on transaction processing and monthly financial reporting. However today’s business environment demands that an ever-widening range of information must be analysed, understood and communicated across the enterprise.

Today’s finance organisations need a new generation of sophisticated analytics and performance management applications to achieve this. Reporting systems must now combine financial and non-financial data to monitor enterprise performance, not just financial metrics. Information must be provided on demand whenever and wherever executives need it. In addition, finance must now predict what is likely to happen, not just report on what has happened in the past.

SunSystems provides extended financial management - comprising core financial ledgers integrated with powerful reporting, analysis and performance management solutions to enable finance to become a truly value-added business function.

This brochure focuses on SunSystems Analytics – reporting and analytical solutions that deliver sophisticated business intelligence across the enterprise, allowing finance to move from reactive financial reporting to proactive performance management.

Proactive performance management

“SunSystems could offer us exactly what we needed – cost effectively and in a timely manner. In addition to its core financials capability, it offers reporting capabilities and the ability to integrate and report across our other line of business applications. We can now

Today's business environment demands that an ever-widening range of information must be analysed, understood and communicated across the enterprise

consolidate data into a single view, which makes the lives of our finance and departmental management much easier."

The NTP Ltd

In order to deliver proactive performance management, a combination of business intelligence (BI) tools is required:

- ▶ Reporting tools to tell you where you are
- ▶ Query tools to tell you how you got there
- ▶ Analytic applications to help you decide where you are going and how you are going to get there

SunSystems Analytics provide a complete suite of business intelligence tools and analytic applications that enable finance and business users to make the most effective use of data from SunSystems and other corporate applications, for monitoring, analyzing and planning business operations. SunSystems Analytics allow you to report on, inquire into, monitor, plan and control all your business activities.

The breadth of functionality includes:

- ▶ Financial and operational reporting
- ▶ Monitoring and alerting
- ▶ Consolidation
- ▶ Budgeting and planning
- ▶ Forecasting

Designed to support the extended enterprise, SunSystems Analytics enable you to easily share information with your employees, customers and suppliers on a secure basis. The solutions facilitate a collaborative information delivery strategy and culture, ensuring that the right information is delivered to the right people at the right time and in the right format. SunSystems Analytics are also flexible and extensible and can provide a solution that meets your specific performance management requirements.

Business data

SunSystems Analytics can be used with data drawn from a variety of sources across the enterprise – SunSystems Financials and Business Management modules, other operational systems, third party applications and data warehouses. SunSystems Analytics can logically map to these sources to transform all of your business and financial data into consistent, reliable information that is optimised for reporting and analysis.

The applications

Within the SunSystems Analytics suite, a number of applications are available for inquiries and reporting, monitoring, planning and controlling business activities. These include:

- ▶ SunSystems Report Server - a server-based reporting capability for generating, managing and securely delivering content to web browser users
- ▶ SunSystems Vision - for ad-hoc query, analysis and reporting across a range of data sources, providing management information at your fingertips

Reporting systems must now combine financial and non-financial data to monitor enterprise performance, not just financial metrics

- ▶ SunSystems Analytic Applications - to extend your financial management to consolidation, planning, budgeting and forecasting across multiple systems
- ▶ SunSystems Custom BI –for rapidly delivering unique solutions designed for specific business intelligence requirements

Delivery and output options

Information delivered via SunSystems Analytics can be accessed in a range of formats to suit individual and business needs. For example, users can choose to receive information as printed output, by email or spreadsheet, via a portal or web browser, as part of a customised desktop or dashboard, or as an alert to a mobile phone.

SunSystems Report Server

"In addition to having a more consistent reporting format, the advanced design tools available within SunSystems Report Server have many strengths. They enabled us to produce reports that provide the depth of information required for different business users, as well as giving us the ability to present the information in easy-to-read and interpret formats."

Numerica Group plc

SunSystems Report Server is primarily focused on operational reporting and monitoring, allowing you to deliver personalised, interactive reports to employees, customers, suppliers and partners anywhere in the world. Its web-based delivery enables SunSystems information to be easily embedded within intranets or connected to the extended enterprise.

Incorporating a pre-defined template for fast implementation, SunSystems Report Server enables you to analyse and report on corporate-wide key performance indicators (KPIs) so that you can quickly and easily identify trends in the business. This supports effective decision-making, based on a true understanding of all business operations, and provides you with the information necessary to perform management reporting on SunSystems.

SunSystems Report Server provides users with the exact components needed to quickly access information. There is no need to learn and use a complex, cumbersome tool packed with functionality if all that is required is to view key reports and then perhaps ask a few quick additional questions of SunSystems.

