

Supercharge Power BI
with Planning & Writeback



Leading US' real estate service company streamlined forecasting by replacing Hyperion HFM with Power ON™ for Power BI



Challenge

forecasting and budgeting tool. Hyperion HFM was too cumbersome, expensive, and inflexible. Shifting markets demanded a more agile environment and one more accessible to business and financial analysts alike.

A modern system of collaboration was needed to improve the speed and accuracy of business decisions.

The current system involved hundreds of hours of manual data entry and manipulation. Employees were required to perform extensive “data gymnastics” within multiple spreadsheets and databases only to produce simplistic Excel graphs. Data errors were frequent and very difficult to remediate.

As a result, financial forecasts and scenarios took days to deliver. Secondary reviews added to the decision-making delay. Quarterly forecasts took 5 weeks to complete; annual budgeting cycles took more than 3 months.

About

Founded in 1893, Stewart Title has grown to one of the largest real estate services company in the United States. Persistent innovation and keen business acumen have driven such growth for an astounding 128 years. The company deployed PowerON to bring prescriptive story-telling to its Power BI implementation. demands in over 50 countries. The company insists on superior engineering and performance in its operations to deliver the highest quality experience to customers.

AT A GLANCE

Before

- 100s of spreadsheets
- Multiple databases
- 100s hours manual data entry + manipulation
- Quarterly forecasts → 5+ weeks
- Annual budget cycles → 3+ months

After

- 50% less time spent updating Forecasts
- Quarterly Forecasts <2 weeks
- Annual Budgets 3 weeks
- 100s hours redirected to value added analysis
- Immediate update to Exec Dashboards in Power BI

“All our planning is now done with Power ON / Power Planner because before using PowerON our corporate budgeting cycle used to take 3+ months. This year it only took us 2.5 weeks using PowerON BI. Power BI makes it easier to view data quicker.”

*Travis Buckingham
Director of Finance &
Accounting, Data Strategy*

Solution

The financial analysts discovered that the well-structured data connections supporting Microsoft Power BI could be leveraged to optimize the process of quarterly and annual forecasting. The BI platform could transform to a safe, and accurate, “what if” tool.

The firm began using Power ON as an easy-to-use interactive planning and forecast tool available to key team members throughout the organization very cost effectively. Because the platform has robust connections to multiple sources of data, results are available in near real-time. Perhaps most important, internal business subject matter experts could visualize business decisions across multiple areas using both the models and predictive capabilities of Power BI with the write-back forecasting capabilities of Power ON.

Results

Thanks to Power ON, forecasts are completed in less than half the time required by the Hyperion HFM system, within 2 weeks for quarterly and within 3 weeks for annual budgets. In addition to the gain in productivity and performance, millions of dollars, countless hours, and the extensive Hyperion HFM overhead have been eliminated from the company’s operating cost.

Now, via the Power BI front-end, decision-makers spend most of their time in more valuable planning work. “Data gymnastics” from the former days is a distant memory. No longer must they manually collect, correct, and calculate Excel spreadsheets.

Business managers can perceive implications and outcomes from their own visionary allocations of multiple resources. They can craft a story, such as the likely impact in selected regions from shifts in key market factors. And when they’re done, their budgets and forecast scenarios are immediately available to others in the company via the secure Power BI environment.

The company is now in better position to continue its enterprise transformation. In particular, the new data storage and processing capability of data lake technologies, easily accessible Stewart Title’s PowerON planning tool, promise even greater opportunity – and competitive advantage – for proactive business decisions.

~\$1 MM
Annual Savings

100% “Buy Back” Annual
Forecasting Hours
from 5 to 2.5 weeks → 8 hrs/day

Prescriptive Business
Intelligence
Priceless

Add Extended Planning & Analysis to  Power BI with Writeback from Power ON

Schedule your free 1:1 demo today.

Power 

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