



Escape from Spreadsheet Hell !

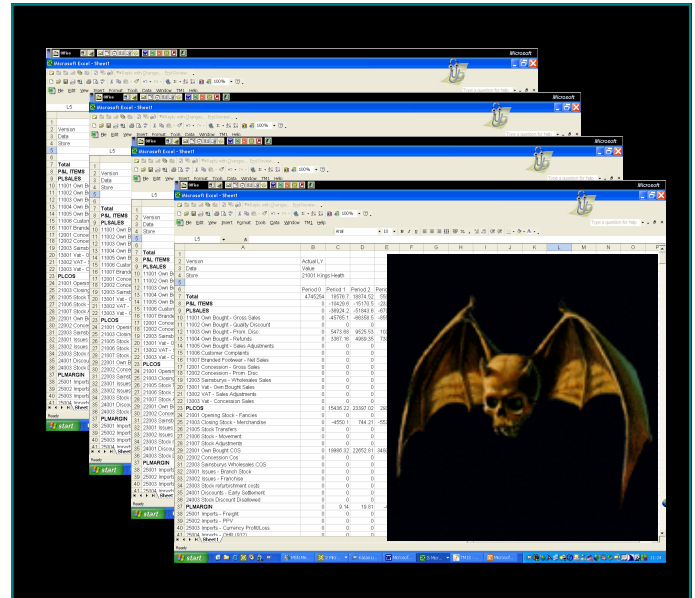
SPREADSHEETS ARE MARVELLOUS, BUT...

Spreadsheets are marvellous and they are everywhere!

They are easy to use, fast and flexible, but they do have limitations...

These limitations tend to surface when you address issues like these:

- ◆ Getting base data into the system.
- ◆ Consolidating large volumes of input data and plan results.
- ◆ Using advanced techniques like top down planning
- ◆ Adding new elements or versions to plans
- ◆ Making changes to calculation logic
- ◆ Repeating dynamic “what-if” scenarios
- ◆ Drilling down through data
- ◆ Re-orienting views (Dicing and Slicing data)
- ◆ Copying data between plan versions
- ◆ Allowing collaborative planning between departments
- ◆ Controlling workflow
- ◆ Sharing plans across multiple users
- ◆ Managing large or complex data sets
- ◆ Maintaining large numbers of spreadsheets
- ◆ Supporting frequent changes to data
- ◆ Maintaining consistent calculations
- ◆ Auditing calculation logic
- ◆ Maintaining flexible and robust security schemas
- ◆ Creating an audit log of changes to the plan
- ◆ Maintaining adequate response times



TURBOCHARGING THE SPREADSHEET

Spreadsheets were designed as a desktop productivity tool for individuals – they were not designed with collaborative planning applications in mind.

So, can you keep the flexibility of the spreadsheet at the same time as solving all the problems listed on the left?

The answer is “Yes!”

These issues can all be addressed by adding an easy to use multi-dimensional database as a back-end to a spreadsheet system.

In this way we can preserve the advantages of spreadsheets, but overcome their limitations.

We can even keep you existing spreadsheets and use them as a front end if required.

Creating a bespoke system can be both rapid and cost-effective.

Most importantly, as a business user, you can stay as much in control of the process as you are with your existing spreadsheets. The majority of our clients maintain their planning systems with minimal input from the IT function.



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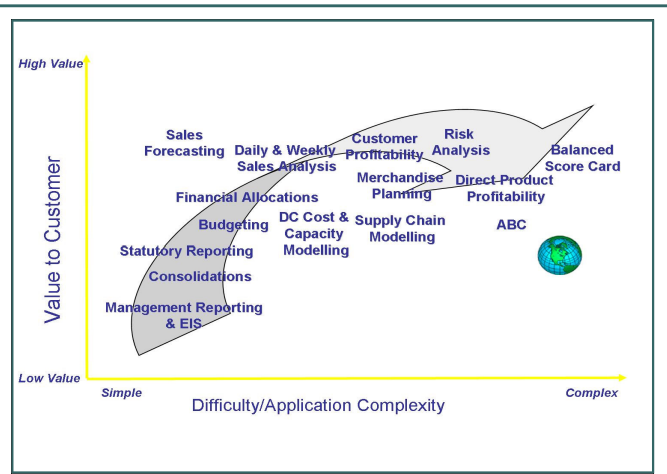
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS ?

- ◆ Easy integration with Excel results in greater efficiency, increased productivity and reduced training requirements.
- ◆ A single version of the truth is available across your business.
- ◆ Frequent plan iterations become possible
- ◆ Advanced planning techniques become available (e.g. Top Down Planning)
- ◆ Multiple plan versions can be easily managed.
- ◆ Collaborative planning is completed by the most appropriate people.
- ◆ Plans can be easily and quickly consolidated using standard or alternate hierarchies
- ◆ End-user maintenance reduces costs and increases flexibility.
- ◆ The flexible planning environment means process changes are easily built in.
- ◆ Disparate plans can be easily integrated
- ◆ The resulting system allows control and clear accountability

WHERE CAN WE USE THIS APPROACH?

The areas in which we can apply this technology include:

- ◆ Financial Budgeting
- ◆ Merchandise Planning
- ◆ Store Planning
- ◆ Logistics Modelling
- ◆ Management Information
- ◆ Activity Based Costing
- ◆ Balanced Scorecards



WHAT DO OUR CLIENTS THINK?

"This is a powerful business asset, and its implementation has saved Thresher Group manpower and, as a result, increased revenue."

Dominic Wyer-Roberts , Finance Systems Manager at Thresher Group.

"A thunderbolt implementation!"

Chris Kenward, Finance Director, Jewson

CONTACT DETAILS

For further information please contact us at:

The Planning Factory Ltd
2, Norfolk Road
Lytham
Lancashire, FY8 4JG
United Kingdom

Phone: +44 (0)1253 796499
E-mail: info@planfact.co.uk
Web: www.planfact.co.uk