Connecting via the web provides quick access to the same consistent information used by others in the organisation. This means that no matter where you are, you're in touch with the data you need to make sound business decisions.

SunSystems Report Server allows you to:

- ▶ Deliver information beyond the finance organization in an efficient and cost effective way, with no need for specialised user training
- ▶ Handle the key tasks of information delivery: security, caching, scheduling, distribution, archiving, and web publishing
- ▶ Integrate SunSystems reports into your website content and provide personalised views to different users

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- ▶ Carry the load of executing reports and producing documents centrally, freeing up the user's PC for other tasks

SunSystems Vision

"With the powerful reporting mechanisms of SunSystems Vision, we are able to quickly develop the environment needed to manage the finances and produce powerful intelligence from the analytic capability. The result is a finance system better able to react to the needs of the front line, and one that can support our forces much more effectively than before."

Royal Navy

SunSystems Vision gives users unique insight into every facet of the business by providing the ability to drill down into the multiple dimensions of financial information from their desktop. Within seconds, you can understand the "who, what, when, where, why and how" of your bottom line.

SunSystems Vision comprises toolsets and Serducts®. The Vision toolsets - Vision XL, Vision Word, and Vision Executive - are the day-to-day management reporting tools for the non-technical user. Vision tools enable users to run real-time or pre-processed inquiries and perform comprehensive examination of applications with easy navigation and intelligent in-built functions.

Serducts are intelligent business layers, used to access data from any application, via SunSystems Vision. A Serduct contains data access logic, business rules, security, data transformation, language translations and presentation formats. SunSystems Vision allows you to:

- ▶ Exploit the powerful analysis capability of SunSystems to offer power users comprehensive financial inquiry, reporting and analytics
- ▶ Provide real-time interaction with data in a business context
- ▶ Deliver easy-to-use reporting and analysis from a desktop environment
- ▶ Create high quality reports without the need for programming skills

[Vision XL](#) allows information from multiple data tables to be incorporated into Microsoft Excel to produce a single report. It is an intuitive addition to the capabilities of Excel and provides fast and adaptable ways to exchange data with SunSystems modules. Data prepared in Excel worksheets can be transferred directly to SunSystems applications.

[Vision Executive](#) presents a top-down view of your entire business. Multiple levels of accounting information can be viewed on screen as your analysis progresses from summary to increasing levels of detail. You can drilldown, expand or breakout by department, region, branch, cost centre or even individual transactions. Enquiries are easily defined with built-in guides to locate relevant data, enabling selection to be made at the click of a button.

Reports can be standard, customisable or ad-hoc. Vision Executive makes it easy to send your report anywhere you need, in the most suitable format. Publish your reports to the web, email them, export them to Microsoft Excel or HTML, or simply send them to print.

[Vision Alert](#) is an easy to use, highly flexible means of automating designated reporting

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tasks, on an event - or Timed driven basis. 'Alerts' are created that enable Vision Alert to make automated, conditional responses to specified conditions in Vision reports.

[Vision Word](#) enables management and statutory reporting and delivery of memorandums and other documents using SunSystems data with formatted narrative content. This means that textually rich financial documents can be created automatically on a regular basis.

SunSystems Analytic Applications

"Using the powerful budget control functionality of SunSystems, we have established a budget control account for the accounts of every department. This account can be flexibly compared with the real account, and we can monitor and control the budget in real-time."

China Life-CMG

SunSystems provides a comprehensive range of analytic applications and customised solutions that help manage corporate performance, delivering consolidation, planning, budgeting and forecasting capabilities.

SunSystems Enterprise Planning

SunSystems Enterprise Planning offers a pre-built application to streamline the budgeting process and overcome typical budgeting obstacles. It provides a sophisticated planning and forecasting environment that supports best practices like continuous budgeting and rolling forecasts. Building on SunSystems Financials, the budgeting and forecasting capabilities deliver comprehensive financial planning, integrating profit and loss, balance sheet and cash flow statements. If extended across other operational areas, SunSystems Enterprise Planning can control and monitor the results of all your business activities. Departmental budgets flow directly into the enterprise planning model to improve collaboration between different parts of the business.

Due to its highly flexible and adaptable underlying technology, the standardised structures and reporting options can be tailored to reflect your organisation's unique requirements. As a result, companies can build high performance, customised systems in minimal time.

