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SOLUTION BRIEF

# Completely agile EPM

The essential features of an optimal solution



Custom Media



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**Advanced EPM solutions connect and integrate vast amounts of operating and financial data within a single platform to provide truly comprehensive information.**

## High-performing businesses depend on best-in-class EPM solutions

Augmenting traditional planning processes with advanced predictive planning and machine learning has become increasingly important. Such capabilities remove bias and improve the accuracy of plans and forecasts, leveraging formal forecasting techniques such as regression and time-series analyses along with expert opinion and other, less formal methods. The EPM platform must provide a number of different formal forecasting methods and the ability to analyze each to find the one with the best fit for a given task, [Oracle Cloud EPM](#) includes a full suite of predictive planning and forecasting tools and uses advanced technologies, enabling organizations to optimize the impact of EPM.

As the speed of business increases, along with the level of competition, legacy systems used to deliver critical operating data just can't keep up. Such systems need a lot of manual intervention to collate, integrate and create reports from fragmented and siloed data, and that means the information arrives too late to give the business the advantage it needs. What's more, manual processes can lead to errors, making the reports less reliable, and manual integration processes become rigid and inflexible. It's a recipe for failure: useful and insightful data takes far too long to generate, and it may not be dependable enough to form the basis for major decisions.



## That's why organizations need a next-generation EPM platform

Advanced EPM solutions have a number of key features that deliver much more value to the business. First, they connect and integrate vast amounts of operating and financial data within a single platform to provide truly comprehensive and complete information. They also have a high degree of flexibility, allowing analysts and executives to model different scenarios and easily see different views or segments of the data. And they use new artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies to optimize business processes, delivering greater efficiency and improved data accuracy, which guides more insightful decisions.

Besides surpassing the performance of legacy systems, next-generation EPM implementations are much faster. Generating critical reports or analyses takes minutes instead of hours or weeks, cutting the time needed to understand business

results and respond appropriately. Next-generation EPM also provides far greater insight.

With comprehensive data, the ability to get into more detail or focus on key issues greatly increases. And with a more comprehensive perspective, it's possible to view the organization as an ecosystem in which one part affects other parts in unexpected ways. In short, enhanced speed, insight and flexibility create a strong demarcation between legacy and next-generation EPM.

[Independent analyst groups](#) routinely acknowledge Oracle is an EPM leader, delivering best-in-class solutions with the most important features and capabilities. With Oracle Cloud EPM, organizations can complete the financial close faster, be more agile in their planning and forecasting, support more impactful analyses, and enable their finance teams to meet corporate demands like never before.



# 10 essential capabilities complete EPM must provide

Any organization committed to realizing the full value of EPM knows that choosing the right solution is critical. To help you make the right choice, the following list highlights the must-have features for supporting best-practice business processes.

All of these capabilities can be found in Oracle Cloud EPM, which can help your organization take advantage of best practices that fit the business rather than try to fix or rebuild historical processes from a legacy implementation.

- 1 A complete suite**—Your EPM suite should address the needs across the entire CFO office, including comprehensive financial close, enterprise-wide financial and operational planning, allocation of profitability and cost across the business, statutory and management reporting and analysis processes. All these processes are seamlessly connected for complete alignment—within finance and with operational LOBs—and can be deployed modularly, for agility across the organization. Equally important, it should integrate seamlessly with core [ERP systems](#) for 360-degree insights. Oracle Cloud EPM provides the full suite of business processes and best practices to deliver value to CFOs and their teams.
- 2 Broad integrated planning capabilities**—Modern EPM must deliver substantial enhancements to the planning function, including better capabilities for long-range strategic planning and scenario modeling, better financial and operational planning features, and a single enterprise view of the plan, budget and forecasts. The integration of planning activities makes it possible to better balance both strategic and tactical options for changes or new processes that will drive business success. This functionality eliminates mistakes that can be made when different plans rely on inconsistent processes.
- 3 Advanced predictive planning with machine learning**—Augmenting traditional planning processes with advanced predictive planning and machine learning. Such capabilities remove bias and improve the accuracy of plans and forecasts, leveraging formal forecasting techniques such as regression and time-series analyses along with expert opinion and other, less formal methods. The EPM platform must provide a number of different formal forecasting methods and the ability to analyze each to find the one with the best fit for a given task, [Oracle Cloud EPM](#) includes a full suite of predictive planning and forecasting tools and uses advanced technologies, enabling organizations to optimize the impact of EPM.
- 4 Preconfigured, flexible and customizable planning processes**—An EPM platform that delivers prebuilt, best-practice planning tools for both the finance function and the lines of business enables organizations to get more value more quickly. Rather than customizing advanced planning processes and having to maintain those customizations, the organization can leverage the tools immediately. This improves time to value and gives the financial team access to new capabilities that can be easily configured and updated. Oracle delivers many prebuilt best practices that are both general and focused on vertical industries.

## 10 essential capabilities complete EPM must provide (Continued)

- 5 Complex, free-form operational modeling**—An EPM platform that delivers prebuilt, best-practice planning tools for both the finance function and the lines of business enables organizations to get more value more quickly. Rather than customizing advanced planning processes and having to maintain those customizations, the organization can leverage the tools immediately. This improves time to value and gives the financial team access to new capabilities that can be easily configured and updated. Oracle delivers many prebuilt best practices that are both general and focused on vertical industries.
- 6 Full visibility across the entire financial close process**—With comprehensive data that covers all aspects of enterprise performance, it becomes possible to view the entire close process, from subledger close to reporting and removing risk. Problems in the close process, such as bottlenecks and inefficiencies are removed, improving speed. Such visibility makes it much simpler to understand the overall financial close process and identify what is causing the bottlenecks and enhances the consistency of the “rollup.” Oracle Cloud EPM was conceived to meet the demand for full visibility across the entire close process, eliminating silos or free-standing activities that fragment critical information.
- 7 Built-in best practices for financial close**—Many organizations are still using legacy spreadsheet approaches to financial close or a first-generation EPM solution. Both, however, rely on self-generated models that are unlikely to serve the current needs of the organization. One common limitation is the inability to scale, hampering agility. Deploying Oracle Cloud EPM with built-in best practices for the financial close and consolidation makes it easier to upgrade the close process and utilize processes that optimize reporting and results, enabling the team to deliver faster financial close times—a major benefit to the CFO.
- 8 Security and data governance**— Oracle Cloud EPM processes refresh regularly on the same schedule, and you don’t need to manage updates and integrations across multiple cloud or hosted EPM vendors. You can define a common security model across the suite that simplifies and reduces the risk of security vulnerabilities. Furthermore, Oracle’s [unique offering for enterprise data management](#) brings together master data in a consistent, aligned way across EPM and ERP solutions—ensuring alignment, governance, and agility in all your business processes today and into the future.
- 9 Innovation based on advanced technology**—Next-generation EPM platforms are built with innovative technology. [Oracle Cloud](#) leverages the company’s investment in AI and machine learning and provides economies of scale. For example, instead of being loosely integrated with a third-party codebase, AI is built directly into Cloud EPM. When AI is purpose-built for a specific task in an EPM business process, it can deliver more efficiency and greater accuracy and even highlight insights not previously discovered, making EPM even more valuable to the business.
- 10 A true enterprise-class platform**—[Oracle Cloud EPM](#) is a proven enterprise-ready SaaS solution enhanced with predictable updates that add important new capabilities and functionality. It is deployed on Oracle Cloud to provide customers with the benefit of cloud economics.

# Oracle delivers best-in-class completely agile EPM

Oracle's proven track record for providing optimal EPM solutions, its development of critical new technologies and the strength of Oracle Cloud and the Oracle Cloud community make the company an excellent choice for an EPM partner. Its solution has the functionality to provide both immediate and long-term improvements for many financial processes.

And Oracle Cloud EPM delivers on the "[value of now](#)," a set of highly compelling EPM-specific proof points. Based on Oracle's Value of EPM Study, the customer benefits of this solution include:


**Oracle Cloud EPM delivers on the "value of now," a set of highly compelling EPM-specific proof points.**


- **84% reported reducing the number of days to close per cycle**
- **59% saved time and gained agility**
- **56% reduced number of days to plan per cycle**
- **71% increased adoption of scenario modeling**
- **19% more time spent on analysis**


These data points showcase just how compelling the benefits of [Oracle Cloud EPM](#) are for both the CFO and the business in general. With the inclusion of advanced technologies, best practices, forecasting methods and a unified EPM platform, it is a solution that will continue to help improve business agility and performance well into the future.

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