SunSystems Enterprise Planning allows you to:

- ▶ Develop and produce corporate and departmental budgets from within a single application
- ▶ Calculate key performance indicators – e.g. balance sheet and financial KPIs such as return on investment, profitability and cash flow
- ▶ Support planning and analysis requirements, using copy/allocation features, tables/diagrams and comment blocks, to accurately reflect your business
- ▶ Roll out the solution internationally, using multi-lingual, currency conversion, management consolidation, different evaluation guidelines, configurable import and export functions

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SunSystems Consolidation

SunSystems Consolidation delivers a powerful solution to streamline the processes of consolidation and management reporting. This application supports major international accounting standards (e.g. IFRS, US GAAP) as well as European standards like UK GAAP or HGB. Additionally, management reporting options, such as analysing actual, budget and forecast data, are fully integrated.

SunSystems Consolidation quickly brings complex group structures into the right perspective. Since functions like company/group settings, chart of accounts and currency conversion rules are already built in, users themselves can easily create and maintain individual data models. In the same manner, divisions or sub-divisions can be modified to reflect mergers, acquisitions or other structural changes in the business landscape.

SunSystems Consolidation allows you to:

- ▶ Consolidate from three perspectives, e.g. legal, management and IFRS
- ▶ Support advanced consolidation requirements, e.g. partial ownership, automated intercompany eliminations, different year-ends, etc.
- ▶ Deliver global collection, management and legal consolidation, reporting and analysis in a single, highly scalable solution
- ▶ Streamline the processes of consolidation and management reporting, resulting in greater accuracy, faster closings and less effort
- ▶ Provide a single auditable version of the truth about the company's financial and operational performance
- ▶ Improve accuracy and integrity of enterprise financial data

“We wanted the highest level of functionality at the lowest cost. Pioneer Investment is in the business of managing billions of dollars in funds and assets. The solution that we choose must be able to distribute a vast amount of information fluidly and give a multidimensional view of our organisational activity. SunSystems was able to more than accommodate these demands.”

Pioneer Investment Management

SunSystems Business Intelligence

SunSystems Custom BI is a powerful and flexible software platform for modelling business data to streamline key management processes, and support them with consistent, current and reliable information. It delivers integrated solutions for gathering and distributing management information and knowledge and ultimately, enabling decisions that improve business productivity and profitability. It can be used to deliver performance management solutions that reflect the unique needs of your business or industry.

- ▶ Is a powerful software platform for modeling business data and supporting key management with consistent, current information
- ▶ Extends the benefit of business intelligence across the entire enterprise by addressing a broad spectrum of needs for a diverse range of users
- ▶ Allows users to plan, budget, model, report and analyse information with speed and accuracy in familiar Microsoft Windows, Web or Microsoft Excel environments



Need More Information?

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- ▶ Delivers a combination of a powerful multidimensional (OLAP) database engine with universally accepted front-end to provide a complete platform for business intelligence solution

SunSystems Subsidiary Management

SunSystems Subsidiary Management revolutionises the integration and reporting of subsidiaries by gathering key information from disparate systems in local units, and then facilitating the transformation into a corporate standard for planning, reporting and analysis. SunSystems Subsidiary Management extends far beyond collecting local data. It enables a central model (that can be tailored for local needs, yet still provide necessary information to be collected) to be automatically distributed to subsidiaries. Decentralised business units can load or enter data for local reporting and the application automatically enables information to be zipped, encrypted and sent via email or the Internet to the next highest organisational level.

SunSystems Subsidiary Management enables you to:

- ▶ Adapt it to your business rules in corporate planning and reporting
- ▶ Easily share a central model with decentralised subsidiaries
- ▶ Reflect central structures in the core application, while providing local divisions with the flexibility to meet their own reporting needs
- ▶ Deliver key information that can be transferred to and from the central application
- ▶ Use flexible interfaces for data transformation from disparate source systems

Get in touch...

Using SunSystems Analytics, the whole enterprise has a cohesive set of added-value tools giving timely access to a single source of analytic information, enabling the delivery of corporate performance management. Information is made available in a suitable format, supporting users who just need electronic reporting, through to those requiring complex modelling and analysis. This means that rather than hunting for information, or struggling with complex technology, users have the right information at the right time in the right format, to support sound decision-making and ultimately, improve overall business performance.

SunSystems Analytics offer organisations the ability to change their analysis and reporting requirements as required and identify new areas for planning and modelling, without adding any implementation complexity. So as business operations grow and change over time, your business analytics deployment can easily adapt.

For more information on SunSystems products, services, and business solutions call our Product Advisory Team on +44 (0)20 7648 2000.